



The Annual General Meeting of **The Australasian Society for Classical Studies** was held via Zoom, commencing at 4pm (Australian Eastern Daylight time) on 9 February 2021

The meeting was attended by the President, Tom Stevenson (Chair), the Honorary Secretary, Daniel Osland, and 73 other members.

1. Apologies

Accepted from:

Peach Lahoya, Tamara Neal, Patrick O'Sullivan, David Pritchard, Arlene Allan, Sean McConnell, Roger Pitcher, Neil O'Sullivan

1. Minutes of the Meeting of 30 January 2020

The Minutes of the meeting in Dunedin were accepted as a record of the 2020 AGM. Moved: Daniel Osland; seconded: Tom Stevenson, vote carried

2. Business Arising from the Minutes

N/A

Item 8B was moved up for the AGM as it has an impact on voting and AGM procedures. Membership Secretary's report tabled.

As at 1 January, membership numbers were 459 in total, of whom 63% are financial for 2021. Numbers have gone up, in part due to the weird year. We have retained more unfinancial members in order to accommodate the awkward year we've been having. The new student membership category is intended to alleviate some of the financial pressures on students while also spreading out the fee structure more equitably, as the discounted rate has normally been available only for multi-year memberships.

TS thanked Phoebe and Tristan for their work on helping postgrads and other members through a pretty tough financial year. TS received a single negative submission on ASCS membership changes proposed, questioning the introduction of teachers to ASCS membership and also of introducing high numbers of undergraduate students, with resulting changes to ASCS (professional development, etc.), concerns around these people on the Exec., and concerns about decisions made outside of the AGM. TS suggested more members would probably be a good thing, and noted that undergrads and HS teachers are likely to link with academics, not just fly outside the discipline. Member comments were generally in support of these views. Voting on the new membership category was underway during the meeting. The ballot to change voting procedures was also underway during the meeting, and comments from the membership during the AGM were generally in favor of that change pending a final vote count.

3. Correspondence and Business arising from the Correspondence

Submissions have been made in response to:

- a. North Sydney Boys High School Latin Review
- b. New Zealand (NCEA) Latin and Classics Review
- c. NESA professional development changes
- d. Cuts/changes to Classics and Ancient History at Auckland
- e. Changes in Classics at Roehampton
- f. ASCS Membership Concerns
- g. Discussion:
 - i) Michael Hayes spoke on behalf of the NESA people who are disadvantaged by the recent changes to the NESA structures. Local schools in at least some areas are having to revise their professional development strategies. TS indicated that we hope that things will come right eventually

- ii) The decline in staffing has been pretty pronounced at Auckland. We wish Auckland well and hope for the best for them should retirements come about.
- iii) The University of Roehampton is threatened with drastic cuts due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic

4. Obituaries

- a. Alexander Cambitoglou (2019)
- b. Bob Milns: Tom Stevenson
- c. Colin Mayrhofer: Elizabeth Minchin
- d. Iain Spence: by Sarah Lawrence
- e. Noel Weeks: Louise Pryke
- f. John Whitehorne: Tom Stevenson

Members held a minute of silence for the departed.

5. President's Address 2020 (pre-circulated)

Well done to the AMPHORAE organizers for their excellent work running the online conference, TS has spoken to a number of postgrads and intends to keep an ear out for the needs of the postgrads. TS expressed thanks to the members of the Executive, with special mention of the Hon. Treasurer, Membership Secretary, and Hon. Secretary for their work, the first two for their solicitude for our younger and contingent members during this pandemic year.

Some negatives from 2020: Aside from the problems that spurred some of our correspondence, the SCS meeting controversy that arose made the mainstream media and social media, and several of our members over the past year have spoken to TS about this matter. ASCS prepared a formal statement in support of the SCS position, and Classics as a discipline seemed to need a voice of support. As a Society, our message is inclusivity, we don't exclude people. We seek to look for full and free frank discussion, to think critically, evaluate evidence critically, and vote at the end of that and then move on. This is a valuable thing, and TS hopes that we will maintain a commitment to try to get as broad a range of authorities as possible. This is what makes our claims authoritative, having a broad range of perspectives. The inner Executive group is always consulted on such matters.

