



Canadian Psychological Association Annual Convention
Section for Students
Student Representative Meeting Minutes

1:00 -1:55 pm, Friday June 13, 2008 (Acadia C)
Reception hosted by Philip Jai Johnson and Lindsay Uman

1.0 Welcome!

2.0 Attendance and Introductions

2.1 2008-09 Past Chair (Lindsay Uman)

2.2 2008-09 Chair-Elect / Past Campus Rep Coordinator (Philip Jai Johnson)

2.3 2008-09 Secretary / Treasurer (Pamela Seeds)

2.4 Faculty and CPA Board of Directors Representative (Dr. David Dozois)

2.7 Others!

- Jessica Morash (St. Francis Xavier University, undergrad rep)
- Andrea Lee (University of Ottawa, grad rep)
- Evanya Musolino (Huron College at the University of Western Ontario, undergrad rep)
- Emily Orr (University of Windsor, grad rep)
- Karen Turner (Acadia University, grad rep)
- Jackie Brown (University of British Columbia, grad rep)
- Heather Fulton (Dalhousie University, grad rep)
- Jennifer Martinell (St. Mary's University, grad rep)
- Jillian McIntosh (University of Winnipeg, undergrad rep)
- Paula Martin (Mount Allison University, undergrad rep)

3.0 Highlight of 2007-2008 Activities (Philip Jai Johnson/Lindsay Uman)

- Huge thanks for the rep reports
- Reviewed some ideas/activities that students have organized in their own schools:
 - Raise money for scholarships
 - Write letters for Psynopsis
 - Have activity committees who organize Psychology events
 - Have office hours for drop-ins (i.e., to ask student- or CPA- related questions)
 - Hold workshops, such as "A Day in the life of a Graduate Student"
 - Provide students with information about CPA Convention, reminders about deadlines, etc.
 - Provide information on how the Convention works (e.g., how to submit abstracts, what happens when it's accepted, how much things cost, early-bird registration, etc.)
 - Organize events for Psychology Month (e.g., library lectures on "Psychology in Everyday Life")
 - Provide education regarding graduate school
 - Have membership on departmental psychology council

4.0 Issues

- Problems recruiting members due to cost and interest
 - Difficulty in explaining to undergraduates the benefits of joining CPA
 - Proposed solution: Provide undergraduates with information regarding short- and long-term benefits of joining CPA (e.g., networking, reduced conference fees, free journals, demonstrates interest in CPA, etc.)
- Problems in obtaining a list of students in psychology departments
 - Proposed solutions:
 - Provide each Campus Rep with a letter from us, stating the requirements of their position, and outlining what it entails

- Try to contact departmental secretary, and have him/her send out email to departmental student listserv
- Try to work with departmental psychology association to provide information
- Unsure of role or what to do as Campus Rep
 - Proposed solution: Refer students to list of possible rep duties posted online at the CPA student webpage

5.0 Suggestions, Questions

- Clarity on the role of the campus faculty reps would be useful
 - The title “Friend of CPA” seems informal—is there a way to make it sound more official? (e.g., “CPA Faculty Representative”, “CPA Faculty Affiliate”, etc). We also need to provide a brief description outlining the role of this position.
- More publicity on gift cards for CPA memberships
 - These are gift certificates/cards that cover the cost of CPA membership and could be great gift ideas
 - Currently, the form is too cumbersome and is only available in paper copy requiring it to be mailed or faxed in to CPA. Over the coming year we should aim to promote and inform people of this option more (e.g., letting Faculty supervisors know about it at the end and beginning of each academic year so they can provide this as gifts to outgoing/incoming students). We should also aim to convert the application to a simplified online submission form to make the process more user-friendly.
- Speed of membership
 - To satisfy the ‘proof of current student status’ membership application requirements, ideally either a signed letter from a faculty member OR an unofficial transcript should be sufficient. Currently this requirement is unclear. We will need to check with membership to inquire about this and request that both options be permitted if they currently are not.
- Difficulty meeting with Faculty in own department
 - Some undergraduate student reps mentioned difficulty in being able to schedule a meeting with their Faculty rep (or other Faculty member) in order to discuss relevant issues. The Section for Students offered to write a letter on behalf of the undergraduate rep (when requested) in which the letter would describe who the student is and their role as CPA undergraduate rep.
- Why no non-section specific (i.e., general) scholarships for student members of CPA?
 - CPA Foundation Award (not offered every year)
 - Travel Grant for those presenting at the Convention (available every year—amount varies based on travel distance)
 - Possibility of a Pre-Investigator Award similar to the Young-Investigator Award? (this is an option for further discussion)
 - Any financial options for students who are not presenting, but would like to attend the conference? (again, this is an idea for further discussion)
 - Given the limited Section for Students budget, we cannot offer any awards/scholarships; however, we can certainly talk with CPA over the next year to see if other student scholarship awards can be offered through CPA.