#

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Australasian Society for Classical Studies held at Massey University, Palmerston North, on Wednesday 29th January 2014, commencing at 4.35 pm.

1. **Attendance and Apologies**

In the absence of the President Ron Ridley, the meeting was chaired by the Vice President Alison Griffith. The honorary secretary Kathryn Welch and the honorary treasurer William Dolley were in attendance along with:

Arlene Allen; Lisa Bailey; Jonathan Barlow; Jane Bellemore; Lea Beness; Frances Billot; Graeme Bourke; Dougal Blyth; Samantha Brancatisano; Alan Brennan; K.O. Chong-Gossard; Bob Cowan; John Davidson; William Dominik; Geoffrey Dunn; Jon Hall; Julia Hamilton; Tom Hillard; Vivien Howan; Alina Kozlovski; Sarah Lawrence; Peter Londey; Chris Malone; Anne MacKay; Frances Mills; Elizabeth Minchin; Kit Morrell; Alanna Nobbs; James O’Maley; John Penwill; Simon Perris; Roger Pitcher; Emily Poelina-Hunter; Arthur Pomeroy; Paul Roche; Gina Salapata; Anthony Spalinger; Wesley Theobold; Marcus Wilson; Lawrence Xu.

Apologies: Jeremy Armstrong; Han Baltussen; Diana Burton; Peter Davis; Trudie Frazer; Gregory Horsley; Peter Keegan; Doug Kelly; Maxine Lewis; Bruce Marshall; Gary Morrison; Frances Muecke; Patrick O’Sullivan; Ronald Ridley; Jeffrey Tatum; Matthew Trundle; Andrew Turner; Frederik Vervaet; Sonia Wurster.

1. **Minutes of the previous meeting 20 January 2013**

Correction to the minutes: ICS donation was $400 per year not £400 (WD). Amended minutes accepted (proposed AS, seconded AMcK)

1. Bu**siness arising from the minutes**
* Continuation of the Conference Review Committee

John Davidson’s report was accepted, as were the suggestions brought forward for improving the process from the Committee of Management meeting earlier in the day. These include: (a) enabling members to nominate the category that best suits their topic (b) requesting intending committee members to inform the committee chair if they have submitted an abstract for review.

John Davidson agreed the chair the committee for a further year on condition that a member of the 2014 committee be specifically charged with following the process with a view to becoming the chair in 2015.

1. **Correspondence**:

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**
* Secretary’s Report read, tabled and appended to minutes
* Treasurer’s report read and tabled and appended to minutes. Items arising included
* Editor’s report: read, tabled and appended to minutes

The secretary’s and treasurer’s reports were accepted by the meeting (proposed AS, seconded EM)

The treasurer’s recommendations as outlined in his report were accepted: (proposed AS, seconded EM)

The journal report was accepted by the meeting (proposed JP seconder MW)

1. **Antichthon**

CUP have offered to publish and market Antichthon. Changes are mostly at at the production and distribution end.

Advantages: greater profile for the journal; greater circulation. CUP has a strong presence in Europe and North America; in the same stable as major British and US journals.

Financial implications. Cambridge does the marketing and gets the profits. Charge to members for distribution of free copies.

The proposal was prepared by John Penwill and was endorsed by the Committee of Management.

RC: $15 per member still for electronic access. Could this cross-subsidise the price for everyone. It was agreed that this was worth exploring especially as a PG option as it is already available to most students through their library access.

JP reminded the meeting that members receive Antichthon as part of their membership. Payment is provided for distribution to members. However KM pointed out that there was room to interpret the wording of the constitution on this point.

JP offered to discuss this in the next round of negotiations. If we go ahead, CUP will draw up a draft memorandum of agreement and then specific conditions can be included.

JP also pointed out that the current relationship with Proquest and RMIT would not necessarily stop. CUP could be asked to recognise arrangements with Proquest and RMIT but would ask us to continue the rolling embargo which allows them exclusive access for a period of years.

