

Minutes of the European Society of Biomechanics General Assembly

Prague – 6 July 2015

Meeting Chairman: Gwendolen Reilly, President

Meeting Secretary: M^aAngeles Pérez Ansón, Secretary-General

1. Welcome of the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General, M^aAngeles Pérez, welcomed all participants attending the Assembly. Seventy eight members attended the General Assembly.

a. Approval of the previous GA minutes

The Secretary asked for approval of the minutes of the previous General Assembly, held in Boston, USA, on 8 July 2014. The minutes were approved.

b. Matters arising

The proposed agenda was approved, without any request for additional matters to be discussed.

2. Council reports

2.1 Report from the President

2.1.1 Presidential Address

The President, Gwendolen Reilly (GR), listed the main items of her Presidency:

- This congress is the second one in an odd year
- In this congress we have introduced the Perspective talks
- In Autumn we reached the 1000 members
- The Society is financially healthy
- Our awards program is going strong
- The council has been working hard on the ESB congress web portal (mainly Markus Heller - Chair of Meeting Web Portal Committee), which will be launched for ESB2016 in Lyon.

2.1.2 Electronic Voting. Vote on council proposal to change the by-laws

- The President, Gwendolen Reilly, presented the council proposal to change the by-laws and introduce electronic voting for the council elections.
- A survey was done several weeks ago (72 respondents). Most of the respondents (61) agreed on implementing electronic voting for future council elections. And 17 of them have concerns about the effects moving to electronic voting may have on the ESB.
- A summary of the “for” comments was as follows:
 - o It’s XXI century
 - o By electronic voting, members who are not attending the General Assemblies have the chance to express their votes



- If a member is not able for any reason (work duty, illness, etc.) to attend the GA then he is deprived to exercise his right to vote
 - It should increase voter participation rate
 - One person votes only once and it is easier to count
 - Because it is quick and easy
 - General Assembly shorter
- The procedure that the council proposed was as follows:
- Applicants will be invited in the same way as before by e-mail to the membership.
 - The call for applications will specifically ask for the candidates to list previous involvement in ESB activities.
 - The council has the option to prescreen candidates which has always been the case
 - Voting will take place on-line via our own website over 2-3 weeks prior to the next congress
 - ONLY members in good standing will be eligible to vote.
 - There will still be the opportunity to vote DURING the congress as the election portal will close 24 hours before the GA.
- This decision implies to modify our By-laws. The council propose the following change (changes in red):

ARTICLE III: Council

Section 3: Elections – Duration – Term of Office

*The members of the Council shall be elected for 4 years by the affirmative anonymised vote of a majority of voting members **by a secure on-line electronic voting procedure**. The candidates can be proposed by the Council or by the members. Proposals from the members are to be submitted to the Secretary at least three weeks before **the opening of the electronic ballot**. **The electronic ballot will be opened at least two weeks before the following General or Special meeting of the members and announced at the same General or Special meeting of the members**. **The electronic ballot will remain open until 24 hours before the scheduled start of the meeting where the vote is to be announced**. **In the event of a technical failure of the electronic ballot the electronic vote may be declared void by the council and the members of the council elected by the affirmative secret vote of a majority of the attending members at a General or Special Meeting**. **New council positions may be created and filled at any meeting of the members**. **Each Council member shall hold office until his successor shall have been duly elected or appointed and shall have qualified**.*

The maximum (consecutive) term in office shall be 8 years for all Council members.

Before voting, this important point is open for discussion.

Keita Ito asked if this change is legal. GR answered that we would check the status in detailed. Additionally, Keita Ito highlighted that some other sections might need to be fixed.

Ralph Müller asked if this change will be for every kind of voting. The answer was no, it will only affect the council election.

Marco Viceconti commented two issues. First, it would be good to extend the voting period during one month, and send a reminder one week before the deadline. And secondly, we lose the interaction with the candidates, he asked if we can think about a tool for interacting with the candidates. GR answered that if



the election portal remains open 24 hours before the GA, the ESB members would be able to interact with the candidates at least during the first day of congress.

The President asked members in good standing to vote. After ballot collection, votes were counted by João Folgado and Estefanía Peña.

2.2. Report from the Secretary-General

M^aAngeles Pérez reported.

