

Minutes of the 2011 BSM General Assembly
Antwerpen, UA Campus Groenenborger, Auditorium U.024
28 April 2011

Web version without attachments – members can request a copy of the attachments from the secretary

Attendees:

Bernard Nysten – President
Dirk Adriaensen – Vice President
Anton-Jan Bons – Secretary
Philippe Leclère – Treasurer
Sara Bals – Board member
Jan D’Haen – Board member
Johan Hofkens – Board member
Jacqueline Lecomte – Board member
Sebastian Munck – Board member
Jean-Marie Vanderwinden – Member, candidate Board member
Frédérique Bollet-Quivigne - Member
Chris Guérin – Member

(See Attachment 1 for signatures)

Agenda

1. Finalize agenda
2. Approval of the minutes of the previous Board meeting
3. Communications from the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer
4. Approval of the 2010 financial report and 2011 budget
5. Election of new board members
6. Update on BSM and other microscopy-related activities
7. Role of the BSM in a European and Global context
8. Re-organization of the Board
9. Future BSM activities and plans
10. Any Other Business
11. Close

The President opens the General Assembly at 15:30.

1. Finalize agenda

The agenda is approved without changes

2. Approval of the minutes of the previous Board meeting

The minutes of the 2010 General Assembly of the BVM-SBM (before transition to BSM vzw), held in Louvain-La-Neuve on 26 May 2010, are approved without change.

3. Communications from the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer

There are no communications from the President or the Vice President. The communications from the Treasurer will be handled in Item #4. Communications from the Secretary:

- The next European Microscopy Congress EMC2012 will be held on September 16-21 in Manchester UK
- The next International Microscopy Congress IMC18 will be held in 2014 in Prague
- The BSM currently has 303 registered members (not necessarily paying members):
57 Individual members, 30 Corporate members (from 21 corporations), 215 Group members (from 22 groups)

4. Approval of the 2010 financial report and 2011 budget

The Treasurer presents the 2010 financial report and the budget plan for 2011, and proposed that the membership fees remain unchanged for 2011 and 2012 (See Attachment 2)

The General Assembly unanimously approves the 2010 financial report, the 2011 budget plan, and the membership fees for 2011 and 2012.

5. Election of new board members

An overview of open positions and call for candidates were sent to all members on March 14, the deadline for candidates was April 1. There is only one candidate for election to the Board: Jean-Marie Vanderwinden (ULB).

The General Assembly unanimously accepts Jean-Marie Vanderwinden as Member of the Board.

6. Update on BSM and other microscopy-related activities

- Philippe Leclère gives an overview and a demonstration of the BSM Microscopy Database. Currently 17 labs are included with 40 instruments. Members are encouraged to further populate the database, even if they already have their own website. Each lab should assign a representative who will receive a password to update the database. Everybody can consult the database, the link will be put on the BSM website. Contact person is Philippe Leclère.
- The secretary presents an overview of BSM Travel Grant recipients (Attachment 3) and the 2011 BSM Thesis Award winners (Attachment 4).
- Winnok De Vos sends a report on the Advanced Light Microscopy symposium ALM2010, which was held in Gent on September 23-24, 2010. The symposium was organized by UGent, the BSM sponsored 3 Best Poster Prizes of 250, 150 and 100 €. There were 145 attendees, 16 podium and 56 poster presentations. There was very positive feedback and the next ALM is planned for 2012.
- Sebastian Munck presents on the status of EuroBioImaging. The BSM can play a key role as the only national microscopy society (the expectation is that the European authorities will prefer to work only with national and not with regional networks). The General Assembly decides that the BSM should become an official partner of EuroBioImaging, Sebastian Munck will follow up. A committee is established to coordinate interactions with EuroBioImaging, members will be Sebastian Munck, Dirk Adriaensen and Winnik De Vos.
- Chris Guérin presents on the European Light Microscopy Initiative ELMI, a scientific symposium scheduled for 2012 in Leuven. The General Assembly decides that the BSM will sponsor with poster prizes and student grants. Chris Guérin will send a proposal.

7. Role of the BSM in a European and Global context

In the past the main activity of the BSM was the Annual Meeting, in more recent years that moved to small local symposia. Lately the emphasis has shifted to awards, travel grants and (EU) networking activities, and there seems to be less time and energy to organize symposia. The General Assembly endorses a poll among the members on what the main role of the BSM should be. Anton-Jan Bons will follow up.

8. Re-organization of the Board

Currently the Board aims to be a representation of all universities and groups in the BSM; as a result the current Board has 13 members and two vacancies. This makes it very difficult to organize Board meetings and take decisions. In order to improve the efficiency, the proposal is to reduce the formal Board to 6 members, the minimum prescribed by the Statutes, who will meet regularly and take decisions on daily matters. In addition a new committee will be established, called the BSM Council, which will have representatives of all member types and university groups, and which will provide guidance to the board in between meetings of the General Assembly. The new composition of the Board, and the composition of the new BSM Council, are presented to the General Assembly (Attachment 5). This implies that a large part of the current Board resigns and becomes a member of the BSM Council.

The General Assembly unanimously approves the restructuring of the Board and the establishment of the BSM Council. The General Assembly also unanimously approves the composition of the new Board and of the BSM Council.

The General Assembly requires that clear guidelines are written for the working of the BSM Council. The General assembly decides that the BSM Council Guidelines will be drafted afterwards and will be reviewed and approved by the attendees of the General Assembly by e-mail; as such this will be considered as part of the decision making of this General Assembly. *(Note added by the Secretary on August 24, 2011: The guidelines for the BSM Council were drafted and subsequently reviewed by the attendees of the General Assembly. The final version was brought to an electronic vote by e-mail. On August 24, 2011, 10 attendees of the General Assembly had approved the guidelines while 3 did not respond (i.e. 75% approved, 25% no response, no objections). The BSM Council guidelines are therefore accepted by the General Assembly – see Attachment 6)*

The Vice President leaves the meeting at 17:00 because of other commitments.

9. Future BSM activities and plans

- 2011 Joint Autumn Meeting of the BSCDB/BSM “Advanced Microscopy Meets Cell and Developmental Biology” – Antwerp, October 22, 2011 (Jean-Pierre Timmermans/Dirk Adriaensen)
- Symposium on Shared Microscopy including EuroBioImaging – possibly autumn 2011 (Anton-Jan Bons, Winnok De Vos/Sebastian Munck)
- Symposium on Confocal and Fluorescence Microscopy Techniques in Materials Science - Leuven – possibly spring 2012 (Johan Hofkens)
- SPM on SPM - Scanning Probe Microscopy on Soft & Polymeric Materials – Brussels, Sept 2012 (Philippe Leclère/Bernard Nysten)
- ALM2012 (BSM sponsored) (Winnok de Vos)
- International Conference on Photochemistry (ICP2013), Brussels 2013, with a special session on Microscopy – BSM involvement will be considered.

10. Any Other Business

No other topics are brought forward

11. Close

The President closes the General Assembly at 17:30