AN: Journal of Religious History has gone through a similar process. It might be worth asking what problems they encountered. JP and AN agreed to communicate with the JRH in order to maximise our understanding of the implications.

EM pointed out that BM is the current formatter. We would need to find another formatter in the ranks of ASCS were BM to step down without such an arrangement as that with CUP in place.

MW asked that we take on board the benefits and the practical considerations but also the cost as a significant factor. It does mean that subscriptions will have to rise to cover the cost and this might affect the willingness of many to join ASCS.

JP: cost to members for 2015 would be in the order of $12 more than we currently pay.

WD: if we do proceed with the proposal the charges in the main pertain to the institutional subscriptions. This is quite separate from what the society would charge. We are not bound to respond to Cambridge’s lead. It has been the practice to recommend an increase every three years. At the end of this year we would normally be considering an increase in any case.

AA asked for clarification of the overall effect of the proposal on ASCS finances. It was made clear that much of ASCS’ financial commitment was eliminated along with the income of institutional subscriptions.

GB asked if postgraduate fees would increase by the same amount as the general membership. JP proposed that the PGs could be treated in a different way from the main membership.

LX and WT: raising the fee would be a problem for many postgradautes.

JOM asked about the impact of a possible opt-out measure on the Cambridge proposal. JP commented that Cambridge has projected a certain income and would expect to receive it.

KM raised the point that the constitution mentions receipt of copy of journal only in Appendix 4, Schedule of Fees. The arrangement can be changed without amending the constitution since membership fee increases, covered in the same section, do not require a constitutional amendment.

DB expressed hesitation about large publishing houses are swallowing up journals and asked how easy it would be to get out of the arrangement and how easy would it be to recover back issues. JP pointed out that the arrangement would be for five years but if we rejected a continuation we would have to meet the expectations of signed-on institutional subscriptions. We would not lose access to back issues.

On the motion of RP/AP, the annual general meeting agreed to support the proposal to move the journal Antichthon to the Cambridge University Press. Majority carried.

RC membership should consider sending strong articles to the journal.

AG thanked JP for his work on this difficult and complicated issue. These thanks were seconded by EM.

1. **Constitutional Amendments**

Two constitutional amendments were pre-circulated to members (appended). They were both passed unanimously and without discussion.

* Number of postgraduate representatives (proposed RP seconded MW)
* Title of Committee of Management (proposed JP seconded MW)
1. **Financial Matters**

The treasurer spoke to the pre-circulated proposed budget for 2014-15 (appended). The budget was accepted and the meeting agreed to retain Davidson’s as auditors.

The treasurer informed the meeting that ASCS has completed the donation to the ICS library and that there had been no further application for funding. Instead he proposed that we donate $500 to support the Logie restoration fund which, along with some prize money which winners had wished to be used for the same cause. The proposal was accepted.

It was noted that the words ‘and honorarium’ should be deleted from the agenda.

1. **Matters referred on by the committee**

**ASCS fiftieth anniversary** (2016). The secretary proposed that the anniversary be celebrated as part of ASCS 37 at a venue still to be decided. Members asked that we find out where the first ASCS conference was held with a view to holding the conference there. The dinner should be a major event, with invitations being extended to founding members and assistance given to maximise their attendance.

The meeting charged the management committee with organising this event.

**Panels:** AG has circulated draft guide lines. Comment from members; comment: they are double vetted. Process meant to avoid being cumbersome but still to be fair. DB spoke about his process for organising panels and the unfairness of applicants being vetted twice.

KW proposed that a document containing a preamble which justifies the panel and the anonymised abstracts, each if which complies with the guidelines set out in the call for papers, be submitted for review. If the panel passes the review process, the convener of the panel can later add the names and inform the participants of the outcome.

The proposal to include a category called Archaeological Reports in the Call for Papers was accepted by the majority of the meeting. Proposed KW seconded RP.