Late in the year the jobs ready reforms package in Australia was given a very short period for consultation, largely for the sake of performance. We put in an application, we supported the CHASS application, and we participated in a Zoom project on this. Fees went up by 115% despite it all. TS has been thinking about advocacy. Should we be doing more? The reality is that we're a volunteer organization, and we don't have professionals – or the clout (like the Academy of the Humanities, CHASS) – to really make a difference. It is through those links and their lobbyists that we hope to have greater influence. We have opted to keep our CHASS membership active so that we can continue to work with them. We also continue to contribute through our research, teaching, administration, and even in conversations. For example, Paul Eliadis who endowed the Chair in Classics and Ancient History at UQ – not a member of Friends of Antiquity, but because he had a wonderful undergrad experience at UQ, he opted to support the field in a very generous way.

2020 has been very difficult in many ways, and TS observed that he wouldn't have managed to cope without the inner Exec. – Vice-President LB is efficient and kind and massively loved. Vice-President Kathryn Welch concludes her term this year, and this is a terrible loss to our operation. TS again expressed his gratitude to the ASCS membership and Executive groups.

a. Discussion

KW proposed establishing an official Zoom forum for ASCS to discuss diversity within our field to seek ways to advance diversity and inclusion within ASCS and the field more broadly. DO to look to schedule a zoom meeting for the ASCS membership for a meeting on this topic.

TS so moved, Elizabeth Minchin seconded, vote carried

6. Secretary's Report 2020 (pre-circulated)

g. Discussion

DO moved to accept the report as written, LB seconded, vote carried

7. Financial Matters

a. Treasurer's Report for 2020 (pre-circulated)

Profit for the year was unexpected, but due to measurable inputs into our accounts. The forecast for the future of the society's income, on the other hand, is not great. Interest rates are extremely low (0.5% or less!), and CUP has introduced new policies to further reduce our royalties and eventually increase our fees for subscription. Our society can sustain the losses of a year or two before we see the flow-on effects of the new student membership category (which may improve our financial position) and also having a year of less strained financial straits. Our membership has gone down (40k down to 25k income), journal income is down, interest rates depress our income, and so our Society is going to need to make changes – perhaps Early Career prizes, President's inner, Exec. committee travel, Auditor, etc.

TT offered special thanks to Bronwen Neil and Bronwyn Hopwood.

b. Membership Secretary's Report for 2020 (moved up for the AGM)

c. Membership Dues 2021

d. Memberships Dues from 2022 and Membership Rules (Constitutional amendment required) (Phoebe Garrett)

e. Budget for 2021

f. Auditor and Honorarium

g. Discussion

KW indicated that the conference proceeds need to go to support ASCS 43 and postgraduate travel to ASCS

TS moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as delivered, PG seconded, vote carried

8. *Antichthon*

a. Editors' Report

HB reporting. He indicated that fantastic copy-editing assistance continues to be provided. A few new items have come up, including the ranking issues (SCImago run out of Spain), and more work is left to be done there. Because we're a specialized journal, our 4 (high=bad) ranking cannot be a great thing. We are part of the suite of journals that get advertised at conferences. CUP has given us a great deal of statistical information if we need it, so we're well covered in the Near East and South America. We have a list of the most popular papers in Cambridge online core, so we now have a recent article on Delphi as our most popular article (with raw data available on the past three years or more). Our journal is most accessed from the US and then Turkey is the second most popular point of access.

a. Copy-editing

b. *Antichthon* Board

BC on the new refreshed international editorial board including Susanna Braund and Richard Hunter from Canada and the UK, respectively, and we've added Reception more overtly to our purview. Special thanks to HB who is stepping down after an unusually long tenure and for guiding Bob through as a new editor and carrying the journal forward.

c. AHA (and other) Journal Rankings

d. Discussion

None.

HB moved to accept the Editors' Report, BC seconded, vote carried.

9. Conference Program Review Committee report (tabled)

Elizabeth Minchin and KW have put together a report on the old approach and the new one, comparing the two of them. EM and KW agree that the new one is much better. The advantages are apparent to those who are running the conference programme.

Matchmakers now have the right to refuse papers, re-work them, and get them up to standard so that they all come through vetted and not just as submissions. This format allows us to bring people into the conversation who don't often participate. And we've attracted some new specializations that aren't normally well-

represented at ASCS. There are 27 panels and plenary sessions and 270 people have registered for the conference so far.

- a. Discussion
- None.

