



**Minutes of the General Meeting of the Australasian Society for Classical Studies held at Sancta Sophia College at the University of Sydney on Friday 6 February 2009, commencing at 4.05 pm.**

**1. *Present***

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

Apologies were received from: Prof. P. Allen, A/Prof R. Bond, Dr A. Griffith, A/Prof D. Hoyos, Dr M. Johnson, Mrs A. McKee, Dr I. McKee, Dr G. Morrison, Dr L. O'Sullivan, Dr V. Parker, Dr B. Pütz, Dr G. Salapata, Dr E. Sciarrino, Professor H. Tarrant, Mr J. Tillitzki, Dr J. Webb, Prof. G. Zanker.

The Secretary announced that Emer. Prof. Graeme Clarke (former Vice President 1970-1 and President 1976-8) had been made an Officer of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours List, and Mrs Pat Geidans (not an ASCS member but well known to many members as the Secretary of the Society for the Study of Early Christianity at Macquarie University) had received an OAM. The Secretary had written to both extending congratulations.

**2. *Notice of deaths of members***

The Secretary announced the deaths of two members: Bob Sinclair, Treasurer 1966-74 and President 1989-92, had died on 2 November, and Dennis Pryor, one of the foundation members of the Society in 1996-7, had died on 30 November. Members who had known them well attended the funerals.

**2. *Minutes of the Meeting of 30 January 2008***

The minutes of this meeting at Rydges Hotel, Christchurch, which had been circulated, were taken as read. Hall/Wilson moved that the Minutes be confirmed. Carried.

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

(i) Honorary Life Membership

The Secretary reported that, following the acceptance of the wording contained in a notice about the necessary constitutional amendment which had been circulated in 2007, the necessary re-wording of the constitution had been made. So the procedures are now in place.

In the light of that, and as a result of a motion passed at the preceding Executive Committee Meeting, when the Secretary had been temporarily absent, the President moved that Honorary Life Membership be conferred on the Secretary, Bruce Marshall. The motion was carried with a standing ovation. The Secretary responded that he was extremely chuffed by this generous gesture.

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

John Davidson reported on information that had come to him from Michael Crawford via Alanna Nobbs that the appeal for funds is back on again, not for moving the Library to the University College site in Drury Lane (which turned out to be too expensive), but for retaining the expert Library staff. The overall amount being sought is £45,000. Davidson/Dolley moved that the Secretary write to the ICS Director asking for a formal letter of appeal be sent, and to indicate that ASCS would offer some donation, even if only token, based on the availability of ASCS funds. Carried.

(iii) Electronic storage of the journal

The Secretary reported that this had been the subject of discussion by the Executive Committee on a number of occasions over the last three years; it was the subject of an email consultation just last November, when approaches had been made to JSTOR to have *Antichthon* put up on its site. Unfortunately JSTOR is not including any more Classics journals for the moment, and the Executive Committee has been considering alternatives. The Treasurer reported that, as part of our agreement with the Copyright Agency Limited (CAL), RMIT Publishing has a non-exclusive right to make available electronically back copies of *Antichthon*, through "Australian Public Affairs Full Text" (APAFT); as a result of the agreement, ASCS does receive some royalty payments but they vary widely from year to year. Reports varied on how far back RMIT Publishing's coverage goes: one view is that it only goes back to the early 1990s, another that only volumes 1-10 remain to be scanned in, with plans to progressively scan (albeit slowly) the remaining volumes. The Treasurer had not been able to discover from RMIT how widely available access to APAFT was in overseas libraries, as it was regarded as "commercial-in-confidence". Some members commented that they could not access APAFT in their own university library, and they knew of overseas colleagues who could not do so either.

Minchin/Welch tabled a motion which went through several variations in discussion which the Secretary could not keep up with, but which finally reached this form: (i) that arrangements should be made (if financially feasible) for putting the first twenty volumes of *Antichthon* on the ASCS website, to see if that availability attracts a sufficient number of "hits"; (ii) that a sub-committee of three should be set up to estimate the cost of preparing these back issues of the journal for putting up on the ASCS website; and (iii) that the ASCS Executive Committee should be authorised to approve the necessary expenditure on this project.

In speaking to the motion Elizabeth Minchin said that the journal needs to be more widely available electronically in order to be accessed by a much wider audience, both nationally and internationally; Peter Davis agreed, but was concerned about a possible drop in royalties from CAL if the journal is freely available. Andrew Stephenson commented that returns from CAL will diminish anyway, as photocopying of down-loads in libraries drops with the greater availability of free electronic copies. The Secretary was concerned that the free availability of the journal might lead to a drop in membership (why join when you can get the journal for nothing?), while it will be necessary to continue for the foreseeable future to produce hard copies of the journal; fewer members would also mean less money available to fund ASCS activities. Minchin and others thought that membership would not be affected.

The motion was put and carried.

#### ***4. Correspondence and Business arising from the Correspondence***

The Secretary summarised the correspondence which had been received.

(i) FIEC subscription and donation

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

(ii) Request for contribution to the APA Capital Campaign

The recommendation that the amount of US\$1000 be donated to this Campaign had been approved at the last General Meeting, but the payment had been deferred until the cash-flow improved. The Treasurer reported that the payment will be made this year.