**Tax deductible status for ASCS**

The secretary proposed that ASCS should investigate further the possibility of attaining tax-deductible status in Australia and New Zealand.

NZ members pointed out that they would need access to a charitable fund if they were to be able to donate money. Australian members could do so via an optional higher membership fee.

The management committee was entrusted with the task of advancing this project.

1. **Election of Office Bearers**

The following office-bearers were elected. Anne MacKay presided over the elections.

* *President:* Emeritus Professor Ron Ridley
* *Vice-Presidents:* Dr Alison Griffith, Dr Patrick O’Sullivan
* *Hon. Secretary:* Associate Professor Kathryn Welch
* *Hon. Treasurer:* Mr William Dolley
* *Business Manager:* Mr John Penwill
* *Editors:* Professor Elizabeth Minchin, Professor Arthur Pomeroy
* *Website Manager:* Ms Kit Morrell
* *Messages Secretary* Nathan Leber
* *Membership Secretary* Tim Scott
* *Postgraduate Representatives:* (Aust) Wesley Theobold (NZ) Lawrence Xu
* *AAIA Representative:* Assoc. Prof. Tom Hillard
* *Editorial Committee:* Dr P. Burton, Emer. Prof. J.F. Davidson, Assoc. Prof. Mackay, Ms F. Muecke, Dr L. O’Sullivan
* *Chair: CPR committee:* John Davidson
* *University Representatives:*
* Australian Catholic University: Dr Geoffrey Dunn
* Australian National University: Dr Paul Burton
* Campion College: TBC
* La Trobe University: TBC
* Macquarie University: Dr Peter Keegan
* Massey University: Dr Gina Salapata
* Monash University: TBC
* University of Adelaide: Professor Han Baltussen
* University of Auckland: Assoc. Professor Marcus Wilson
* University of Canterbury: Dr Gary Morrison
* University of Melbourne: Dr K.O. Chong Gossard
* University of Newcastle: TBC
* University of New England: Dr Graeme Bourke
* University of New South Wales:
* University of Otago: Professor Bill Dominik
* University of Queensland: TBC
* University of Sydney: Associate Professor Kathryn Welch
* University of Tasmania: TBC
* University of Western Australia: Dr Michael Champion
* Victoria University of Wellington: TBC
1. **ASCS competitions**

A full list of prize winners will be announced at the conference dinner. A full list of assessors for 2013 and those proposed for 2014 as well as the names of the winners is appended to the minutes.

1. **Future General Meetings and Conferences**
* ASCS 36: University of Adelaide 28-30 January 2015
* ASCS 37 To be confirmed
* ASCS 38 Victoria University Wellington 2017 (dates to be confirmed).
1. **Any other business**

The honorary secretary warmly thanked Gina Salapata and her colleagues at Massey for hosting a wonderful conference.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.15.

Appendix 1: Secretary’s Report for 2014

The Australasian Society for Classical Studies 2014

Secretary’s Report

#

#### A Year of Living Dangerously

Before I begin to describe my first year as secretary I would once again like to thank the former secretary Bruce Marshall for his assistance in a year of change. More than once I have called upon him for assistance and he has always been generous with his time and his advice. It has not always been easy for him to let go of the reins, but over the course of the year I have grown to appreciate in a new way all he did for the Society. I am very sorry that for the first time in many years that due to ill-health we are missing him at our conference in Palmerston North. I wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him back with us in Adelaide in January 2015.

