



**Minutes of the General Meeting of the Australasian Society for Classical Studies held in the Circular Lecture Theatre, at the Bendigo Campus of La Trobe University, on Wednesday 4 February 2004, commencing at 4.15 p.m.**

**1. *Present***

Professor G. Horsley (President, in the Chair) and forty-four members

Apologies were received from: A/Prof. D. Hoyos, Dr B. Jones, Mr H. Lindsay, A/Prof. C. Mackie, Ms F. Muecke, Dr B. Neil, Dr R. Newbold, A/Prof. A. Nobbs, Dr N. O'Sullivan, Professor T. Parkin, Mr R. Pitcher, Prof. Emer. B. Rawson, Dr A. Silvas, A/Prof. I. Spence, Dr G. Stanton, Dr T. Stevenson, Emer. Prof. P. Weaver, Dr P. Wheatley, Professor P. Wilson, Mr A. Wormell.

**2. *Minutes of the meeting of 6 February 2003***

The Minutes of this meeting which had been circulated were taken as read. Tesoriero/Plant moved that the Minutes be confirmed. Carried.

**3. *Business arising from the Minutes***

Nil (apart from routine matters).

**4. *Correspondence***

31/12/03 – from FIEC containing notice of its next meeting and financial statement for 2003.

**5. *Business arising from the Correspondence***

Nil.

**6. *Reports***

(i) The Secretary tabled a Report, commenting on the success of the previous General Meeting and Conference, the steadily increasing number of members (now over 300), the co-operative negotiations over amalgamation with New Zealand departments, and the range of issues being actively considered by the Executive Committee. McKee/Welch moved that the Report be received. Carried.

(ii) The Treasurer tabled a detailed Report, the audited accounts for the year 1 January-31 December 2003, and a proposed budget for 2004 (to be considered under Item 7). Minchin/Plant moved that the Treasurer's Report and the audited accounts for 2003 be received. Carried.

Davis/Whitehorne moved that the FIEC subscription and the usual equivalent donation be paid. Carried.

Hillard/Silke moved that Mr Peter Edwell be again appointed as Honorary Auditor and receive an honorarium of \$300. Carried.

To a question from Ian Mckee whether ASCS conferences were designed to break even, the President responded that they were, and that there was not an intention to make a profit.

(iii) On behalf of the Editors Professor Tarrant gave an oral report: the process of publishing the next volume had been hampered by Hugh Lindsay's illness, but he had advice from him that there was sufficient material for Vol. 37 (2003) and that some articles (about 50% of what is required) are being considered for Vol. 38. Referees had been constructive, and are thanked for that. An allowance of \$500 had now been made available for technical help in laying out the journal; the Editors would appreciate the name of suitable persons to carry out this work

(iv) The President formally tabled a copy of the Index to Vols 1-35 which had been published in 2003.

## **7. *Financial Matters***

(i) Subscription rates. It was a recommendation of the Executive Committee that there be no change to the subscription rates for 2004. It was noted that a five-year rate was now to be offered to those who pay a full or retiree subscription.

(ii) Matters referred on by the Executive Committee:

(a) Allen/Welch moved that the financial assistance to the Secretary, Business Manager, and Editors, as approved earlier by the Executive Committee and noted in the Treasurer's budget for 2004, be approved. Carried.

(b) Amounts had been approved by the Executive Committee for subsidies for two thematic conferences in 2004, and are shown in the proposed budget. It was noted that guidelines for applications for such funding are in the process of being drawn up. Welch raised the matter, which had been raised before, of establishing a Society office with a secretariate.

## **8. *Election of Office-bearers, Editorial Committee and AAIA representative***

The following were elected to fill positions on the Executive Committee:

*President:* Professor Greg Horsley

*Vice-Presidents:* Professor John Davidson, Ms Frances Muecke

*Hon. Secretary:* Dr Bruce Marshall

*Hon. Treasurer:* Mr William Dolley

*Business Manager:* Dr Ian Plant

*Editors:* A/Prof. Peter Davis, Professor Harold Tarrant

*Postgraduate Representative:* Ms Silke Trczionka

*AAIA Representative:* Emer. Prof. Robert Milns

*Editorial Committee:* see below.

*University Representatives:*

Australian Catholic University: Dr Bronwen Neil

Australian National University: Dr Elizabeth Minchin

Edith Cowan University: Dr William Leadbetter [to be confirmed]

La Trobe University: Mr John Penwill

Macquarie University: Dr David Pritchard

University of Adelaide: Dr Han Baltussen

University of Melbourne: Dr K.O. Chong Gossard

University of Newcastle: Dr Marguerite Johnson [to be confirmed]

University of New England: Dr Charles Tesoriero

University of New South Wales: Dr Geoff Nathan [to be confirmed]

University of Queensland: Dr Pat Wheatley [to be confirmed]

University of Sydney: Dr Kathryn Welch

University of Tasmania: A/Prof. Peter Davis

University of Western Australia: Dr Neil O'Sullivan [to be confirmed]

The President reported that he had sent a letter to Hugh Lindsay thanking him for his work as Editor and wishing him a speedy recovery.

The Secretary pointed out that according to the Constitution the Editorial Committee was to comprise three members; currently there were five. It was agreed that the Committee should

now be made up of Professor John Davidson, Frances Muecke and Prof. Emer. Beryl Rawson (the latter two subject to agreement) and that the Secretary write to the other current members to clarify the position. Professor Tarrant foreshadowed a motion that the size of the Editorial Committee be increased to five.

