



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Australasian Society for Classical Studies held at Sydney Grammar School, College St, Sydney, on Sunday 20th January 2013, commencing at 3.35 pm.

1. Present

Emer. Prof. Ron Ridley (President, in the chair) and sixty-one members.

Apologies were received from: Prof. P. Allen, Dr F. Billot, Dr G. Bourke, Dr P. Burton, Prof. W. Dominik, Assoc. Prof. D. Hoyos, Prof. J. McLaren, Dr J. McWilliam, Prof. E. Minchin, Dr G. Morrison, Ms F. Muecke, Prof. A. Nobbs, Dr L. O'Sullivan, Dr N. O'Sullivan, Dr P. O'Sullivan, Mr J. Ogerau, Prof A. Pomeroy, Dr B. Pütz, Mr J. Ratcliffe, Mr T. Ryan, Prof. M. Trundle, Dr F. Vervaet, Dr K. Welch

2. Minutes of the Meeting of 9th February 2012

The minutes of this meeting at the Hellenic Museum, Melbourne, which had been circulated, were taken as read. Marshall/Dolley moved that the Minutes be confirmed. Carried.

3. Business arising from the Minutes

(a) Continuation of the conference program review committee

A lengthy report had been prepared by the chairman of the 2012 CPR Ctee, Emer. Prof. John Davidson. It contained a number of recommendations:

1. That in future, abstracts be sent direct to the conference conveners, thus avoiding the 'middle man' complication.
2. That the abstract requirements be further refined (it might be an idea to give an example of a 'model' abstract along with the published criteria?). In particular, (1) as far as possible, nothing in the abstract should give any clue to its author's identity (it is recognized that in some situations this isn't practicable, for example where the author is the only one working in a particular field and where this is well known), (2) the abstract must give a clear idea of what the paper will actually be arguing (there were a number of examples this year of abstracts which identified a problem or listed background details instead of showing how the author intended to deal with the issue), (3) it should be made clear that some reference to key secondary literature should be worked into the abstract, (4) with regard to an additional bibliography attached to the abstract, **EITHER** it should be compulsory for all and consist of no more than six items (and that where possible it should not consist largely of the author's own work – there was an egregious example of that this year), and that such a bibliography **should not be included in the word count, OR** that **no** bibliography as such should be attached by any author. The majority preference is for this second option, that there be no bibliography at all for anyone. A bibliography in itself does not guarantee that the author has actually read all the items on it. If the first option is adopted, the bibliography should not in any case be included in the list of abstracts appearing in the conference booklet.
3. That the word count for the abstract be between 200 and 250 words, as at present.
4. That any abstract received by the conveners which does not conform to the word count requirements be sent back immediately to the author for revision and return within one week.
5. That the deadline for abstract submission remain 31st August (or the first working day thereafter) and that there be no extension.
6. That the conveners liaise with the committee chair and send all abstracts received by the due date to him/her, after removing the names of the authors.
7. That the committee make one of three judgements: accept, accept subject to revision (see below), reject, and that **the committee, not the conference conveners**, make the final decisions on acceptance/rejection, on academic grounds.
8. That, if possible, authors be informed within four weeks as to whether their papers are to be accepted or not. Reasons for rejection should be given in the form of comments from members of the committee made during the committee discussions, but these comments should be anonymous.
9. That in certain cases (before notifications of acceptance/rejection are sent), authors may be asked by the committee via the conveners to revise and resubmit their abstracts, but only where the committee believes that the abstracts promise a viable paper but that there are some aspects which are unclear, and/or that there are more than very minor infelicities of expression or significant typos. Authors

should be given guidance as to what needs fixing. Revised versions of abstracts should be sent back to the conference conveners within two weeks.

10. That **EITHER** there should be no recourse to appeal in the case of the rejection of an abstract (it was noted that this was not the practice with respect to certain other conferences) **OR**, if a right of appeal is allowed, the appeal should *only* be based on the abstract originally submitted and an argument that it was unfairly judged. In addition, no supporting appeal from a supervisor or other third party should be admitted. It is further suggested that any appeal should be considered by a panel comprising the President of ASCS as chair, the committee chair, one person nominated by the appellant and a person with expertise in the relevant field who is not a member of the committee. There is a slight preference for some form of appeal being allowed.
11. That consideration be given to ‘formalizing’ the process. Two models have been suggested. (1) that the ASCS membership at the AGM determine a suitable number of members for the CPR committee to be elected, and the length of the term of service, and then hold elections for membership and the chair. (2) that the CPR committee chair only be elected at the AGM and that volunteers subsequently be called for and membership ratified by a ‘virtual’ meeting of the committee of management well in advance of the 31 August deadline. Given the time pressure at the AGM, the second option seems preferable. It has further been suggested that a list of individuals in ASCS covering all areas of expertise be developed, so that the committee can draw on this expertise in cases where an abstract falls outside the expertise of anyone on the committee in any given year.
12. The names of the members of the CPR committee should be posted on the ASCS website (this is not unanimously supported on the committee).

