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Scientific Affairs Committee Report

March, 2010

Dr. Lisa Votta Bleeker and I have arranged to have telephone meetings once per month to discuss the directions and priorities of the Scientific Affairs Committee (SAC) and its interface with the Science Directorate. These phone calls have been very useful in setting goals for science, responding to ongoing issues and moving forward proactively.

One of the most pressing issues has involved the restructuring of the granting councils. An overall policy statement was drafted and reviewed by the SAC. The main feedback from the members of the SAC was that this would be most powerful if the arguments pertaining to each granting council were outlined in separate letters. Lisa and I discussed this and opted to develop both an overall position paper and individual letters targeting the concerns related to each of the tri-council agencies. These letters were made available for download on the CPA website and announced in CPA News. I would like to thank Lisa for her hard work on this. In our most recent telephone conversation, Lisa and I have decided to also send this information to the Canadian Council of Departments of Psychology, the Canadian Council for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science and some Section listserves.

In the near future, Lisa and I will also be working on some advocacy papers for science. We hope to develop advocacy papers that are oriented for different audiences (e.g., health-oriented manuscripts that focus on psychology's contributions to each of the CIHR institutes; information geared toward the general consumer, etc).

We also intend to respond annually regarding the federal budget. In the past, CPA's involvement with this has been subsumed under the Canadian Consortium for Research. We believe that it is important to our membership and the organization to also have a formal response from CPA.

Lisa has also been working hard on enhancing the CPA web site for science. The SAC will be asked to review the website and provide feedback on these changes and to make recommendations for further improvement. The Recruit Research Participants Portal (R2P2) is also up and running. After consultation with the SAC and with Section Chairs, the Research Hub (intended to put students in contact with potential supervisors and researchers in contact with other researchers) is also ready to be launched.

The SAC has also responded other requests from members (e.g., one member inquired about the ethical issues surrounding the use of research participation pools and was delighted that CPA was interested and willing to provide information).

We have also planned a joint Section for Students in Psychology/Scientific Affairs Committee workshop on grant writing. There will also be an advocacy workshop for science as part of the pre-convention workshop.

Respectfully submitted,
David J. A. Dozois, Chair