Last year, Bruce’s final report as secretary utilised the theme of the *res gestae divi Augusti*. However, a Pompeian has taken over. I have a different mantra. ‘I grieve’, said Cicero in his speech on behalf of Marcellus, ‘that the state, which ought to be immortal, depends on the breath of a single individual’. My task this year has been to involve as many people as possible in the running of the society. Bruce began this process before I was elected by suggesting the appointment of Nathan Leber as Messages Secretary and to propose that Tim Scott take on the role of membership secretary. Nathan has been a wonderful addition to the team and I thank Tim and all those, especially the departmental representatives, who assisted with the revision of the membership lists at the beginning of the year. The Vice-Presidents, Alison Griffith and Patrick O’Sullivan, have taken up or continued significant responsibilities and both have more to do in the future as Alison assumes responsibility or the early career award and Patrick the monitoring of the ASCS website. John Penwill, the business manager of Antichthon, has carried out all the negotiations with Cambridge University Press concerning the future of the journal in an electronic age. Their efforts, along with those of the rest of the executive, and the treasurer William Dolley in particular, have meant that ASCS has been able to develop a new team spirit. John Davidson and his team have further refined the Program Review Committee’s processes and plans are underway to produce clearer guidelines and more efficient processing of the abstracts for our general meeting. By the end of this meeting I hope that the proposal to have two postgraduate representative positions will receive formal ratification.

Amid this change, the customary work of the Society has continued. In 2013, ASCS provided funding to the seventh Amphorae Postgraduate conference, held in July at the University of Sydney, and to occasional conferences hosted at Macquarie (Scribal Practice), ANU (Homer Symposium) and Queensland. ASCS has already been informed of requests for occasional conference funding requests for 2014 from Newcastle (Reception), Sydney (Augustus 2014) and Victoria, Wellington (Athens to Aotearoa). Committees overseeing essay prizes, translation competitions, the early career award and the Optima award have completed their tasks or have them in hand.

Membership stands at 2 life members, 436 financial members, 44 unfinancial members and 40 resignations.

Congratulations to the editors of Antichthon (including the 2013 guest editor Paul Burton) for producing a fine volume of the journal and once again for keeping the production in its own year. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Bruce Marshall for his efforts as production manager and general proof-reader. John Penwill, as business manager, has been immensely active on the journal’s behalf and whatever we decide on the future of the journal our decisions will be better informed because of his efforts.

ASCS 34, hosted by Macquarie University and convened by Blanche Menadier and Ken Sheedy was not just a success but a useful precedent for rethinking the conference format. Holding the conference in conjunction with the Australian Museum and the Alexander Exhibition was a great experiment. I hope others might seize similar opportunities in the future.

The critical challenges facing the Society as I see them revolve around the level of professionalism we deem to be appropriate to the representative peak association for Classical Studies in Australasia. Today we will be debating the future of the journal and I invite all members to contribute to that important debate. There are other issues as well, principally in my view the broadening of our financial base so that the Society can make a greater contribution than it currently does to supporting its ongoing commitments and even to assist new initiatives. One item on my personal agenda for 2014-5 will be to find ways to assist members to make tax deductible contributions beyond and above the cost of membership if they are willing and able to do so. The introduction of the ‘superdelegate’ category of conference registration allowed ASCS to be considerably more generous in its postgraduate subsidies than might otherwise have been the case but we have a long way to go before we can match the British Classical Association which grants full bursaries to postgraduate and in some cases undergraduate delegates. I would like to see a calendar of conference dates which ensures that members know three years in advance where the conference will be held and on what dates. ASCS 36 in Adelaide (Jan 28-30 2015) is in train. Victoria University at Wellington has promised to host ASCS 38 in 2017. We are still working on 2016, ASCS’ 50th anniversary year, but hope sooner rather than later to be able to advertise the host campus for that meeting. We have been approached by a body in contact with FIEC as to whether ASCS wishes to bid to host the FIEC (International Federation of the Societies of Classical Studies) conference in 2024. This prospect is still a mirage on a distant horizon, but indicates the extent to which ASCS will have to deliberate on new issues and possibilities.

