



Minutes of the General Meeting of the Australasian Society for Classical Studies held in the Austin Lecture Theatre in the Arts Building at the University of Western Australia on Thursday 4th February 2010, commencing at 5.05 pm.

1. *Present*

Professor John Davidson (President, in the Chair) and fifty-nine members.

Apologies were received from: Dr P. Burton, Assoc. Prof. P. Davis, Professor G. Horsley, Emer. Prof. E. Judge, Dr P. Londey, Assoc. Prof. J. McLaren, Dr E. Moloney, Dr G. Morrison, Ms F. Muecke, Dr I. Plant, Dr B. Pütz, Prof. Emer. B. Rawson, Professor D. Runia, Dr T. Stevenson.

2. *Variation in the Order of Business*

The President introduced Professor Kurt Raaflaub, a former President of the American Philological Society, who thanked the Society most warmly for the donation sent last year to the APA Capital Campaign Appeal and explained that the major aim of the campaign is to raise \$4 million so as to provide for the ongoing publication of *L'Annee Philologique*. The total raised already is \$1.5 million. Professor Raaflaub asked for a further donation if and when the Society had the funds. It was suggested that individual members be invited to contribute to the appeal.

3. *Minutes of the Meeting of 6th February 2009*

The minutes of this meeting at Sancta Sophia College at the University of Sydney, which had been circulated, were taken as read. Marshall/Dolley moved that the Minutes be confirmed. Carried.

4. *Business arising from the Minutes*

(a) Electronic storage of the journal (see also 7 (c) below)

The Secretary reported that, following a considerable amount of sub-committee discussion and negotiation with ProQuest, the host selected to store the journal, the process of submitting hard copies of Vols 1-34 which will be digitised and stored on PAO has been completed, as well as some hard copies and some digital versions of Vols 35-42, which will appear on another ProQuest database. He has been told by ProQuest that the digitising process will be completed by the middle of this year and the marketing of the databases will start after that; it is likely that the databases will be available in libraries and institutions next year.

(b) Library of the Institute of Classical Studies, London

The Secretary reported that from correspondence and emails he had received it seems that there have been no developments in the plans to set up an appeal for funds to guarantee the future maintenance of the Library as it was. Welch reported that the Library is up and running in its present location in the Senate House of the University of London for those who wish to use it.

(c) Incorporation of the Society

The Secretary reported that he had downloaded a set of model rules for incorporation from the Victorian Government's Department of Consumer Affairs and was working his way through these 25 pages rewording them to fit with ASCS's situation; the reason for choosing to incorporate in Victoria was that we would be required to have a Public Officer who lived in that state, and it was sensible to nominate the Treasurer as that Public Officer, since he would be required to submit financial statements from time to time. The Secretary reported that he had also sought some informal legal advice as to whether the Society's activities in other states would be covered by incorporation in one particular state, and what is the situation with New Zealand and other overseas members; the advice informally given is that once we have incorporated in a state we would then have to gain recognition as a non-for-profit organisation and register under the Commonwealth Corporations Act 2001, administered by ASIC, and then activities in other states would be covered. The advice was that it would be necessary to incorporate the New Zealand members in their own country in some way.

The Secretary explained that he would continue to work through the rewording of the model set of rules (= constitution) progressively, with the intention of putting before the Society a draft at some stage during this year. This will be a large task because of the number of pages involved, particularly for those members who do not receive communication by email. A new member of the Society,

a retired corporate lawyer, has agreed to assist the Secretary in the rewording of the constitution. A further consideration will be the need to take out public liability insurance, which could cost \$2000 or more.

(d) History of the Society to mark the 50th anniversary of the Society in 2016

The Secretary reported that the executive committee had discussed this proposal following the last AGM and agreed that an approach be made to the surviving foundation members of the Society be approached to provide some reminiscences. This was to be co-ordinated between the Editors and Dr Kelly, who had proposed the motion about it, together with Professor Ridley who has been collecting archival material, with a view to including an article in the relevant volume of *Antichthon*. A list of the original 1966 members has been drawn up, and a select group of the survivors will be asked to provide reminiscences which could form the basis of a historical record.

