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The Australasian Society for Classical Studies

Executive Committee Meeting 2018

#### MINUTES

The Executive Committee Meeting of The Australasian Society for Classical Studies was held at the University of Queensland, Brisbane, on 1 February 2018, commencing at 12.30pm.

**Present:** Anne Mackay (presiding), Gina Salapata (secretary), William Dolley (treasurer), Alison Griffith, K.O. Chong-Gossard, Marguerite Johnson, Kit Morrell, Kathryn Welch, Elizabeth Minchin, Han Baltussen, Peter Londey, Christopher Matthew, Sinead Brennan-McMahon, Maxine Lewis, Robert Cowan, Lea Beness, Tom Hillard, James Richardson, Dustin McKenzie, James Kierstead, John Penwill, Amelia Brown, Tom Stevenson, John Melville-Jones, Jonathan Wallis, Tristan Taylor (Arthur Pomeroy joined later).

1. **Apologies**

Sean McConnell, Gillian Shepherd, Megan Hancock, Lara O’Sullivan, Gary Morrison, Diana Burton (who arranged for a proxy vote).

1. **Minutes of the Meeting of 2 February 2017**

The draft Minutes of the meeting in Wellington were circulated prior to the meeting.

The 2017 Minutes were accepted: Stevenson/Beness

1. **Business arising from the Minutes**

None

1. **Correspondence and Business arising from the Correspondence**
   * 1. FIEC subscription/donation

The Executive agreed to recommend that the continuation of the FIEC subscription and donation be approved at the AGM: Dolley/Lewis

* + 1. FIEC Congress

Han Baltussen and Amelia Brown reported on attending the FIEC International Congress meeting and reported that the frequency of meetings henceforth would change from 5 to 3 years). They noted too that this was purely administrative, with no conference attached. Fiona Haarer is organising the next FIEC at UCL in London from July 5-8 2019 with a call for papers due in April 2018. This will be in combination with the Classical Association, the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies and the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies, coordinated by the Institute of Classical Studies. The General Assembly of FIEC delegates will take place on July 4 2019; ASCS needs some people (they need not be Executive members) who will be in London in July 2019 and can represent ASCS (ASCS will not be in a position to contribute to costs).

Han: there was a report of the meeting in a recent newsletter; he is happy to give more detail if need be. This is a useful organisation to which to be affiliated: FIEC has advocated for Classics in various countries, eg, against abolishing departments.

Amelia: the Congress is open to anyone worldwide. The 2022 meeting will be in Mexico.

Internationale Thesaurus-Kommission: Thesaurus Linguae Latinae.

Prof. Kathy Coleman, in her capacity as the US representative on the  
Kommission, extended an invitation to ASCS to consider joining the  
Kommission, a body that recently expressed a great interest in establishing formal ties with Australia and New Zealand Classicists. The only condition of membership is vigorous support for the Thesaurus Linguae Latinae.

The financial implications involve an annual contribution and, as an option, a return flight to Munich for a representative every three years in July (unless of course someone is already travelling for other purposes and funded accordingly by a university). Accommodation is provided by the Thesaurus. A token annual financial contribution of €110 was proposed, and William had included this amount in the 2018 budget (clarification: the amount is not a subscription, but a donation, and this is acceptable to them).

It was agreed that acceptance of the invitation be recommended at the AGM: Welch/Cowan

1. **President’s comments**

* Anne Mackay indicated her intention to mention in the AGM major honours awarded to members (J. Webb, D. Daintree, R. Ridley, S. Lieu, M. McEvoy).
* Anne listed a number of current situations – mostly bad – in Australian/NZ departments: Newcastle and Auckland were experiencing serious problems of downsizing, Monash was negotiating a new deal, and only Macquarie was experiencing positive developments. In the ensuing discussion, Han mentioned a 2.2 billion dollar cut from the Australian Federal Budget for tertiary education, with “splash-down” effect. In the face of concern about the tertiary financial situation in NZ, there was hope that the new Labour Government would improve the position. Maxine Lewis mentioned their stated intention to provide one year of free tertiary education, to be increased to two and then three years incrementally over the next few years.
* Code of Conduct Implementation. The Implementation Document would have to be presented to the AGM as preliminary draft representing the Society’s views/desires/needs, rather than as a final version, since there is need for formal legal consultation leading to review and re-wording. However the AGM must be asked to approve the content as reflecting members’ agreed views and intentions.

1. **Secretary’s report**

Reserved for AGM

1. **Financial matters**
   * 1. The Treasurer’s report for 2017 was circulated, and attention was drawn to the auditor’s statement pp. 6-8.

In presenting the report, William Dolley explained that there were two reasons for the net loss: from 2016 the invoice had not yet been received for the printing of 50 Treasures (and this was a large expenditure); there were also unpaid subscriptions – some chasing up was needed, but 35 members were uncommunicative. The Membership was relatively stable, however, with around 60 new members in 2017. William acknowledged department reps for their promoting of membership, especially to students. He noted that while many members had paid for multiple years in advance, this affected the income reported in the subsequent years. The number of members receiving printed *Antichthon* was still falling because of non-paying members: no provision could be made for late payers to receive copies. ASCS could possibly in future offer an option for members to indicate if they want printed copy or merely electronic access.

*Antichthon* cost.

The cost of copy editing was included in the 2018 budget.

*50-T* sales so far stood at about 124 copies out of a print-run of 500. Department reps were urged to continue promoting sales. Lots of boxes of copies are in CCANESA (Sydney); some more are in Wellington, Melbourne and in Canberra.

* + 1. Discussion

John Penwill observed that *Antichthon* was more accessible now through CUP. William added that it was envisaged that the copyright revenue for 2017 would be an increase over 2016. CUP had advised that institutional subscriptions standing at $3133 were up from the previous year but down from the one before when there were $8,000 institutional sales.