### **9. *Proposed Constitutional Amendments***

#### **(i) Amalgamation with New Zealand classicists.**

There were two constitutional amendments before the Meeting which had been duly proposed (by the President and Secretary) and promulgated with the requisite notice: one to change the name of the Society to “Australasian” (in place of “Australian”), and another to delete the word “Australian” before “university” in Clause 6 (f), allowing for representatives from New Zealand as well as Australian university departments on the Executive Committee.

There were 112 votes cast in all on both amendments (89 postal votes, and 23 votes in person at the meeting). 109 votes were cast in favour of the first amendment, and 2 against, so the amendment was duly carried. 112 votes were cast in favour of the second amendment, and none against, so the amendment was duly carried.

As a consequence of the second amendment, Tarrant/Davis moved that the Secretary approach the five New Zealand departments where Classics is taught (Auckland, Canterbury, Massey, Otago and Wellington) to nominate a representative to join the Executive Committee. Carried.

The President proposed a warm welcome to our New Zealand colleagues. Carried with acclamation.

#### **(ii) Procedure for amending the constitution (Clause 9)**

The following constitutional amendment had been duly proposed (by the President and Secretary) and promulgated with the requisite notice:

“Alterations to the constitution (signed by the mover and seconder) shall be submitted in writing\* to the Secretary at least four months before a General Meeting of the Society and communicated\* to the members of the Society at least three months before the General Meeting concerned. A vote on the proposed alteration(s) shall be conducted either by a postal/electronic\* vote of all the financial members of the Society or by a vote in person at a General Meeting or by a combination of both (provided that no member casts more than one vote on any proposed alteration). An alteration shall not be passed except by a majority of at least two-thirds of the votes actually cast, and provided that at least one-fifth of the financial members of the Society at the time cast a vote.

\* Emailing shall be deemed to be an acceptable form of written and postal communication and voting for those members who have indicated to the Secretary their willingness to receive communications electronically.”

There were 112 votes cast in all on this amendment (89 postal votes, and 23 votes in person at the meeting), and all votes were in favour of the amendment, so the amendment was duly carried.

Ian McKee foreshadowed a motion to set a more realistic quorum for a general meeting, now that there had been a significant increase in the Society’s membership.

### **10. *Proposed ASCS Translation Prize Competition***

Scott/Whitehorne moved that the Society agree in principle to the establishment of an Unseen Translation Prize Competition, subject to approval of the competition guidelines by the Executive Committee. The President thanked Ian Plant and Neil O’Sullivan for their initiative.

### **11. *Next General Meeting and Conference***

Whitehorne/Davis moved that the Society accept the offer of the University of Otago to host the next General Meeting in Dunedin in February 2005. Professor Dominik, who will act as the convenor, said that he hoped each department would send at least one representative to Dunedin, and pointed out that the cost of air travel to New Zealand is not great, if you look for the right deals. Kathryn Welch asked that the Executive Committee give consideration to increasing the amount of money available for postgraduate travel subsidies. Jeff Tillitzki raised the possibility of organising some group travel to secure discounts, and offered to take on the role of co-ordinating such travel possibilities.

### **12. *Delegation of Authority***

McKee/Plant moved that in accordance with clause 6 of the Constitution the General Meeting delegate to the Executive Committee full authority to transact all business of the Society until the next General Meeting. Carried.

### **13. *Any Other Business***

(a) **Manager for the Website.** Neil O'Sullivan foreshadowed a motion that this be a formally elected position on the Executive Committee.

(b) **ASCS Essay Prize Competition for 2003.** K.O. Chong-Gossard reported orally that the decision had not yet been finalised, but that there were about 30 entries. The Executive Committee will be arranging for a review of the Competition in the light of the Society's inclusion of New Zealand now; it was noted that New Zealand currently has its own competition. Dr Chong-Gossard expressed a willingness to continue as one of the assessors; there will be a need to replace Dr Ted Nixon, who has served for a number of years now. The name of Dr Tom Stevenson was suggested.

(c) **Conference Liaison Officer.** The President reported that Ian and Anne McKee have volunteered to take on this role.

(d) **Early Career Grant/Prize.** Silke Trzcionka (the Postgraduate Representative) had placed a proposal about this before the Executive Committee. She has been asked to develop this proposal.

(e) **Poster Presentations at Future Conferences.** John Whitehorne commented on the fullness of the program at this conference and suggested that one way of cutting down on too many papers would be to encourage poster presentations. Bruce Marshall commented that he had offered to do this for ASCS XXIV, but that no one had taken him up on the offer.

(f) **Announcements.** Kathryn Welch announced that a Party would be held at the University of Sydney on 11th March to celebrate the amalgamation of the Departments of Classics and of Ancient History. John Whitehorne announced that the next AULLA/FILLM Congress would be held in Cairns in July 2005, on the theme "Text and the City". Charles Tesoriero announced that the next PacRim Conference, convened jointly by the University of New England and the University of Sydney, would be held in July 2004 at the University of Sydney.

A warm vote of thanks to John Penwill, the convenor of ASCS XXV, and his helpers was carried with acclamation.

The meeting closed at 6.15 pm.