KW proposed, seconded by Katherin Papadopoulos, vote carried

10. FIEC report (tabled)

- a. ASCS candidate for FIEC Executive

BC's comments were based on his participation in the Classical Association/FIEC conference in the last two or three years. Recommends having one of our members stand to be on that Executive Committee and maybe put ourselves on the map. Also, it would be worthwhile having someone at the triennial FIEC meeting as a sort of representative. There's a challenge in the fee and participation costs – could be worth looking at how we can fund this thing to, ideally, align with another of our professional conferences. Roll forward to 2021/2022 for someone to go to Mexico City to participate.

- b. Discussion
- None.

Janette McWilliam moved, Lea Beness seconded, vote carried

11. CHASS and AAH Relationships (Tom Stevenson)

- a. Discussion

These matters were addressed in the President's Report and in the 2020 AGM. We have opted to extend the membership for a further year (fees-free) to explore the benefits and determine whether a paid membership is to our advantage moving forward.

12. Internationale Thesaurus-Kommission report (Sven Günther, tabled.)

- a. Discussion

TS mentioned this one. TS moved to accept the proposal, Sarah Lawrence seconded, vote carried

13. Early Career Award Rules and Procedures (Lea Beness, Alison Griffith)

Alison Griffith and LB have put through some small changes to the wording of the awards. This has to do with minor details, goods and services, airfare, childcare, laptop, etc. We're much more flexible in the short term. It was good to have multiple awards this year, and it may make sense to go back through the winners and figure out what they're all up to after the awards have been granted (so where do people end up – published or not?). AG will review the winners and bring back a report on that.

- a. Discussion

14. Douglas Kelly Australian Essay Competition Guidelines and Rules (Lea Beness)

- a. Discussion

This item was not discussed, having been addressed in the 2020 AGM.

15. Latin and Greek Translation Competition Guidelines and Rules (Trevor Evans, Sarah Lawrence)

ASCS has been running this competition since 2007. Initially, Sarah Lawrence and Trevor Evans had come up with a new idea about how to run the translation competition. The numbers have been going down, so that we don't have a very broad competition, compounded by the pandemic and its impact on how the competition was normally run. There is a complete proposal on the Google Drive folder that we set up for the AGM, so members are being asked to consider this. The competition will be in two parts, testing competitors' communicative competence. Direct questions about particular aspects of the language, e.g., grammar, syntax, and morphology are proposed, plus there will be a mixture of sources, canonic, non-canonic, literary and otherwise. Students will also be given a text with translation, asking them to evaluate the quality of the translation ("is this a good translation?") – the students guide their own parameters for this sort of question, so we're assessing the quality of their response, not the "accuracy" of the linguistic turn. A 1-week open test, no oversight, no need for class time, etc. is proposed. Trevor Evans recorded two votes against the change; there

were more than 20 in favour of changing how we run this competition.

b. Discussion

Trevor Evans moved to adopt the new competition format, and LB seconded, vote carried. The proposal is that there are 2 judges for each language. TS recommends reviewing it after 3 years instead of 5. TE thanks the whole team for their excellent committee work.

16. Additional scholarships and subsidies

- a. ECR/HDR
- b. FIEC attendance
- c. ASCS Conference attendance
- d. Discussion

FIEC attendance was briefly addressed under Item 10, above; the remaining items will be revisited at the 2022 AGM.

17. Matters for discussion

- a. Procedure for refereeing conference abstracts (Kathryn Welch)

This item was addressed under Item 9, above.

- b. Postgraduate support and advocacy work

This item was not discussed in the 2021 AGM.

18. ASCS Competitions

- a. Appointment of assessors and co-ordinators for 2021
- b. Winners for 2020 to be announced at the end of the ASCS Conference
 - i) Early Career Award: Co-ordinator: Alison Griffith
 - ii) Essay Competitions: Co-ordinators: Babette Puetz (NZ); Peter Davis (Australia)
 - iii) Translation Competitions: Co-ordinator: Estelle Strazdins
 - iv) OPTIMA: Co-ordinator: K.O. Chong-Gossard

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

The online voting forms having closed, the Returning Officer (Anastasia Bakogianni) provided the results of the **online elections**. For the position of Vice-President (140 responses total collected), Lea Beness received 127 unique votes, K.O. Chong-Gossard received 111 unique votes, and David Pritchard received 16 unique votes.