The Secretary-General informed that an important number of applications had been received in the last year and proposed to ratify 100 new members (51 active, 1 corporate and 48 students) and noted that all those members had been screened and approved by the council. The list of new members was presented in a previous email and the Secretary-General asked for a formal vote. The present members voted unanimously in favor.

The Secretary-General presented the evolution of the membership in time. At the end of 2014 we achieved 1000 members. After that, the membership reduced slightly in 2015 but this is due to the implementation of the procedure to resign members who have not paid dues for the last two years.

2.3 Report from the Treasurer

Stephen Ferguson (SF) reported.

The total assets of the Society on 30th June 2015 are close to 173,000 Euro. Incomes come mostly from the membership fees and journal subscriptions, although a reduction in the journal subscription is observed with the general move away from personal subscriptions. Expenses are mostly related to the website maintenance, the awards, EAMBES membership and expenses from WCB 2014 in Boston. There has been an increase in the number of Awards, and the payment of the mobility awards of 2013 and 2014 was carried out during this period.

Monique Donkerwolcke asked for how many years a member cannot pay before being resigned. SF answered “two years”. She also asked where the Society is going, financially. SF agrees with her that we should continue to monitor where we want to go, in terms of a sustainable balance, and that the society does plan for the mid-term. SF indicated that with the new conference system we will have a flat rate fee and that it will stabilize the incomes. We will need to evaluate this position within the 5 next years.

Marco Viceconti asked about the expenses of the WCB2014. SF explained that these expenses came from the ESB social event. It was quite expensive (the room, drinks and food).

SF also indicated that many ESB members forgot about clicking on the ESB as primary society, so we received not income from them.

Finally, SF presented a negative balance estimation for next year. The financial report for 2014 was submitted to the two Auditors Monique Donkerwolcke and Ulrich Simon. Both auditors reported that the financial report of 2014 was correct and in a good state. The Treasurer asked to the current auditors if they would like to continue to serve as auditors. They agreed.

2.4 Report on Awards

William Taylor, Vice-President, reported on the Awards procedure and presented the recipients of the awards for this Congress.

- Huiskes Medal 2015: Prof. Roger Kamm.



- ESB Best Doctoral Thesis in Biomechanics: Aurélie Carlier of KU Leuven (Belgium), sponsored by ESB
- ESB Student Awards: the finalists were Falk Mersmann, Janna Tenenbaum-Katan, Mario Georgiadis and Stefano Ugolini. The winner will be announced at the Congress Dinner.
- ESB Travel Awards (20): the winners are Heleen Fehervary (Belgium), Ehasan Homaei (Iran), Anastasia Pavlova (Scotland), Lorenza Angelini (Germany), Marija Smoljkic (Belgium), Alexander Synek (Austria), Gifty Tetteh (UK), Anna Cederlund (Scotland), Marios Georgiadis (ETH Zürich), Patricia Goggin (UK), Jarunan Panyasantisuk (Switzerland), Yuan Chen (UK), Valentina Danesi (Italy), Lloyd Fletcher (Australia), Marco Palanca (Italy), Monica Piergiovanni (Italy), Elham Taghizadeh (Switzerland), Esther Wehrle (Switzerland), Iman Zafarparandeh (Turkey) and Sara Niederer (Switzerland), all sponsored by ESB. There were 50 applicants.

William Taylor thanked the members of his award committees for their hard work

Nico Verdonschot asked how many application were for the ESB Best Doctoral Thesis. There were 15 applications.

2.5 Reports from the Committees

2.5.1 Membership Committee

The Chair of Membership Committee, Luca Cristofolini, reported on the activities carried out in the last year.

The online application is clearer now; we have improved the web interface. The payment of the membership fees is also simpler. The goal of increasing the number of members by facilitating the payment of the membership fees (e.g. by integrating them within the meeting fees) is continuing to be very successful. The members were reminded that the way this works is that when you attend a congress in year N as a member in good standing your fee is paid for the year N+1. Members that miss the congress can instead pay the fee online.

We achieved the member number 1000th, Ehsan Soodmand (Germany). Although after cleaning of members in arrears we are now 960 members approximately. We expect new members after this congress.

