## The Australasian Society for Classical Studies

## AGM 2020

**MINUTES**

The Annual General Meeting of **The Australasian Society for Classical Studies** was held in St David Lecture Theatre, University of Otago, Dunedin, on 30 January 2020, commencing at 15:30pm.

The meeting was attended by the President, Tom Stevenson (Chair), the Honorary Secretary, Gina Salapata, and 62 members.

## Apologies

Andrew Connor, Roger Pitcher, Bronwen Neil (Honorary Treasurer), Sean McConnell, Bronwyn Hopwood.

## Minutes of the Meeting of 6 February 2019

The Minutes of the meeting in Armidale were accepted as a correct record of the 2019 AGM. Proposed: John Davidson; seconded: Lea Beness.

## Business arising from the Minutes

* 1. Conference finances and website production and managing; reassessing subsidies for 2020 ASCS and beyond

It has been decided, from next year, to centralize and systematize conference finances, and produce a conference website controlled by ASCS, for reasons of efficiency and economy (because universities often take any surplus left). We will revisit the system in three years’ time to see how it is working.

## Correspondence and Business arising from the Correspondence

Submissions have been made:

* 1. In support of the Classics Dept of the Univ. of Vermont, which was facing a 40% cut (the submission was partially successful).
  2. To the ANZ FoR (Fields of Research) Codes Review (because our research very often is invisible; it is subsumed under codes like History, Literature etc.). See further under AOB.
  3. To the AHA (Australian Historical Association) Journal Rankings Scheme, because we had been asked to rank journals in our field. In our submission we declined to provide a ranking. See further under Item 9.
  4. In support of Latin at North Sydney Boys High School. The process is still ongoing.
  5. To the AAH (Australian Academy of the Humanities) in support of their Future Humanities Workforce Project.

The President invited members to let him know if a department or unit is threatened or vulnerable. Submissions in support from ASCS are always available.

# **Obituaries**

* 1. The eulogy for Matthew Trundle, who passed away on 12 July 2019, was delivered by Arthur Pomeroy.
  2. The eulogy for Alexander Cambitoglou, who passed away on 29 November 2019, was delivered by Elizabeth Minchin.
  3. The eulogy for John Martyn, who passed away in 2019, was written by Roger Scott with contributions by William Dolley, who read it to the members.

Members held a minute of silence for the departed.

# **President’s Address 2019** (pre-circulated)

Tom Stevenson commented that the Society is doing very well with respect to membership, money and the wide range of activities members are involved in (including conferences, prizes, awards and competitions). He thanked the entire association because many people are very heavily invested in ASCS (as coordinators and judges of prizes, office holders, campus reps, student reps, etc.). The President singled out for praise three people who are departing from the Executive Committee: Michael Champion (Business Manager), Bronwen Neil (Honorary Treasurer) and Gina Salapata (Honorary Secretary).

He urged members to volunteer for the many activities we run and to pay their subscriptions because they create opportunities and support activities especially for young people.

* + - 1. Discussion

None.

Acceptance of President’s Report. Proposed: Kathryn Welch; seconded: Elizabeth Minchin.

# **Secretary’s Report 2019**

Gina Salapata reported that we are in very good shape financially. We have thus again been able to provide financial support to occasional conferences and workshops, and have helped several presenting postgraduate students to travel to the Amphorae and ASCS conferences. She thanked the conference organiser, Dan Osland, for another very successful ASCS conference. As she is stepping down after the AGM, Gina thanked the other members of the executive who supported her in her role over the last three years, and especially the two presidents she worked with, Anne Mackay and Tom Stevenson.

* 1. Discussion

None.

Acceptance of Secretary’s Report. Proposed: Lea Beness; seconded: Ron Ridley.

# **Financial Matters**

* 1. Treasurer’s Report for 2019

The Honorary Treasurer, Bronwen Neil, who could not be present, had asked for her report for 2019 to be pre-circulated. (Unfortunately, by mistake, the Secretary circulated last year’s report to the membership; in the Executive Meeting, however, the correct report was discussed.)

In her 2019 report, Bronwen said that the Society is doing very well financially and has a healthy and growing surplus. She has suggested instituting (a) an extra fellowship of $3000 for an early career researcher; and (b) a $500 grant for attendance at a conference by a member whether in Australia, New Zealand or overseas. She suggested that every 4 years $500 might go to assist someone attending FIEC on our behalf. She is also keen to support the “precariat”.

* 1. Membership Dues 2020

Membership dues remain the same for 2020.

* 1. Budget for 2020

The budget for 2020 is similar to that of 2019 except for the suggested additions.