Davidson/Marshall moved pro forma all the recommendations to allow for discussion. After some discussion, the following recommendations were accepted by the meeting: nos. 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9. With regard to no. 1 it was agreed to continue with the present arrangement, i.e. that abstracts be sent to a CPR Ctee co-ordinator, not direct to the conference convenor(s); that agreement affects the suggested role for convenors in recommendations nos. 4, 6 and 9. With regard to no. 5 (a set deadline of 31st August), Sheedy/Pritchard moved that there be some leeway, e.g. up to 30th September: motion defeated. With regard to no. 10 (right of appeal), Penwill/Pritchard moved that appeal be allowed: motion defeated (meaning that there could be no appeals against the CPR Ctee’s decision to reject an offer of a paper/abstract). With regard to no. 11, it was felt that an election of the members of the CPR Ctee would be too cumbersome at an ASCS AGM; the second option was preferred.

Emer. Prof. Davidson volunteered to serve as chairman again, and his offer was happily accepted by the meeting, as was the offer of Bruce Marshall to act again as the collector of abstracts for the Ctee. No view was expressed on recommendation no. 12 (putting the names of members of the Ctee on the ASCS website).

4. Correspondence and Business arising from the Correspondence

The Secretary summarised the correspondence which had been received/sent:

- (a) Two letters of condolence to the family of members who had died.
- (b) Letters to members and/or families of the local Melbourne Greek community who had sponsored activities at ASCS 33.
- (c) Letters of thanks from the University of Canterbury Foundation and the Joint Library of the Hellenic and Roman Societies for donations from ASCS.
- (d) Annual Report and Statement of Accounts from FIEC.

In accordance with our usual practice, Dolley/Marshall moved that the usual payment and equivalent donation be made to FIEC. Carried.

5. Reports

- (a) The Secretary tabled a Report, which, being his last report, was a survey of the *res gestae et impensae* of the Society, especially over the last ten years. It described the wide range of activities, and pointed out the total expenditure over that period – on inviting keynote speakers to the annual conferences, supporting other conferences and seminars, providing student travel subsidies, and awarding prizes for various competitions amounted to nearly \$120,000 – that is without counting the cost of producing the journal and donations of various sorts. [A full version of the report would be included in the April Newsletter.]

Following the receipt of the Secretary's Report, the President made a presentation to him as a mark of gratitude from the Society for the large amount of work he had done over 20 years to build and maintain the Society. The presentation was accompanied by warm acclamation from the meeting.

- (b) The Treasurer tabled a detailed financial Report, the audited accounts for the year 1 January-31 December 2012, and a proposed budget for 2013 (considered under Item 7a). The Treasurer reported that the financial situation is sound, and the Society will be able to continue all its activities, including increases in some prizes and in the possible cost of the journal because of its larger size. Dolley/Pitcher moved that the report be adopted. Carried.
- (c) Assoc. Prof Peter Davis tabled a Report on behalf of both Editors, stating that the production of Volume 47 containing papers from the Gruen conference in Canberra in September 2011 is progressing well; it will contain around 220 pages. Printing will be carried out by McPhersons again, as they had done a good job with the previous two volumes and are very competitively priced. Davis/Minchin moved that the report be adopted. Carried.

6. *Antichthon*

(a) Change of Editors

Assoc. Prof. Peter Davis indicated that he wished to stand down as one of the Editors. A motion to congratulate him for his years of service, prepared by Elizabeth Minchin, was read out by the Secretary. The President, in seconding the motion, thanked him Peter most warmly for his years of service in this task and pointed out how regularly the journal had appeared under his watch. The meeting joined in the President's and Elizabeth's thanks to Peter with applause.

Professor Elizabeth Minchin has indicated her willingness to continue as Editor, and Professor Art Pomeroy had been approached, and has indicated his willingness, to take over from Assoc. Prof. Davis, subject to the Society's electoral process.

(b) Retention of current typesetter/journal production manager

The Committee has recommended that the present arrangement with Bruce Marshall as the journal production manager be continued.

(c) Making journal available to members in electronic format

This matter was deferred.

7. *Financial Matters*

(a) Budget for 2013

The usual amounts for the activities of the Society for this year were included in the budget put forward by the Treasurer, but likely increases in costs were anticipated. The printing cost for the journal may be reduced compared to recent years despite the increase in size. Dolley/Rogerson moved that the budget be accepted. Carried.

(b) Appointment of Honorary Auditor and level of honorarium

Dolley/Marshall moved that Dr Peter Edwell again be appointed as Honorary Auditor and that he receive honorary membership of the Society again for the coming year. Carried.

(c) Further donation to the Library of the Institute for Classical Studies, London

In 2012 the Society agreed to a donation of E£400 each year for three years to support the Institute's Library in the face of threats to its continued independence; the first of these donations was sent in June 2012. Dolley/Marshall moved that the amount for 2013 be forwarded. Carried.

8. *Matters Referred on by the Committee*

(a) Restructuring the Society

A position paper, prepared by the outgoing Secretary, was considered by the Committee at its meeting prior to the AGM, and it had agreed to one of its proposals, namely that two new extra-constitutional positions be created, a Messages Secretary (to co-ordinate the distribution by email of general ASCS messages, as had been done by the outgoing Secretary) and a Membership Secretary (to assist the Treasurer with keeping the membership list up-to-date).