One of the membership committee priorities has been to attract more corporate members and this task was successful with one more corporate member (Nobel Biocare). We lost two corporate members so, we have now 8 corporate members in good standing.

2.5.2 National Chapters

The Chair of the External Affairs Committee, Harry van Lenthe, informed about the aim of the national chapters, which is the 'promotion and dissemination of biomechanics research at the national level in countries where a national society does not exist'.

Two national chapters have been created since 2011; Italian and Spanish, they hold annual meetings and help to increase ESB membership. A new national chapter was created in January 2015, Austrian Chapter. The inaugural assembly meeting will be in Vienna, sept 2015.

Additionally, the Portuguese Society of Biomechanics was accepted (Feb. 2015) as affiliated society.

EAMBES succeeded in making amendments to the Draft Report on Biomedical Engineering as put forward by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). At the last GA (March 16, Brussels), a proposal was made to organize an EAMBES conference, every second/fourth year. No clear decision was made.



2.5.3 Student Committee

The Chair of the Student Committee, Hanna Issakson (HI), reported on the activities performed in the last year.

The number of student members was largely increased.

The Student working committee – formed by Ali Sharifnezhad, Yash Agarwal and Zahra Asgharpour have been doing excellent work but have graduated or will be graduating shortly so expressions of interest for new student committee members are invited.

The ESB Facebook group has more than 134 student members and more than 116 full members. The LinkedIn group has 178 members. Job advertisements are available on these sites as well as directly on our webpages ESBiomech.org.

The student event will take place after the GA. New events are being prepared for Lyon 2016.

HI announced the student workshop “Academia or Industry, what to do with my post-PhD life?” that will take place Tuesday at lunch time. The workshop will be a panel debate and discussion between senior scientist and industry representatives where students will have the chance to ask your questions.

The student committee manages the new ESB mobility award to promote exchange and collaboration between ESB researchers. The 2015 winners were Sanaz Berahmani who will travel from The Netherlands to Australia and Kenneth Smale who is travelling from Canada to Denmark.

2.5.4 Publication Committee

The Chair of Publication Committee, Sara Checa, was not able to attend to Prague due to her maternity leave. Maria Angeles Pérez reported on the activities performed in the last year.

The ESB monthly mailing is regularly sent with the latest news from the society including upcoming deadlines (awards, congress registration, endorsed meetings, etc.), updated information on the web page through the calendar, posts and news sections.

ESB members were invited to suggest new entries.

2.5.5 Meeting Web Portal

The Chair of Meeting Web Portal Committee, Markus Heller, reported that the goal of this Committee is to develop the ESB website for the management of the abstract submission and reviewing processes for the annual congresses. We are using the Open Conference System with the help of Barry Kaye, Lyon’s people and the Spanish Chapter people. The new Web portal will be tested in the next Spanish Chapter Meeting.

2.5.6 Meetings Committee

The Chair of Meeting Committee, Paulo Fernandes, reported that the ESB has endorsed two meetings since July 2014: MEIbioeng 15 Conference (Leeds, UK) and The International Symposium on Bone regeneration (Berlin, Germany).

The 22nd ESB congress 2016 will be held in Lyon, France, Congress Organizing Committee chair: David Mitton.

David Mitton gave a presentation of the venue and the keynote speakers, and invited all participants to attend the Congress. He remarked that the 22nd ESB in Lyon will also be the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the society.



The 23rd ESB Congress will be held in Seville, 2nd to 5th July 2017, Spain, Congress Organizing Committee chair Javier Martinez Reina. A brief presentation is done by Joaquín Ojeda.

Finally, the Call for Bids for ESB2019 will open in Autumn 2015.

3. Electronic Voting – Announcements of the ballot results

The results were analyzed and presented at the closure by the President, the president informed the delegates the total number of votes were 78 distributed as follows:

- For electronic voting (64 votes)
- Against electronic voting (11 votes)
- Abstain (3 votes)

Therefore, electronic voting for council election is APPROVED and will be implemented for the Council elections of 2016.

4. Matters arising

None

5. Closure

The President thanked all members for attending and contributing to the Assembly.

As no other matters arose, the President closed the meeting.

Signed

President

Secretary-General

DATE: Wednesday, 6 July, 2015