On the **Constitutional changes** that were included on the ballot:

1. For the new Student membership category, 137 voted yes and 2 no
2. For the online format for election of officers from 2022, 139 yes and 1 no

20. NOMINATIONS 2021

- President: Hall, Jon (McConnell/McIntyre)
- Vice-President: Beness, Lea (Osland/Stevenson) (127 votes)
- Vice-President: Chong-Gossard, K.O. (Osland/McIntyre) (111 votes)
- Hon. Secretary: Osland, Dan (McIntyre/McConnell)
- Hon. Treasurer: Florence, Annabel (Stevenson/McWilliam)
- Assistant Treasurer: Taylor, Tristan (Osland/McIntyre)
- Editor, *Antichthon*: Cowan, Robert (Welch/Osland)
- Editor, *Antichthon*: Burton, Diana (Cowan/Stevenson)
- Publications Manager: Morrell, Kit (McWilliam/Stevenson)
- Web Manager: Morrell, Kit (McWilliam/Stevenson)
- Membership Secretary: Garrett, Phoebe (Osland/McIntyre)
- Messages Secretary: McKenzie, Dustin (appointment)
- Postgraduate Representatives: Sarah Prince (Aus.), Tyler Broome (NZ)
- AAIA Liaison: Paspalas, Stavros (appointment)

- CPR Committee Chair: Minchin, Elizabeth (appointment)
- AWAWS Representative: Brown, Amelia (Beness/Bakogianni)
- NESAs Rep: Hayes, Michael (Osland/McIntyre)

	Institution	Surname	First Name	Nominated	Seconded
Rep.	ACU				
Rep.	ANU	Pertisinidis	Sonia	Minchin	Londey
Rep.	Campion				
Rep.	LaTrobe				
Rep.	Macquarie	Trevor	Evans	Beness	Laurence
Rep.	Massey	Jonathan	Tracy	Salapata	Richardson
Rep.	Monash	Andrew	Connor	Bowen	Osland
Rep.	Adelaide	Han	Baltussen	Cowan	Osland
Rep.	Auckland				
Rep.	Canterbury	Alison	Griffith	Morrison	Sciarrino
Rep.	Melbourne	Tim	Parkin	Chong-Gossard	Turner
Rep.	Newcastle				
Rep.	UNE				
Rep.	UNSW				
Rep.	Notre Dame				
Rep.	Otago	Arlene	Allan	McIntyre	McConnell
Rep.	Queensland	Janette	McWilliam	Morrell	Stevenson
Rep.	Sydney				
Rep.	Tasmania				
Rep.	UWA				
Rep.	Victoria Wellington				

Election results: with the exception of the Vice Presidents, all nominated officers, standing uncontested, were elected by acclamation.

21. Future General Meetings and Conferences

- ASCS 43, 2022: University of Tasmania (J. Wallis, Convener) 8-11 February 2022
- ASCS 44, 2023: Canterbury
- ASCS 45, 2024: TBD
- Amphorae XIV, 2021: KW suggested that this is going to be held in Dunedin; T. Broome, Convener

22. Delegation of authority

The meeting tasked the Executive Committee with conducting the Society’s business for the next 12 months.

Proposed: Tom Stevenson; seconded: Anne MacKay, vote passed

NB: As part of this delegation of authority, the ASCS Executive hereby authorises the Elected Hon. Treasurer (Annabel Florence), Assistant Treasurer (Tristan Taylor) and 2 others (Kit Morrell and Bronwyn Myers) as joint signatories to the following ASCS bank accounts:

CBA XXXXXXXXXXXX
 CBA XXXXXXXXXXXX

Illawarra Credit Union (Mship# XXXXXXXXXXXX)
 XXXXXXXXXXXX
 XXXXXXXXXXXX

The signatories are also authorised to access ASCS’s Netbank and CommBiz banking facilities.

Any two (2) signatories must sign.

23. Any other business

BC pointed out that the new editor of *Antichthon*, Diana Burton, wasn't directly mentioned in the Editors' Report or the election discussion. Campus representatives also need to be reviewed and updated as necessary. Kathryn Welch suggested that the Publications Manager may be able to hand over some duties to the *Antichthon* editorial team. KM indicated that she and the editors can handle this through an email exchange, as some of the work she does isn't needed now that CUP runs things through their online system.

Meeting closed at 6:12pm Australian Daylight Time.

August 2021

Daniel Osland
ASCS Honorary Secretary