## **5. Reports**

(i) The Secretary tabled a Report, commenting on the continuing steady increase in the number of members (now around 440), and listing the main areas of expenditure of the Society's fund. He mentioned the large amount of time spent on the ARC ERA journals ranking exercise, and expressed concern about the low level of funding being returned from the subsidies for one-off conferences and the like. Davidson/Minchin 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 2008, and a proposed budget for 2009 (considered under Item 7 i). The Treasurer reported that, while the Society has reasonable funds on deposit, 2008 was a tight year to fund the range of its activities, but he expected that 2009 would be easier. Kelly/Ridley moved that the report be adopted. Carried.

(iii) The Editors, A/Prof Peter Davis and Dr Elizabeth Minchin, tabled a Report, commenting that Vol 42 (2008) was distributed at the end of the year, again *suo anno*, thanking the typesetter, Bruce Marshall, for careful formatting and attention to detail, and anticipating that Vol 43 (a thematic issue) would appear by the middle of the year. Davis/Leadbetter moved that the report be adopted, with the addition of "Pat Watson" to the guest editorship of Vol. 43. Carried.

## **6. Matters Referred on by the Executive Committee and Financial Matters**

(iii) Increase in subscription rates

This item was dealt with first. Dolley/L.Watson moved that the Executive Committee's recommendation for an increase in subscription rates be adopted. Carried. The new rates would be AU\$50 (full membership), AU\$25 (concessional rate), AU\$225 (five-year full rate), AU\$125 (five-year retirees' rate), AU\$55 (institutional subscription).

(i) Budget for 2009

The Treasurer announced some slight adjustments to some items in the circulated copy of the 2009 budget. Among the questions and comments: John Melville Jones suggested that, as the next conference may be in Perth, consideration be given to increasing the funds available for student travel subsidies. Lindsay Watson asked whether \$3000 was sufficient for the airfare for a keynote speaker; the Secretary replied that a conference registration fee should be set which would contribute to some of these types of costs. Kathryn Welch suggested that in regard to postgraduate participation in one-off conferences a different model could be considered (e.g. providing bursaries to cover accommodation); Frances Muecke made the suggestion that a line for "donations" to assist postgraduate students could be included on conference registration forms. Tom Stevenson made the point that it was difficult for organisers of one-off conferences actually to pay back funds, working through university accountants. Dolley/ Davis moved that the proposed budget for 2009 be adopted. Carried.

(ii) Appointment of Honorary Auditor and level of honorarium

Dolley/Burton 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.

(iv) Deductible gift recipient status for income tax purposes

The Secretary outlined our attempts over several years to acquire this status from the Federal Treasury, but the failure to do so. He also suggested an alternative, which was to approach a body with the status and channel donations to ASCS through it, with the funds being quarantined in some way, so that ASCS would have control over how the money might be dispensed. Two such bodies under consideration were the Australian Academy of the

Humanities and the Kudos Foundation. It was decided to refer the matter back to the Executive Committee, while the Secretary pursued the suggestion further.

(v) Incorporation of the Society

This was a matter which had been continuing for some time; the Treasurer felt there was a need to incorporate to ensure against the very unlikely event of the Society being sued. He reported that he had found the rules which had been drawn up by a similar body (the Australian Early Medieval Association) required by the Victorian Department of Consumer Affairs, and had made contact with the members of AEMA who had carried out the application. There are 19 pages of AEMA rules; ASCS would be required to change its whole constitution to satisfy these rule requirements. Beryl Rawson said that it was not so complicated and the Society should just get on with it. The Secretary and Treasurer will pursue the matter.

**7. *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:* Dr David O'Brien

*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 [subject to agreement]

University of Otago: Dr Jon Hall

University of Queensland: Dr Tom Stevenson

University of Sydney: A/Prof Jeff Tatum

University of Tasmania: Dr Graeme Miles

University of Western Australia: Dr Lara O'Sullivan

Victoria University of Wellington: Dr Babette Pütz

## 8. *Competitions*

- (i) Early Career Award      (ii) Essay Competitions      (iii) Translation Competition

There was little to report on the organisation or terms of these competitions. The Secretary announced the results which together with the reports will be put up on the website and also reported in the April Newsletter.

## 9. *Next General Meeting and Conference*

(i) The President moved that the Society accept the offer of the University of Western Australia to host the next General Meeting and Conference (ASCS 31) in Perth in early February 2010. Carried with acclamation. Dr Lara O'Sullivan will be the convenor. 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.

## 10. *Delegation of Authority*

Whitehorne/Stevenson 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.

## 11. *Any Other Business*

(i) The President moved a vote of thanks to Pat and Lindsay Watson, 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.

(ii) John Davidson moved a vote of thanks to the outgoing President, John Penwill, for the work he had done during his term of office. The vote of thanks was carried with acclamation.

(iii) Doug Kelly tabled a motion "that this General Meeting invite the Executive Committee to consider the publication of a history of the Society, to be prepared by suitably qualified person(s) engaged on a professional basis, with the object of publishing a History of the Society to mark its 50th anniversary in 2016." Because of a shortage of time it was agreed to refer this motion to the "follow-on" Executive Committee meeting to be held the following day.

(iv) Peter Keegan had submitted a request that consideration be given to publishing in some form the prize-winning entries in the Essay Competition. This matter too was referred to the "follow-on" Executive Committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 6.05 pm.

Bruce Marshall  
Honorary Secretary  
February 2009