The Treasurer’s Report was accepted: Penwill/Stevenson

* + 1. Membership dues 2018

William recommended an increase in subscriptions for 2018; this was based on the pattern of an increase every 3 years, but he also commented that an increase in revenue is desirable given the number of lapsed members (around 70 within 2 years). The suggested increase was noted on p. 5 of the report

* + 1. Discussion

Kathryn urged continuing encouragement to pay at the super-member rate for Associate Professors and above, noting that this was claimable as a work expense in Australia.

The increase in dues was accepted: Lewis/Hillard

* + 1. Budget for 2018 (tabled)

William commented that as in most previous years, ASCS was able to reinvest the Term Deposits with the interest earned, making a larger principal investment.

* + 1. Discussion

Sinead Brennan-McMahon asked why the ASCS website hosting fee was so expensive. Kit Morell replied that professional Australian hosting with full control is more expensive than such sites as Wix.

The 2018 Budget was accepted: Dolley/Stevenson

* + 1. Appointment of Auditor and Honorarium: to be decided later in the year

1. ***Antichthon***
   * 1. Editors’ Report (tabled)

Vol 51 (2017) with guest editors would be published *suo anno.*

Han Baltussen noted that articles appear online in advance of publication (October 2017). This has the advantage of gaining more attention for the journal from subscribers, and more submissions (the number has increased but there is no dramatic increase in quality, with a rejection rate of about 50%).

Guidelines for referees, introduced in 2016, have been revised.

Heiko Westphal is the new copy editor. Already there has been a request for another special issue, which is still under consideration.

The CUP editor has asked whether it would be possible to produce two issues per year. Han said that this might need to wait another year or two. He also stressed the importance of continuing to promote *Antichthon* as a Cambridge Journal.

Art Pomeroy said that access online has doubled in the last year, to which Han added that hardcopy sales were slightly down compared with the dramatic online increase.

* + 1. Discussion

Maxine Lewis asked re the twice-yearly suggestion whether special volumes might be additional. Han acknowledged this as a possibility, but questioned whether there would be enough quality material. Art added that this might be an (additional) problem, with extra costs, and John Penwill noted that it would mean that there would be no respite for editors.

William advised that there had been a considerable increase in the institutional charge per issue which now stands at $147. In the past the difference was only about $10.

There was acknowledgement of the noteworthy efficiency of the editors.

Han expressed the intention that all content for the next issue should be collected by July; when William responded that this would be earlier than last year, Han responded that it did not mean that CUP would need the list of members any earlier; the material is ready earlier because of held over items. Art added that the slightly earlier date would mean that publication should be possible within the year.

The *Antichthon* Editors’ Report was accepted: Cowan/Minchin

1. **Conference Programme Review Committee Report**

The Report was tabled.

Elizabeth Minchin commented that a significant proportion of papers fell in only three fields: Reception (21); Roman Republic (13); Epic (10). She said that some abstracts were sent back for revision, but none were finally rejected. This was an efficient but intense process, and thanks were due to Kathryn Welch for coordinating it.

Kathryn noted that people do not always fill in the coversheet properly: it is important to enter numbers to indicate priorities for the categories, not just crosses! Peter Londey enquired whether, if no papers were rejected, the process was worthwhile. Elizabeth responded that some had been rejected in the past, and this time one was not resubmitted after the request for revision. Bob Cowan observed that the process was intended to raise the standard in advance; it also made a difference to funding and to research accounting.

Elizabeth went on to say that proofreading is still frustratingly patchy, and Kathryn noted that quite a few had to be corrected or clarified; it was a learning process for those new to abstract-writing and this was critical for the quality of conference. Tom Stevenson said that since abstracts were posted on the web, it was important that they should look good. As convenors, Tom and Amelia commented that categorisation was useful for allocation into sessions and that having papers combined into panels made allocation very easy. Tom also commented that some people mis-allocate themselves to inappropriate categories.

The Programme Review Report was accepted: Beness/Londey

1. **Matters for Discussion**
   * 1. The ASCS Code of Conduct – Implementation policy

Anne Mackay presented a draft of the implementation policy for approval in principle before taking it to the AGM, explaining that the document was a product of collaborative effort but would need to be legally rephrased. Tristan Taylor proposed some essential rephrasing of parts of the document, and this, together with the now amended draft, was accepted: Beness/C. Matthew

* + 1. Change (clarification) to the guidelines for small conference grants

Gina explained that there was need for greater clarity over seed funding, that it was for conferences held in Australasia to help with, but not totally cover, certain expenses.

Kathryn gave strong support and suggested it might be worth adding the requirement that there be a registration fee. If there were none, the question should be asked why applicants would need support, i.e., this is seed funding, not a contribution towards better catering. Bob Cowan asked whether the emphasis on encouraging Australasian scholars might be seen as parochial. Kathryn responded that the definition could be broadened, if people were paying a registration fee, given that there was already the ‘in Australasia’ requirement.

Subject to the drafting of the new wording, which Kathryn undertook to provide, the change was accepted: Lewis/Minchin

* + 1. *Antichthon* Board

New members were added, so the board now consists of: Paul Burton, Bob Cowan, John Davidson, Anne McKay and Lara O’Sullivan.

Art noted that the Board never meet, to which Anne added that there is the possibility of co-option.

The new composition of the Board was accepted: Lewis/Beness

* + 1. Other Matters

Gina: we need to finalise all nominations for campus reps before the AGM.

1. **ASCS Conference Guidelines**

Gina Salapata presented a set of guidelines for future conference conveners, explaining that it was to be a living document and further items could be added.

The meeting closed at 2:01pm.

February 2018

Gina Salapata

ASCS Honorary Secretary

(with thanks to Kit Morrell)