



Minutes of the General Meeting of the Australasian Society for Classical Studies held at “Noah’s on the Beach” Hotel in Newcastle on Wednesday 7 February 2007, commencing at 4.00 pm.

1. *Present*

Mr John Penwill (President, in the Chair) and fifty-four members.

Apologies were received from: Professor P. Allen, Dr E. Anagnostou-Laoutides, Professor E. Csapo, Dr B. Hopwood, Professor G. Horsley, A/Prof B.D. Hoyos, A/Prof J. McLaren, Professor M. Miller, Dr E. Minchin, Dr P. O’Sullivan, Dr S. Puttock, Prof. Emer. B. Rawson, Professor D. Runia, Dr G. Salapata, Dr E. Sciarrino.

2. *Obituaries*

An obituary was delivered on Richard Bauman by Bruce Marshall; the deaths of the following were also noted: Robert Tannenbaum, Agathe Thornton and Robert Usher. The President mentioned that this item would not be included at future General Meetings; it was felt that the Newsletter was a more appropriate medium for recording the deaths of members.

3. *Minutes of the General Meeting of 2 February 2006*

The minutes of this meeting at the University of Tasmania which had been circulated were taken as read. Davidson/Davis moved that the Minutes be confirmed. Carried.

4. *Business arising from the Minutes*

Item 7 (ii): Honorary Life Membership. The previous President (Professor G. Horsley) had given notice of a constitutional change involving two categories: life membership for those members who had served ASCS in a long and/or distinguished manner, and honorary membership for those who had made a significant contribution to the subject nationally but who were not necessarily ASCS members, and proposing also a procedure for nomination. The Secretary reported that he had not followed up this notice of a constitutional change, partly because there was a division of opinion about the two categories. There was further discussion of this division of opinion, and it was decided that the Secretary should conduct a vote in the prescribed manner prior to and at the next General Meeting, dividing the proposal into three parts in order to allow members to express their views, particularly on the division of opinion about the two categories.

5. *Correspondence and Business arising from the Correspondence*

(i) 05/02/07 – A letter from Professor Michael Crawford on behalf of the Institute for Classical Studies in London outlining the latest position with regard to the forced move of the ICS Library and the plans for the alternative location. Parts of the letter were read out, and Professor John Davidson provided more background details of the current situation. Davidson/Melville Jones moved that the Society offer financial support of \$1000 p.a. for three years if the alternative scheme is implemented. Dr D. Kelly commented that the ICS is not just of benefit to individuals, it plays a role in the defence of Classics in general. Professor Tarrant commented that some get more out of the ICS than others, and moved an amendment, seconded by Dr K. Welch, that the sum offered be reduced to 250 pounds per year for three years. It was pointed out that there was no guarantee the scheme for an alternative location would be carried out. The amendment was then put and carried.

(ii) Various other items of routine correspondence were summarised by the Secretary.

6. Reports

(i) The Secretary tabled a Report, commenting on the continuing steady increase in the number of members (now around 430), and listing the main areas of expenditure of the Society's funds – the “early career” award, the provision of funds to assist students to travel to the conference, grants to small departments to assist in local promotional activities, subsidies for one-off conferences and seminars, and the essay competitions. Marshall/I.McKee moved that the report be adopted. Carried.

(ii) The Treasurer tabled a detailed financial Report, the audited accounts for the year 1 January-31 December 2006, and a proposed budget for 2007 (considered under Item 7). The Treasurer reported on the healthy state of the Society's finances. Dolley/Plant moved that the report be adopted. Carried.

(iii) The Editors, A/Prof Peter Davis and Dr Elizabeth Minchin, tabled a Report, commenting that the revised Vol 38 (2004) was sent out early in 2006, Vol 39 (2005) in the middle of the year, and Vol 40 (2006) at the end of the year. The latest volume was the first thematic issue, “Catullus in Contemporary Perspective”. Davis/L.Watson moved that the report be adopted. Carried.

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

(i) Budget for 2007. Dr A. Silvas asked whether a better return could be obtained for the Society's funds rather than using term deposits; the Treasurer explained that the advice he has been given is that the current approach, while conservative, is less volatile in the current financial climate. Dolley/Morpeth moved that the proposed budget for 2007 be adopted. Carried.

(ii) Appointment of Honorary Auditor. Dolley/Wilson moved that Dr Peter Edwell be again appointed as Honorary Auditor. Carried.

(iii) FIEC. Marshall/Dolley moved that, as usual, the annual subscription to FIEC be paid, together with an equivalent amount as a donation. Carried.

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

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

President: Mr John Penwill

Vice-Presidents: Professor John Davidson, Professor Ronald Ridley

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: Mr R.J. Baker, Dr P. Burton, Professor J.F. Davidson,
Dr R.A. Kearsley, Ms F. Muecke

University Representatives:

Australian Catholic University: Dr Geoffrey Dunn

Australian National University: Dr Claire Jamset

Edith Cowan University: Dr William Leadbetter

La Trobe University: Dr Rodney Blackhirst

Macquarie University: Dr Peter Keegan
Massey University: Dr Gina Salapata [to be confirmed]
Monash University: Dr Jane Montgomery Griffiths
University of Adelaide: Dr Han Baltussen
University of Auckland: Dr Marcus Wilson
University of Canterbury: Dr Enrica Sciarrino
University of Melbourne: Dr K.O. Chong Gossard
University of Newcastle: Dr Marguerite Johnson
University of New England: [to be decided]
University of New South Wales: [to be decided]
University of Otago: Dr Jon Hall
University of Queensland: Dr Tom Stevenson
University of Sydney: Dr Emma Gee
University of Tasmania: A/Prof Peter Davis
University of Western Australia: Dr Neil O'Sullivan
Victoria University of Wellington: Dr Babette Pütz

9. *Future General Meetings and Conferences*

- (i) The President moved that the Society accept the offer of the University of Canterbury to host the next General Meeting and Conference in Christchurch in January/February 2008. Dr Enrica Sciarrino 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.
- (ii) This year marked the end of the five-year experiment of holding shorter General Meetings and Conferences annually, and it was time for a review of the experiment. I.McKee/Davis moved that ASCS continue to meet annually. Carried.

10. *Delegation of Authority*

The President 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.

12. *Any Other Business*

- (i) "Early Career" Award. The Secretary announced that the winner of the 2006 Award of AU\$2000 was Dr Danijel Dzino from the University of Adelaide, who will be using the funds to travel to the Balkans to undertake research in libraries and museums.
- (ii) ASCS Essay Prize Competitions. Professor R. Ridley announced the winners of the 2006 Australian competition: first prize was awarded to Julian McDonald of The University of Sydney, and highly commended prizes went to Dean Smith of the University of Melbourne, and Christopher Ransom of ANU. The first prize in the New Zealand competition was awarded to Maree Cross, and second prize to Melanie Place, both from the University of Auckland.
- (iii) Greek and Latin Translation Competition. Dr Plant announced that this competition would go ahead in 2007, after being postponed in 2006, with more targeted advertising at potential teachers and entrants.
- (iv) Other announcements. Dr Welch announced the Todd Lecture at the University of Sydney in March; Professor Davidson announced the Greek Drama IV Conference in

Dunedin in July; the President announced the PacRim Roman Literature Seminar at ANU in June.

Professor Tarrant thanked Dr Marguerite Johnson for the work she had taken on in organising the present conference, and presented her with a small gift. On behalf of the whole Society the President also extended congratulations and appreciation to Marguerite and all her helpers for a highly successful conference. The vote of thanks was carried with warm acclamation.

The meeting closed at 6.00 pm.