Brain and Mind
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2017 from 2-3 pm
Room 245A NSC

Present: Mel Goodale, Jody Culham, Marc Joanisse, Jessica Grahn, Stefan Everling, and Patrick Callaghan, Emma Holmes (Postdoc), Avital Sternin (Grad) and Florence Lourdes

Regrets: Roy Eagleson, Adrian Owen and Ingrid Johnsrude

1. Motion to accept Minutes from last meeting were seconded and approved.

2. Director Remarks:

- A BMI Core Member retreat was held on April 4, 2017. This was the first retreat held for BMI core members and provided an opportunity to update PIs on all the activities taking place in the Brain and Mind Institute and collect feedback on how BMI should move forward.
- In April, BMI hosted 6 MICCN delegates and an additional delegate a couple of weeks later. The delegates met with BMI members to explore possible research collaborations and exchanges. The delegates met with BrainsCAN folks as well to discuss how funds could be leveraged and support collaborative and exchange activities.
- Construction of the new building is still on schedule. Updates from the Move Team and four subcommittees were provided at the Core Member retreat and will be also given at the upcoming Town Hall meeting. The IT committee is looking into funding possibilities in order to purchase new servers. Need to ensure fibre optics from Robarts to the new building. The Furniture committee will be meeting with furniture consultant Melinda Rigole in the near future to resume preparations for purchasing. The Space Planning committee has almost finished drafting office and seating assignments, which will be reviewed by the Move Team and eventually approved by the Steering Committee. The Lab Equipment committee has submitted manufacturer quotes to Facilities Management to add to the Move budget. A webpage will be developed soon dedicated to the progress of BMI’s relocation planning. This site will include moving instructions, timelines, and additional information to assist with packing.
- The junior recruitment process is still on-going. Two candidates received offers. One candidate has declined and BMI is still negotiating with the other candidate (which includes a spousal hire).
- BrainsCAN has recently received confirmation that new hires can apply for Tri-Council funding. This will greatly improve Western’s ability to hire the best researchers. BMI is presently considering offering a more senior position to a candidate who is holding CIHR funds.
- The competition deadline for the Western Cognitive Neuroscience Postdoctoral Fund is May 8th. One application received so far.
- The semi-annual BMI Town Hall meeting will take place on April 27th at 10:30 am. All BMI members are welcomed and encouraged to attend.
- Distinguished speaker, Robert Zatorre, will be visiting and presenting around October 19th. Robert is also the BrainsCAN rep from McGill University.

3. BrainsCAN Update

- A BrainsCAN presentation on the agenda for the BMI Town Hall meeting.
- Several applications received from the first Accelerator competition and all are being reviewed. Results will be distributed likely within the next couple of weeks.
- Possible graduate student program still in discussion stage.

4. Financial Update

- Fiscal year-end at the end of the week. Presently under budget with two years left. Recommend formalizing the carry forward piece in writing. Patrick Callaghan working on this. The BMI AO to draft budget for next fiscal year.

5. Postdoctoral Update

- Emma Holmes appointment on Steering Committee is coming to an end soon. Presently seeking new Postdoc rep by next meeting.
- The Postdoc Collaborative Research Grant competition to be held annually about the same time each year.

6. Graduate Students Update

- No updates at this time.

7. Other Business

- Discussion on lab spaces in new building. Looking for space for Infant lab and Meditation research and extra sound booth.
- **Motion:** BMI to sponsor CAPnet in the amount of $1000 and the PhilMiLCog conference in the amount of $500 this year. **Motion moved, seconded and approved.**
- Next meeting date for the Steering Committee: May 31, 2017 at 2 pm.

**Meeting Adjourned at 2:45 pm.**