* 1. The auditor for 2020 will be selected by the new Treasurer.
  2. Discussion
* Alison Griffith, who coordinates the Early Career Award, was in support of creating an additional fellowship because we receive several worthy applications each year but up to now have only ever been able to give one award.
* Elizabeth Minchin said that we don’t have to award two fellowships if there are not sufficient worthy applications.
* Arthur Pomeroy asked if the level of support is considered adequate. Alison replied that the level of support is appreciated and makes a good contribution towards the awardees’ expenses.
* William Dolley asked if the expenses of the commemorative volume had been recouped. The President suggested he contact Bronwen for an answer.
* Tamara Bremert asked if the surplus was to be used to subsidize registration costs for conferences. The President said that Bronwen’s intention is to increase support for students to attend conferences.
* Bruce Marshall said that there is a lot of money tied up in investments and proposed a motion to (1) institute an additional Early Career Award; (2) increase financial support for students to attend ASCS and Amphorae conferences; and (3) make money available for students for overseas travel. Seconded: Kathryn Welch. Motion passed.

1. ***Antichthon***
   1. Editors’ Report (pre-circulated)

In their report the editors, Han Baltussen and Bob Cowan, said once again volume 53 (2019) was published *suo anno*, and that there was a steady supply of submissions through the year. It was very difficult, however, to find reviewers, which resulted in delays on decision making. Reviewer fatigue seems to be part of the problem. The editors were forced to decline a request for an edited volume published as a special issue in 2020 as it proved impossible to find a reviewer for a set of papers; they offered an official apology for the delay in decision making. It is a bit disappointing to see that submissions have not increased much even though the journal is being advertised. Open access is the next stage being discussed with CUP. Han Baltussen signalled his intention to step down later this year as editor after a 5-year service. Finally, the editors thanked their new copy editor, Leah O’Hearn.

* 1. Copy-editing

There is a need to fine-tune the financial reward because the copy-editor’s task has been fluid over the last couple of years, especially with the changeover to CUP.

* 1. *Antichthon* Board

Han and Bob are working on renewing the Board.

* 1. AHA Journal Rankings

The AHA (Australian Historical Association) has been trying to involve us in their journal-ranking exercise. We have so far declined, given the numerous difficulties involved and the dubious value of the exercise. One of the journal-ranking mechanisms favoured by the AHA, for instance, is Scimago, which places *Antichthon* on a low rung (in company with other excellent journals) that is surely unjustified. We intend to take action against the ranking we have been given because this is evidently based on subjective judgement and a short sample of years. A small committee needs to be set up to address this.

* 1. Discussion

Eva Anagnostou-Laoutides reported that she has been told by Scimago that journals that publish articles with non-English titles are not going to be considered. We need to fight against that.

Acceptance of Editors’ Report. Proposed: Phoebe Garrett; seconded: Arthur Pomeroy.

**10. Conference Program Review Committee Report** (pre-circulated)

In her report, Elizabeth Minchin said that 158 abstracts were submitted, including 13 proposed panels (a record). In a two-stage process of review, the bulk of abstracts were immediately accepted, and none were rejected. But 28 abstracts had to be referred back to the author for revision. The revised abstracts were subsequently considered by the review committee and all abstracts resubmitted were in due course accepted.

It would be most helpful if colleagues submitting abstracts followed conscientiously the instructions on the coversheet to preserve their anonymity and to use numerals (1, 2, 3) to indicate preferences of subject areas, rather than unhelpful crosses. She thanked all members of this year’s committee, who worked so quickly and so efficiently to finalize this exercise, and especially the co-ordinator Kathryn Welch.

1. Discussion

Kathryn Welch said that it might be time to review the process of the Committee and that the role of the co-ordinator is very time-consuming.

Acceptance of Conference Program Review Committee’s Report. Proposed: Tom Stevenson; seconded: Tim Parkin.

**11. FIEC Report** (pre-circulated)

* 1. ASCS candidate for FIEC Executive

Bob Cowan suggested we put someone forward as a representative on the Board of this international body. Since the next meeting is not until 2022 (in Mexico City), nominations can be discussed next year. It is important to have other bodies aligned with ASCS.

* 1. Discussion

The President pointed out that in recent years we have had several members attending FIEC, so it would be a good idea to be formally represented.

Acceptance of FIEC Report. Proposed: Eva Anagnostou-Laoutides; seconded: Lea Beness.

