#

Minutes of the Management Committee of the Australasian Society for Classical Studies will be held at Massey University, Palmerston North, on Tuesday 28th January 2014, commencing at 12.30 pm (Colombo Village 12).

1. ***Apologies* :** Han Baltussen;Paul Burton, Peter Keegan; Nathan Leber; Gary Morrison; Patrick O’Sullivan; Ron Ridley,

**Present:** Alison Griffith (presiding); Kathryn Welch (secretary); William Dolley (treasurer); Graeme Bourke; Michael Champion; K.O. Chong-Gossard; Robert Cowan; Geoffrey Dunn; William Dominik; Elizabeth Minchin; John Penwill; Arthur Pomeroy; Gina Salapata; Marcus Wilson; Alanna Nobbs (representing Macquarie); Lawrence Xu.

1. ***Minutes of the Meeting of January 2013***

The draft Minutes of this meeting in Sydney were circulated at the meeting. The minutes were accepted (proposed Chong-Gossard; seconded Wilson).

1. ***Business arising from the Minutes***
2. Continuation of conference program review committee

John Davison submitted an extensive report on the process of the program review.It is clear that the quality of abstracts has been improved by this process and increased confidence in the conference as a result of independent vetting. The honorary secretary encouraged members to accept the report and will propose a series of modifications to streamline the process in 2014.

AG commented that the 100% acceptance rate looked as though all comers were acceptable but the process nevertheless brought about considerable improvement.

The PG representative was encouraged to discuss the abstract review system in the PG forum so that PGs would ensure that their abstracts were read by supervisors prior to submission.

One problem identified by the 2013 process is the potential for conflict of interest if an assessor has also submitted an abstract. The secretary proposed to exclude those who offer an abstract from serving on the panel, but RC suggested that this would limit the pool of assessors. Instead, assessors should declare that they have submitted an abstract and undertake not to read or alter the abstract while the process of assessment is taking place. This recommendation was accepted by the committee.

KW also proposed that July 31 was a more suitable date to close the call for papers to maximise planning time for the conference and to allow more potential for intending participants to apply for funding secure in the knowledge that their paper was accepted.

Intending participants should be required to select the topic headings under which their paper will be assessed. This categorization should also be used by the conference programmer in arranging sessions.

1. ***Correspondence and Business arising from the Correspondence***
2. The Secretary will summarise the correspondence.
3. FIEC subscription and donation

The secretary highlighted two pieces of correspondence:

The sad death of David Hester, a long-serving member of the department at the University of Adelaide. (Han Baltussen 26/11/2013)

A communication from the events management team at the University of Sydney suggesting that ASCS prepare a bid to host the FIEC conference of 2024 and that FIEC would welcome the proposal. (Michelle Muscat 3/12/2013)

1. ***Reports***
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Editors

The reports are attached. All reports were accepted by the committee. Proposed: LX; seconded JP.

Items discussed:

Treasurer: The Treasurer raised the point that ASCS’s operating deficit was the result of unpaid fees. GB proposed that a membership list be posted on the website with an indication of when the 5 year period of membership would end. This was agreed by the committee and a line inviting members to place their names and email addresses on this list can be incorporated into the amended membership form for 2014.

Lawrence Xu suggested that more be made about the advantages of membership to those at different stages of their career.

1. ***Antichthon***
	1. Offer from Cambridge University Press to include Antichthon in its portfolio (John Penwill)
	2. Making journal available to members in electronic format

The matter was discussed at length. All present recognized that publication by CUP would raise the profile of the journal and extend its reach into a wider market. The agreement would also assist the professionalization of ASCS. All back issues will also be made available online in the one place. The financial implications were examined. Accepting CUP’s offer will necessitate a rise in annual membership of at least $12 in the first instance with more rises in following years. WD pointed out that we cannot expect the same returns from Cambridge as we receive now. Proquest yields about $400 (15% royalty); RMIT gives a higher return. The CUP material gives a best-case scenario which might not prove to be the case. EM raised the significant point that if we do not accept CUP’s offer, we must plan for changes in any case as Bruce Marshall may not wish to continue the work he does as production manager. RC asked JP to explore the possibility of an ‘opt out’ category of member whose savings would thus cross-subsidise the members who continued to receive their personal copy of the journal. The UK Classical Association could be studied as a possible model.

The committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Annual General Meeting. The committee thanked JP for the time and care he put into preparing the case and in negotiating thus far with CUP’s representatives.

The committee decided not to propose an increase the membership rates for 2014 but to await 2015 when a rise in membership would be considered even if the CUP offer were not accepted.

1. ***Constitutional Amendments***
	1. Number of postgraduate representatives
	2. Title of executive committee

Both constitutional amendments (tabled) were endorsed by the committee.

1. ***Financial Matters***
	1. Treasurer’s report for 2012 and Budget for 2013

The Treasurer’s report and budget were accepted.

* 1. Appointment of Auditor and honorarium

The executive approved the reappointment of Davidson’s as auditors for 2014-15 and agreed that as professional rates were now being paid the words ‘and honorarium’ be removed from the agenda.

* 1. Proposed Occasional Conference Funding 2013 and 2014

The secretary reported that

* 1. Donation to Library of Institute for Classical Studies London: Update and future action

William Dolley: News from the ICS suggests the wolf may be lurking but not at the front door. In light of this I would be much in favour of a donation to the Restoration Fund at Christchurch, to which we have donated in the past and for which some members have not processed ASCS prize money expressing a wish that it be donated to the Restoration Fund. That sum is about AUS$500 roughly and I propose that we add to it another $500.

1. ***Matters for discussion***
	1. ASCS 50th anniversary (2016)

50th anniversary should be an integral part of the ASCS meeting which should be held in an accessible campus and perhaps have a larger budget so that at least one major event can be included in the program.

* 1. Request to consider hosting FIEC in 2024

The secretary was encouraged to explore the implications of mounting a bid for this event.

* 1. Number of ASCS Executive consultations per year and dates when they should occur.

The secretary called for email consultations to be scheduled throughout the year to ensure that they could be planned in advance. After the meeting, Elizabeth Minchin suggested April 30; July 31 and October 31. April 30 coincides with the call for material for the Newsletter. The secretary suggests April 15 (giving the executive time to report relevant decisions via the newsletter), July 31 and October 15 (to avoid coincidence with end of semester duties).

* 1. Panels and Archaeological Reports at ASCS Conferences (A. Griffith)

Held over for the AGM.

* 1. Tax-deductible status for donations to the Society
* The executive will enquire into the possibility of attaining tax-deductible status for the Society as a high priority in 2015. New Zealand campus representatives pointed out that NZ has different rules for tax-deductible status from Australia.
* In the first instance, the membership form will include an optional category for those members who would like to pay a higher fee.
1. ***ASCS Competitions***
2. Appointment of assessors and co-ordinators for 2014.

The secretary reported that there has already been considerable forward planning with regard to personnel for panels of assessors in 2015

1. (i) Early Career Award (ii) Essay Competitions (iii) Translation Competitions (iv) OPTIMA

Prize winners to be announced at the conference dinner.

1. ***Future General Meetings and Conferences***
2. An offer has been made by Professor Han Baltussen on behalf of Adelaide University to host ASCS 36 in Adelaide. Dates: Wed 28-Fri 30 January, with the possibility of an excursion on Saturday 31 Jan.

Adelaide’s offer to host ASCS 36 was endorsed by the executive.

1. Victoria University (Wellington) has agreed to host ASCS 38 in 2017.

Victoria’s offer to host ASCS 38 was endorsed by the executive.

1. 2016? Our 50th anniversary year meeting should be held in an accessible location to maximise attendance.

The secretary undertook as a matter of some urgency to find a suitable venue for ASCS 37 and report to the executive committee as soon as there was a firm proposal on the table.

1. ***Any Other Business***

William Dominik (Otago) raised the possibility of ASCS becoming affiliated with the national language teaching body in New Zealand. The cost is in the order of $200 which might be covered by ASCS or by the participating NZ campuses. The matter will be circulated for discussion in coming months.

The meeting closed at 2.05.

January 2014 Kathryn Welch

ASCS Honorary Secretary