In November, I met with the proposed conveners of ASCS 36, Han Baltussen and Jacqueline Clarke, to discuss the 2015 conference and the logistics of hosting it in Adelaide. At this meeting we decided to propose that the call for papers must close at the end of July rather than the end of August. Such a move will allow the review committee to do its work in better time and for delegates to know well in advance if their paper has been accepted or not. A long lead-time is normal for conferences such as ours and is especially important to international participants whose opportunities for applying for funding are limited. This year, with the best will in the world to expedite the process, it still took months before the committee convener could confirm the acceptance of papers, thus restricting the chance to take advantage of funding possibilities and more economical modes of travel.

I come back to the beginning. ASCS needs strong leadership, especially from its experienced members, but in my view every member has a role to play if the Society is to continue to grow. I urge all those who have ideas as to where they want to see ASCS go in the future to send those ideas to me. They may not all get up, but even the resulting discussions will help to set the agenda of the future.

Kathryn Welch (Honorary Secretary)

Appendix 3: Editors’ Report

Editors’ report for the ASCS general meeting January 2014

The editors of *Antichthon*, Elizabeth Minchin and Art Pomeroy, report that volume 47 (2013) was distributed in late 2013. Paul Burton was the guest editor for that volume. He should be congratulated on the high standard of the volume.

The proposed contents for volume 48 are now being formatted—although not all authors have as yet completed their revisions; and some potential papers are still under review. We expect that this issue will appear in late 2014 and will contain contributions from scholars based in the UK, Europe and Australasia.

*Antichthon’s* rejection rate was again very high in 2013. A number of papers were rejected because they did not reflect current scholarship on the issues and so were debating old issues. Many simply lacked modern references. This may show a lack of library access for some overseas submissions.

The editors’ task is to invite submissions for *Antichthon*, to select referees, to make final decisions on the basis of the referees’ reports, to communicate with the authors during the period that leads up to acceptance or otherwise of the submission, and to follow the progress of paper that has been accepted through the proof stages. The editors thank wholeheartedly all those colleagues who give up research time to review submissions and to write generous and helpful comments for the author. Once again, we thank Bruce Marshall, our excellent formatter, who has again taken on the task of production and produces an elegant volume; and we thank John Penwill who conducts the business of the journal so efficiently.

In 2013 Cambridge Journals approached the editors and John Penwill, our Business Manager, offering to publish and market *Antichthon* and to make back issues available through their digital archive. This proposal would see practical changes principally at the production end of the editorial process. John has explored the proposal from a financial perspective as well and has written a discussion paper that will enable ASCS to make a decision about the future of the journal—if and when we wish to follow up the Cambridge Journals offer.

Elizabeth Minchin

Art Pomeroy

January 2014

Appendix 4: Prizes reports

 

# *The Australasian Society for Classical Studies*

**Report on the ASCS Greek and Latin Translation Competitions 2013**

The ASCS Greek and Latin Translation Competitions are each held as a class test in which students at 200 and 300 level translate an unseen piece of text in 45-50 minutes. This year overall there were 41 entries from seven universities, down from 58 overall entries from the same number of universities last year. In 2013 there were 20 entries for the Latin Unseen, a passage from Cicero’s *De Natura Deorum* set by Dr. Jane Bellemore of the University of Newcastle, and 21 for the Greek, a passage from Plato’s *Meno*, set by Assoc. Prof. Robin Bond of the University of Canterbury. The breakdown of entries submitted from each institution is as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Institution | Greek Unseens | Latin Unseens |
| University of Canterbury  | 1 | - |
| University of Melbourne  | 6 | 4 |
| Victoria University, Wellington | 6 | 3 |
| University of Sydney | 1 | 4 |
| Australian National University  | 3 | 3 |
| University of Queensland  | - | 6 |
| University of Auckland  | 4 | - |

I am pleased to announce the winners. Congratulations go to the following students (and their teachers):

**Greek Translation Competition**

**Winner**:Jonathan Adams, University of Sydney (3rd year).

**Highly Commended**: Aidan Nathan, University of Auckland (3rd year); Marc Bonaventura, University of Melbourne (3rd year); Timothy Waugh, University of Melbourne (2nd year); Jeong Yon Kim, University of Melbourne (2nd year); Melanie Teahan, Victoria University, Wellington (3rd year); Richard Buckley-Gorman, Victoria University, Wellington (3rd year).