**12. Internationale Thesaurus-Kommission Report** (pre-circulated)

Sven Günther reported that the TLL is now available online as open access. He said that he plans to attend the delegates’ meeting in July 2020 in Munich. Please contact him if you want anything discussed there.

a. Discussion

Tom Stevenson pointed out that the TLL is very keen for us to send postgraduate students to Germany; it would be good to take advantage of this opportunity, so if anyone has a student who might benefit, please get in touch.

Acceptance of Internationale Thesaurus-Kommission Report. Proposed: Tom Stevenson; seconded: Dan Osland.

**13. Early Career Award Rules and Procedures** (Alison Griffith)

Alison Griffith stressed the regulation that applicants need to be ASCS members by the time they apply for this award. Some applicants were disqualified this year because they were not.

a. Discussion

None.

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

Lea Beness reported that there were 33 submissions, but 16 were from a single university. The Executive is going to discuss if there should be a cap on submissions and how to encourage submissions from smaller universities.

a. Discussion

* The President thanked all those who marked essays.
* Sarah Lawrence asked if we could make the submission deadline a bit earlier—this issue will be discussed by the Executive.
* David Rafferty suggested capping entries from each institution. Limited entries might encourage students from smaller universities to submit their work and it would reduce the workload on judges.

1. **Additional Scholarships and Subsidies**
2. ECR/HDR
3. FIEC attendance
4. ASCS Conference attendance

These issues were covered earlier under the Budget and under item 11 (FIEC report). We are going ahead with the Early Career Award and the extra money for postgraduate students and are going to discuss the provision of some money for FIEC attendance and some further support for ASCS conference attendance.

1. Discussion

None.

1. **Matters for Discussion**

a. Procedure for refereeing conference abstracts (Kathryn Welch)

This will be discussed by the Executive.

1. Timing of annual ASCS conference

There have been many requests to reconsider the week the conference is held in so that it does not conflict with the start of the school year; several members are parents and find it difficult to attend. For the next three years we are going to hold the conference in the second week of February and reassess the timing at the end of that period.

# **17. ASCS Competitions**

* 1. Appointment of assessors and co-ordinators for 2020

There will be some changes in 2020.

* 1. Winners 2019
     1. **Early Career Award**

Coordinator: Alison Griffith (Canterbury)

Judges: Janette McWilliam (Queensland) and Jeff Tatum (VUW)

**Winner:** Charles Barnett (Macquarie)

Project: *The Liburnian cippus: Tracing Origins and Deciphering Meaning*

* + 1. **Essay Competitions**

**John Barsby New Zealand Essay competition**

Co-ordinator: Patrick O'Sullivan (Canterbury)

Judges: Mark Masterson (VUW) and Gary Morrison (Canterbury)

**1st place:** Anuja Mitra (Auckland): To Emulate and to Avoid: Leadership Lessons in Book One of Livy’s *Ab Urbe Condita.*

**Runner up:** Ana Gaskill (VUW): Gastēr in *The Odyssey*

**Douglas Kelly Australian Essay Competition**

Co-ordinator: Peter Davis (Adelaide)

Judges: Graeme Miles (Tasmania) and Michael Champion (Australian Catholic University)

**1st place:** Emily Kerrison (Sydney): Panhellenic preoccupations - the art of poetic scope in Pindar’s *Paeans.*

**Runner up 1**: Jennifer Oliveri (Macquarie): The argument on Platonic Love in Plato’s *Symposium*.

**Runner up 2**: Clare Pryor (Sydney): “My sons are spent. My line has ended”: The Characterisation of Mezentius in Virgil’s *Aeneid*.

* + 1. **Translation Competitions**

Co-ordinator: Amelia Brown (Queensland)

Judges: John Davidson (VUW) (Greek) and Jane Bellemore (Newcastle) (Latin)

**Greek**--Winner: Liam Maldoni (ANU)

Honorable mentions: Emily Kerrison (Sydney), Patrick Ryan (Sydney) and Karl Zelesco (Melbourne)

**Latin**--Winner: Clare Pryor (Sydney)

Commendation:Patrick Ryan (Sydney)  
Honourable mentions: Alexander Frisina (Sydney), Tim Livingstone (Sydney) and Mark Rottery (Sydney)

* + 1. **OPTIMA Award**

Co-ordinator: K.O. Chong-Gossard (Melbourne)

Judges: Lea Beness (Macquarie), Hamish Cameron (VUW) and Gwynaeth McIntyre (Otago)

**Joint Winners**:

Amanda Macauley (University of Canterbury), ‘The ‘barbarian’ Other: Roman collective identity versus Maximinus Thrax’.

Roswyn Wiltshire (Canterbury) ‘Receptacle of a Thousand Fantasies: Victorian Reception of Roman glass flasks’.