Nathan Leber had informed the Secretary earlier of his willingness to take on any position which might be asked of him, and the Secretary therefore nominated him for the position of Messages

Secretary. The meeting agreed to the nomination. The outgoing Secretary offered to look for a suitable candidate for the other position, and if someone willing was found, to have that offer confirmed by the Committee.

The Secretary also spoke to a proposal without notice to create a position of New Zealand Postgraduate Representative, adding that there was a person he had spoken to who was willing to take such a position on. Again, this position would have to be extra-constitutional for the time being. Marcus Wilson spoke against the proposal, saying that there had been no notice given of it. Maxine Lewis proposed that a nomination and election process be set up involving the NZ postgraduate students. The Secretary pointed out how complicated and time-consuming setting up such a process would be. The meeting then agreed that the proposal be referred to the Committee, and if it thought the position worth establishing, to decide on a process for filling it.

(b) ASCS 50th anniversary (2016)

This matter was deferred (again!).

(c) Increase in value of prizes and awards

The Committee had accepted the Secretary's proposal for an increase in most prizes and awards:

Early Career Award: from \$2000 to \$3000

Australian Essay Competition: from \$400 to \$500 (first prize);
runner-up prizes (up to 2) to remain at \$100 each

New Zealand Essay Competition: from NZ\$200 to NZ\$350 (first prize);
runner up prize from NZ\$75 to NZ\$100

OPTIMA (effective from 2014): from \$400 to \$500
runner-up prizes (up to 2) to remain at \$100 each

[Greek and Latin Translation Competition: prizes to remain at \$250 for first place in each.]

This will involve an additional expenditure of approximately AUD\$1300. The meeting accepted the Committee's recommendation that these increases be implemented.

(d) Making the journal available to members in electronic format

This matter was deferred.

9. Election of Office-Bearers, Editorial Committee and AAIA Representative

The following were elected to fill positions on the Committee of Management:

President: Emeritus Professor Ron Ridley

Vice-Presidents: Dr Alison Griffith [to be confirmed], Dr Patrick O'Sullivan

Hon. Secretary: Dr Kathryn Welch

Hon. Treasurer: Mr William Dolley

Business Manager: Mr John Penwill

Editors: Professor Elizabeth Minchin, Professor Art(hur) Pomeroy

Website Manager: Ms Kit Morrell

Postgraduate Representative: Mr Nathan Leber

AAIA Representative: Assoc. Prof. Tom Hillard [to be confirmed]

Editorial Committee: Dr P. Burton, Emer. Prof. J.F. Davidson, Assoc. Prof.
A. Mackay, Ms F. Muecke, Dr L. O'Sullivan

University Representatives:

Australian Catholic University: Dr Geoffrey Dunn

Australian National University: Dr Paul Burton

Campion College: Dr Susanna Rizzo [to be confirmed]

La Trobe University: Dr Jenny Webb [to be confirmed]

Macquarie University: Dr Peter Keegan

Massey University: Dr Gina Salapata

Monash University: Dr Eva Anagnostou-Laoutides

University of Adelaide: Professor 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 [to be confirmed]
University of New England: Dr Graeme Bourke
University of New South Wales: Dr Geoff Nathan
University of Otago: Professor Bill Dominik
University of Queensland: Dr David Pritchard
University of Sydney: Dr Bob Cowan
University of Tasmania: Dr Graeme Miles
University of Western Australia: Dr Michael Champion
Victoria University of Wellington: Dr Babette Pütz [to be confirmed]

10. *Competition Results*

The Secretary announced the results of the various competitions and awards:

(a) Early Career Award (b) Essay Competitions (c) Translation Competitions (d) OPTIMA
Full details will be listed in the April Newsletter.

11. *Next General Meeting and Conference*

Dr Gina Salapata on behalf of Massey University had made an offer to convene ASCS 35 (2014) in Palmerston North, New Zealand, in the final week of January 2014. Professor Steven Hodkinson from the University of Nottingham has been informally sounded out as a potential keynote speaker. The meeting happily accepted the offer. The convenors will be Dr Salapata and Dr Stuart Lawrence. Marshall/Dolley moved that the usual financial provisions be made. Carried.

12. *Any Other Business*

(a) Payment of subscriptions on-line through the ASCS website

There was considerable discussion of various methods and software programs which might make it possible for members to pay their subscription on-line through the website. It was agreed that the Website Manager, Kit Morrell, consult with those who made suggestions and had information about software programs, to see if any of them would be suitable and then to report to the Committee.

The President moved a vote of thanks to the conference convenors, Dr Blanche Menadier and Assoc. Prof. Ken Sheedy, to their team of helpers, particularly the enthusiastic, cheerful and ever-helpful students, and to the paper-givers, all of whom had made this special occasion such a success. The vote of thanks was carried with warm acclamation.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.20 pm.

Bruce Marshall
Honorary Transitional Secretary
compiled July 2013