



Minutes of the General Meeting of the Australasian Society for Classical Studies held in the Castle 1 Lecture Theatre at the University of Otago, Dunedin, on Thursday 3 February 2005, commencing at 8.35 am.

1. Present

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

Apologies were received from: Professor P. Allen, Mr G. Bourke, Dr K.O. Chong-Gossard, A/Prof P. Davis, A/Prof D. Hoyos, A/Prof A. Mackay, Dr J. McLaren, Ms J. Montgomery Griffiths, Dr T. Neal, A/Prof A. Nobbs, Professor T. Parkin, Mr R. Pitcher, Prof. Emer. B. Rawson, A/Prof I. Spence, Dr G. Stanton, Dr C. Tesoriero.

2. Obituaries

Obituaries were delivered on the following members who had passed away in the preceding year: Dr Will Richardson (given by Dougal Blyth), Emeritus Professor William Ritchie (given by Alan James), and Emeritus Professor Paul Weaver (given by Edwin Judge).

3. Minutes of the meeting of 6 February 2003

The Minutes of this meeting which had been circulated were taken as read. I. McKee/W. Gale moved that the Minutes be confirmed. Carried.

4. Business arising from the Minutes

(i) Size of the Editorial Committee. The Secretary pointed out an error he had made regarding the size of the Editorial Committee: the constitution already allows for a committee of five (not three, as he had mistakenly believed). So there is no need for a constitutional amendment to increase its size.

5. Correspondence and Business arising from the Correspondence

(i) 07/09/04 – from FIEC containing notice of its next meeting and financial statement for 2004. Marshall/Lindsay moved that, as usual, the annual subscription to FIEC be paid, together with an equivalent amount as a donation. Carried.

(ii) Hughes Chair at the University of Adelaide. The President outlined the negotiations which had been going on for some time, inconclusively. The Classics staff at the University of Adelaide had decided that they did not now wish to pursue the matter any further. Dr Baltussen, on behalf of the Classics staff, thanked the Society for its efforts in this matter.

(iii) Negotiations with the Commonwealth Treasury for tax deductibility status for donations. A letter from the Minister for Revenue and Assistant Treasurer (06/01/05) has rejected the application, but the Executive Committee has decided to continue pursuing the matter.

6. Reports

(i) The Secretary tabled a Report, commenting on the success of the previous General Meeting and Conference (with a record number of papers), the steadily increasing number of members (now around 350), the provision of funds for students to travel to the conference (\$3000 divided among 22 applicants), for one-off conferences and seminars (\$3500), and for small departments to assist in local promotional activities (\$2720 given to three departments).

(ii) The Treasurer tabled a detailed Report, the audited accounts for the year 1 January-31 December 2004, and a proposed budget for 2005 (to be considered under Item 7). The Treasurer reported on the healthy state of the Society's finances. John Whitehorne suggested that a New Zealand bank account be set up to receive subscriptions there, so as to avoid bank conversion fees in Australia. The suggestion was referred to the Executive Committee for

consideration. Neil O'Sullivan asked for clarification of the amount spent on bringing a keynote speaker to the conference: the response was that AU\$3000 was provided to the convenor for this purpose.

(iii) The Editors, Peter Davis and Harold Tarrant, tabled a report: progress on the production of Vol. 38 (2004) was well advanced. In response to a question raised by Neil O'Sullivan, Harold Tarrant said that in future volumes would be typeset outside, and not by one of the Editors. The President moved a vote of thanks to Harold Tarrant who would be stepping aside as Editor. Carried with acclamation.

The President moved that all reports be received. Carried.

7. *Financial Matters and Matters referred on by the Executive Committee*

(i) Subscription rates for 2005. On behalf of the Executive Committee, Marshall/Plant moved that subscription rates for 2005 be increased to AU\$40/NZ\$45 (full rate) and AU\$20/NZ\$25 (student/retiree rate). Harold Tarrant commented that it may not be the best time for a rise. The motion was carried.

Horsley/P. O'Sullivan moved that the five-year subscription continue at the old rate in order to provide an incentive to pay subscriptions for that period. Carried.

(ii) Budget for 2005. Dolley/N. O'Sullivan moved that the proposed budget for 2005 be accepted. Carried.

(iii) Appointment of Honorary Auditor. Hillard/Trzcionka moved that Mr Peter Edwell be again appointed as Honorary Auditor and receive an honorarium of \$300. Carried.

(iv) "Early Career" Award. The final version of the terms and conditions of the Award as determined by the Executive Committee was tabled. Trzcionka/Marshall moved that the terms and conditions be approved and that the Award be implemented in 2005. John Whitehorne suggested that they include the requirement that applicants should be members of the Society, and Neil O'Sullivan that allowance should be made for career interruptions. With the inclusion of those two suggestions, the motion was carried.

(v) Special or thematic issues of the journal. The following proposal had been discussed and approved by the Executive Committee and referred now to the General Meeting: "that ASCS proceed to publish some thematic issues of the journal, either as irregular supplementary numbers or as a replacement for the annual number of the journal, with 'guest' editors working closely with the elected Editors, with the latter retaining final editorial control". Douglas Kelly said that the use of ASCS funds in a new direction needs a level playing field; in response Harold Tarrant said that a procedure will be put in place to ensure that all have an opportunity to submit a proposal to the Editors for a thematic issue. John Whitehorne, supported by John Penwill, spoke against the proposal: before energies are expended on thematic issues, it was important to bring the journal in its present form up-to-date. The motion was put and carried.