A round of applause followed and Lea Beness and the President thanked the co-ordinators and judges. The President also thanked Lea for her management of the competitions.

# **18. Election of Office-Bearers, Editorial Committee and AAIA Representative**

John Davidson presided.

The following members were elected to the Executive Committee for 2020.

Proposed: John Davidson; seconded: Anne Mackay.

• President: Stevenson, Tom (Salapata/Beness)

• Vice-President: Beness, Lea (Salapata/Stevenson)

• Vice-President: Welch, Kathryn (Stevenson/Salapata)

• Hon. Secretary: Osland, Dan (Salapata/Stevenson)

• Hon. Treasurer: Taylor, Tristan (Beness/Stevenson)

• Assistant Treasurer: Phoebe Garrett (Salapata/Stevenson)

• Editor, *Antichthon*: Cowan, Robert (Baltussen/Salapata)

• Editor, *Antichthon*: Baltussen, Han (Salapata/Beness)

• Publications Manager: Morrell, Kit (Salapata/Stevenson)

• Web Manager: Morrell, Kit (Salapata/Stevenson)

• Membership Secretary: Garrett, Phoebe (Stevenson/Salapata)

• Messages Secretary: Dustin Mckenzie (appointment)

• Postgraduate Representatives: Ryleigh Adams (Aus); Karl Hart (NZ)

• AAIA Liaison: Paspalas, Stavros (appointment)

• CPR Committee Chair: Minchin, Elizabeth (appointment)

• AWAWS Representative: Brown, Amelia (Beness/Stevenson)

• NESA Rep: Hayes, Michael (Hopwood/Beness)

• Rep. ACU: Hanaghan, Michael (Champion/Crawford)

• Rep. Adelaide:

• Rep. ANU: Londey, Peter (Minchin/Burton)

• Rep. Auckland: Armstrong, Jeremy (Bailey/Lewis)

• Rep. Campion College:

• Rep. Canterbury: Morrison, Gary (Griffith/Sciarrino)

• Rep. La Trobe: Shepherd, Gillian

• Rep. Macquarie: Evans, Trevor (Evans, L./Plant)

• Rep. Massey: Tracy, Jonathan (Richardson/Bakogianni)

• Rep. Melbourne: Chong-Gossard, K.O. (Turner/Parkin)

• Rep. Monash: Connor, Andrew (Bowen/Salapata)

• Rep. Newcastle:

• Rep. Notre Dame:

• Rep. Otago:

• Rep. Queensland: McWilliam, Janette (Brown/Stevenson)

• Rep. Sydney:

• Rep. Tasmania:

• Rep. UNE: Lawrence, Sarah (Horsley/Taylor)

• Rep. UNSW vac.

• Rep. UWA:

• Rep. VUW:

1. **Future General Meetings and Conferences**
   1. ASCS 42, 2021: Tasmania
   2. ASCS 43, 2022: Not clear yet
   3. ASCS 44, 2023: Canterbury
   4. Amphorae XIV, 2020: 1-4 July, Adelaide (conveners: E. Chambers, T. Bremert, T. Blazevic)

# **Delegation of Authority**

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

Proposed: Anne Mackay; seconded: Arlene Allan.

1. **AOB**

* Han Baltussen said that in response to the FoR Codes Review, viz. the Fields of Research Codes Review (codes used to classify research by the Australian Federal Government), a proposal was submitted to get a separate code for Classical Studies, but this was unsuccessful. We need to persist with this to get recognition for research in our field. Han also advertised a conference in mid-June 2020 organised by the recently established Pacific Partnership for Late Antiquity.
* Lea Beness proposed a vote of thanks to the President who does a huge amount of work with good grace and integrity. A round of applause followed.
* The Membership Secretary, Phoebe Garrett, who was (inadvertently) not given the time to speak under Item 8, Financial Matters, reported that in 2019 we had 436 members, of whom 81% were financial for the current year; at 1/1/2020 we have 424 members of whom 316 (74%) are already financial for 2020. She reminded members that membership is for the current calendar year. Reminders will be sent in September and payment will be due by the end of November. She asked for people to let her know of any change of address for the posting of *Antichthon*. Students at the end of their degrees are welcome to join at the concessional rate. Phoebe encouraged members to renew at the 5-year rate and become super-members if they can afford to do so.
* Dan Osland reported that $50 was raised for ASCS from the sale of books donated by John Melville-Jones.

The meeting closed at 16:55 pm.

March 2020 Gina Salapata

ASCS Honorary Secretary