ECU Chapter Society for Neuroscience
Council Minutes for December 7, 2006

Present: Alex Murashov (Chair), Abdel Abdel-Rahman, Kori Brewer, Sherri Jones, Jian Ding, Qun Lu, Teresa Lever, Sarath Vijayakumar
Excused: Amy Friesland, Erik Everhart

Item 1. Meeting called to order at 2:30pm

Item 2. Approval of Minutes
Abdel moved to approve the minutes from the October 26 meeting. Qun seconded. Minutes approved.

Item 3. Old business – None

Item 4. Neuroscience Symposium (general discussion)
Alex thanked everyone for their help with symposium. A few wrap-up comments:
- Winning posters will be posted on the website.
- Jian will distribute the checks for the student awards before the semester ends.
- The symposium broke even financially. $600 check from the vendors will arrive soon.

Suggestions for next year's symposium included:
- Less formal format
- Restrict the number of slides for the podium sessions
- Announce the student awards earlier so that attendees may view the winning posters.
- Post the winning posters on the website and perhaps a suitable physical location.
- Facilitate vendor setup so that there are minimal distractions to the presentations.
- Encourage attendees to sign the vendor lists so that their time and effort is documented.

Item 5 Current progress

Chapter Finances – Jian reported that the symposium broke even. The chapter currently has about $1500 in its account.

Small Equipment Grant – Alex updated the council on the 'Behavioral core equipment grant. $9000 has been committed by several participants. Total budget requested was $26000.

Promoting collaboration – Several ideas were discussed to promote collaboration, including:
- Continue to promote growth and attendance at symposium
- Journal Club or Brainstorming Sessions to review grant proposals, research ideas, etc.
- Alter the format of the seminar series (several council members raised concerns about the large number of seminars throughout the campus).
- Social Event to discuss ideas in a relaxed environment

Item 6. Reports
a) Kori – Requested that a formal thank you letter from the chapter be sent to the Symposium featured speaker. Alex will follow up on this.

b) Qun – Seminar Committee will meet to discuss the format of the seminar series and will report to the council at a future meeting. The next seminar is December 14 at 4pm.

c) Jian – The graduate neuroscience course is open for registration. Sarath mentioned that a scheduling conflict exists. Jian and Sarath will look into this.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherri M. Jones, Secretary