(e) Publication on the website of winning essay competition entries

The Secretary had arranged for this to be done with the winning entries in the 2008 competition, a practice which he hopes to continue each year.

5. *Correspondence and Business arising from the Correspondence*

The Secretary summarised the correspondence which had been received.

(a) FIEC subscription and donation

Although the notice had not yet been received from FIEC, Dolley/Marshall moved that, subject to its receipt and as usual, the annual subscription to FIEC be paid, together with an equivalent amount as a donation. Carried.

(b) To and from the ARC and on ARC related matters

There was considerable correspondence with the ARC over the ERA journals list and with Senator Eric Abetz, who took up the cudgels on behalf of ASCS at the Senate Estimates Hearings when ARC officials were “interrogated” by him, ASCS and the Secretary specifically as a result getting their names in six pages of Hansard, and over the lack of representation for ancient world studies in the “college of experts” which assesses ARC grant applications.

(c) HAT Project

The Secretary reported on conversations he had had with the Executive Director of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and a Research Officer from the AAH over this ARC-funded survey of the situation with the Humanities in Australian universities. The hope is that this survey, the first undertaken in a number of years, will provide the basis for the formulation of policy with regard to the Humanities by government and the universities, and that the collection of data will be an ongoing project.

6. *Reports*

(a) The Secretary tabled a Report, commenting on the continuing steady increase in the number of members (now up to 470) and on the usual range of activities, and listing the main areas of expenditure of the Society’s funds in a typical year, showing that the Society spends on the increasing range of its activities pretty much what it receives in income. [The full version of the report would be contained in the April Newsletter.]

(b) The Treasurer tabled a detailed financial Report, the audited accounts for the year 1 January-31 December 2008, and a proposed budget for 2009 (considered under Item 7 a). The Treasurer reported that he expects that 2010 will be an easier year financially. Dolley/Penwill moved that the report be adopted. Carried.

(c) The Editors, Assoc. Prof Peter Davis and Professor Elizabeth Minchin, tabled a Report, commenting on the appearance of two volumes in 2009, Vol 43 (2009) and Vol 44 (2010) in advance. Some material for Vol 45 (2011) has been accepted already, but the volume will not appear till that year. Minchin/Ridley moved that the report be adopted. Carried.

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

(a) Budget for 2010

The Treasurer tabled a budget for 2010, which contained the usual items, except for the allowance of \$1000 as an honorarium for the revamping of the ASCS website. Dolley/Wilson moved that the proposed budget for 2010 be adopted. Carried.

(b) Appointment of Honorary Auditor and level of honorarium

Dolley/Wilson moved that Dr Peter Edwell again be appointed as Honorary Auditor. Carried. Dr Edwell has indicated that a sufficient honorarium would be membership of the Society for the year.

(c) "Rolling barrier" for electrification of the journal on ProQuest databases

The Secretary explained that the sub-committee looking at this matter had been divided over whether a "rolling barrier" should be applied; the compromise was that it agreed to a barrier of one year, and this was incorporated in the contract signed with ProQuest. The meeting agreed that this was a reasonable arrangement.

(d) Payment for Office

It was agreed that this item be deferred..

(e) Revamp of NZ essay competition and renaming of both essay competitions

The Secretary reported that, now that ASCS has taken over the full funding of the prizes for the NZ competition and after discussions with the interest NZ parties, it was suggested that the NZ competition should be renamed "The ASCS New Zealand Essay Competition in Honour of John Barsby", and that in order to differentiate it the Australian competition should now be named "The ASCS Australian Essay Competition". The meeting agreed to these new names.

(f) Application by Campion College for Affiliation, and the Definition of a "University

The Executive Committee had discussed this application by Campion College for affiliation and a majority accepted the case put forward. Dr Patrick O'Sullivan reported that the heads of departments' meeting had discussed this issue and were of the opinion that Campion College qualified as an institute of higher learning. Dr Kelly pointed out that the definition of a "university" was spelled out in Schedule 2 of the Higher Education Act. Assoc. Prof. Lindsay Watson had misgivings about admitting Campion College because it did not have a research profile. The President gagged any further discussion and moved from the chair that Campion College be admitted subject to Campion College satisfying certain concerns. Carried.