8. *Proposed Constitutional Amendments*

(i) Size of quorum for General Meetings. I. McKee/A. McKee moved, with due notice, a new wording to section 8 of the constitution to read now: "The quorum for a General Meeting shall be one-fifth of the financial members at the time, *or* sixty financial members, whichever is the fewer." The motion was carried.

(ii) Addition of the position of Website Manager to the Executive Committee. N. O'Sullivan/Marshall moved, with due notice, that this position be added. Carried.

9. *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, Dr Elizabeth Minchin

Website Manager: Dr David O'Brien

Postgraduate Representative: Mr Jeff Tillitzki

AAIA Representative: Emer. Prof. Robert Milns [to be confirmed]

Editorial Committee: [to be determined]

University Representatives:

Australian Catholic University: Dr Bronwen Neil

Australian National University: Dr Benjamin Kelly

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

La Trobe University: Mr John Penwill

Massey University: Dr Gina Salapata

Monash University: Ms Jane Montgomery Griffiths

Macquarie University: Dr David Pritchard

University of Adelaide: Dr Han Baltussen

University of Auckland: Dr Marcus Wilson [to be confirmed]

University of Canterbury: Dr Enrica Sciarrino

University of Melbourne: Dr K.O. Chong Gossard

University of Newcastle: Dr Marguerite Johnson

University of New England: Ms Bronwen Hopwood [to be confirmed]

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

University of Otago: Dr Jon Hall

University of Queensland: Professor Tim Parkin [to be confirmed]

University of Sydney: [to be determined]

University of Tasmania: A/Prof. Peter Davis

University of Western Australia: Dr Neil O'Sullivan

Victoria University of Wellington: Dr Matthew Trundle

10. *Next General Meeting and Conference*

Davidson/Marshall moved that the Society accept the offer of the University of Tasmania to host the next General Meeting and Conference in Hobart in January/February 2006. A/Prof Peter Davis will act as the convenor. It was further agreed that an amount of AU\$1000 would be provided to assist with the organization of the conference, AU\$3000 towards the cost of travel for a keynote speaker, and AU\$3000 for student travel subsidies.

12. *Delegation of Authority*

Minchin/Trzcionka 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*

(i) Conference liaison. The President pointed out to the members Ian and Anne McKee who had volunteered to provide conference liaison. A system had been developed by them in consultation with the Secretary to collect information regularly.

(ii) ASCS Essay Prize Competitions. Frances Muecke reported that the assessment of the 2004 Australian competition should be completed by the end of February; the assessors are K.O. Chong-Gossard and Tom Stevenson. Jon Hall reported that there were 17 entries in the New Zealand competition and that the winner will be determined soon.

(iii) Translation Prize Competition. Neil O'Sullivan and Ian Plant reported that the competition will proceed this year.

(iv) Notice of the following motion had been given by Edwin Judge and circulated to members; it was seconded by Don Barker:

(1) subject to the Society's formal aims, approval of articles for publication or of papers for inclusion in conference or other programs shall be made on academic grounds alone at the sole discretion of the editors or program conveners taking account of any advice from the editorial committee or readers but without reference to any vote of the members, executive or other office-bearers, and that

(2) the Society shall place no restriction on the intellectual position taken in proposed articles or conference or other papers, and shall itself take no position on their academic or other conclusions, and that,

(3) having regard to the relevant equal opportunity and anti-discrimination laws, the Society shall require its office-bearers and conference or other organisers not to subject contributors to any test of opinion on non-academic matters, whether moral, political, religious, or otherwise.

It was agreed to deal with each clause in turn. With regard to clause 1, Edwin Judge spoke to the motion, and said that the choice of a person should not be subject to the votes of the Executive Committee, or opportunities could be lost. In opposing the motion Bronwyn Neil said that the Executive Committee should have a vote in choosing a keynote speaker at a conference; Douglas Kelly said that the clause was unnecessary because the Society belongs to the members and the right to offer advice should not be denied; Harold Tarrant urged that ASCS be kept as a non-political organization. The clause was put to a vote and lost.

With regard to clause 2, Edwin Judge said that it allowed for taking no particular position, which answered Douglas Kelly's argument to some extent. In opposing the clause, John Whitehorne said that there should be no attempt to take away the rights of members to express a view; Arthur Pomeroy had doubts about the wording, and so opposed it. The clause was put to a vote and lost.

With regard to clause 3, Edwin Judge said that there was a need for some procedure to deal with controversial persons or matters; Don Barker said that there was a need for some sort of safeguard. The motion was put to a vote and carried.

The President asked that the results of the discussion of this motion be referred to the Executive Committee.

(v) The President reminded the newly elected Executive Committee that there would be a follow-on meeting the following morning.

On behalf of the whole Society the President extended congratulations and appreciation to Bill Dominik, the convenor of ASCS 26, and all his helpers for a highly successful conference. The vote of thanks was carried with warm acclamation.

The meeting closed at 11.10 am.