**Latin Translation Competition:**

**Winner**: Dane Drivas, University of Sydney (3rd year).

**Highly Commended:** Timothy Waugh, University of Melbourne (2nd year); Rohan Curtotti, ANU (2nd year).

I would like to thank all the instructors who administered the tests and encouraged their students to take part in this competition: Anne Rogerson, Peter Wilson, Sonya Wurster, K.O. Chong-Gossard, Ioannis Ziogas, Bob Cowan, Andrew Turner, James Kierstad, Jeff Tatum, Hyun Jin Kim, Dougal Blyth, Erica Bexley, Simon Perris, Caillan Davenport and Mark Masterson. In particular I would like to thank Jane Bellemore and Robin Bond for setting the texts and marking the submissions; such generosity with their time at what is often a very busy time of year is very much appreciated. Their comments on the submissions overall are attached.

Dr. Patrick O’Sullivan,

Vice-President, ASCS, and Competition Organiser

November 2013

**ASCS Greek Unseen Competition 2013**

The winner produced clearly the best translation, being both accurate and literate, while the first runner up (Aidan Nathan) comes a close second, also being accurate but lacking the literary flair of the former. Many others deserve to be highly commended.

The standard of the other contestants was somewhat variable because of a lack of grammatical accuracy and an inability to follow the logic of the passage as a result of basic errors made.

Associate-Professor Robin Bond,

Classics Department

University of Canterbury

**ASCS Latin Unseen Competition 2013**

Only one or two of the 20 did not complete their translations, and the overall standard was very high. In fact, marking these scripts was made difficult because of this. I am impressed by the knowledge of vocabulary demonstrated by almost all students, and by their appreciation of uses of the subjunctive.

I know that I haven't said very much, but even those who did poorly made a fairly good fist of it and this has limited my usual propensity to criticise.

Dr J. Bellemore,

School of Humanities and Social Sciences (Classics)

University of Newcastle

**Early Career Award**
I am pleased to inform you of the outcome of the Early Career Award for 2014:

Dr. Sonya Wurster, University of Melbourne (supervisors: Dr. Parshia Lee-Stecum and Dr. Rhiannon Evans)

In total there were three applicants also including:

Dr. Edward Jeremiah, University of Melbourne
Dr. Kyle Gervais, University of Otago

I mention, with extreme gratitude, our assessors:

Professor Han Baltussen, University of Adelaide
Assoc. Prof Marcus Wilson, University of Auckland
Assoc. Prof Jon Hall, University of Otago (whom Bruce Marshall had engaged, but who had to withdraw because of potential conflict of interest)

I am grateful to them not only for their time, but also for raising several important issues related to the award regulations and clarity on certain points of the application. I have had an email discussion with them and would like to raise the issue of three small changes to the EC award application at a future ASCS Executive meeting, if I may.

Finally, I am grateful to Bruce Marshall for walking me through the process, especially at the beginning when the forms had to be updated and put on the web, and email notifications had to be sent. I am pleased to say that once the application forms were received, I felt confident enough to carry on by myself (finding assessors, sending them the application materials, and co-ordinating their responses and subsequent discussion).

Alison Griffith

**Australian ASCS Essay Prize**

I'm pleased to report that our hard-working judges, Bronwyn Hopwood and Graeme Miles, have arrived at a winner and two runners up for the essay competition.

The overall winner is Jennifer McFarland from the University of Melbourne, for her essay entitled \*Athenian Autochthony: Democratic Discrimination?\*

The runners up are:

Cameron MacBeth (University of Sydney) \*Is Vergil's Aeneas an ideal Roman hero?\*

Hugo Branley (ANU), \*Straight from the horse's mouth: persuasion and frank speech in the Apology\*.

Lara O’Sullivan