(g) Establishment of a Secretariate

The President commented that it was not financially viable at this stage to support paid clerical assistance, but it could be that an investigation for a room or space in a university was a possibility. Assoc. Prof. McKechnie asked whether the aim would be to secure space rent-free; the response was not necessarily. Welch/Minchin moved that the President investigate the possibility of space on relevant university campuses. Carried.

(h) Revamp of ASCS Website

The Executive Committee had agreed to set aside \$1000 as an honorarium for the revamping of the ASCS website, on the grounds that it was necessary to pay for the technical expertise involved, and to the use of a commercial host for the website. The meeting agreed to these recommendations.

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

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

President: Professor John Davidson

Vice-Presidents: Emer. Prof. Ronald Ridley, Dr Patricia Watson

Hon. Secretary: Bruce Marshall

Hon. Treasurer: Mr William Dolley

Business Manager: Dr Ian Plant

Editors: A/Prof Peter Davis, Dr Elizabeth Minchin

Website Manager: Ms Kit Morrell

Postgraduate Representative: Mr Tim Scott

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 [all to be confirmed]

University Representatives:

Australian Catholic University: Dr Geoffrey Dunn

Australian National University: Dr Paul Burton

La Trobe University: Mr John Penwill

Macquarie University: Dr Peter Keegan

Massey University: Dr Gina Salapata

Monash University: Dr Giulia Torello

University of Adelaide: Dr Han Baltussen

University of Auckland: Dr Marcus Wilson

University of Canterbury: Dr Gary Morrison

University of Melbourne: Dr K.O. Chong Gossard

University of Newcastle: Dr Marguerite Johnson [subject to agreement]

University of New England: Dr Bronwyn Hopwood

University of New South Wales: Dr Geoff Nathan

University of Otago: Professor Bill Dominik

University of Queensland: Dr David Pritchard

University of Sydney: Dr Anne Rogerson

University of Tasmania: Dr Jonathan Wallis

University of Western Australia: Dr Lara O'Sullivan

Victoria University of Wellington: Dr Babette Pütz

9. Competitions

- (a) Early Career Award (b) Essay Competitions (c) Translation Competition
(d) OPA! (Outstanding Postgraduate-Presentation Award)

There was nothing to report on the organisation or terms of the first three of these competitions, apart from the name changes to the essay competitions – see 7 (c). The Secretary announced the results which together with the reports will be put up on the website and also reported in the April Newsletter. Dr Chong-Gossard reported on the inaugural OPA! at this conference; there were 20 entrants; five judges pre-selected a short list; four of those judges listened to the short-listed entrants' presentations; a decision was to be announced at the end of the conference. Dr Chong-Gossard was thanked for his initiative in proposing and co-ordinating the Award.

10. Next General Meeting and Conference

(a) The President moved that the Society accept the offer of the University of Auckland to host the next General Meeting and Conference (ASCS 32) in Auckland in late January 2011. Carried with acclamation. Dr Jeremy Armstrong and Assoc. Prof. Anne Mackay will be the convenors. It was further agreed that an amount of AU\$1000 would be provided to assist with the organisation of the conference, AU\$3000 towards the cost of travel for a keynote speaker, and AU\$3000+ for student travel subsidies.

(b) It was also reported that ASCS 33 (2012) was likely to be held at Monash University.

11. Delegation of Authority

Marshall/Dolley 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

(a) Professor Melville Jones reported that there were threats to the continuing of the chair of palaeography at Kings College London and that a web-based petition would be circulated by the Secretary.

(b) Dr Welch reported that the funds provided by ASCS to assist with the Appian Conference at USyd in July would be used to support a postgraduate writing workshop conducted by Professor Anton Powell (one of the keynote speakers) to be held in conjunction with the conference.

(c) Professor Minchin asked whether the Society would do anything about Professor Raaflaub's request earlier in the meeting. Welch/Penwill moved that it be given consideration in the light of the 2010 budget. Carried.

(d) The President moved a vote of thanks to Dr Lara O'Sullivan, the conference convenors, their team of helpers, particularly the postgraduate students, and the local department for the hard work done to make the occasion such a success. The vote of thanks was carried with warm acclamation.

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm.

Bruce Marshall
Honorary Secretary
February 2010