

Minutes of the ASFS AGM
held at the University of Sydney, 1st October 2010
18th Annual Conference of the ASFS “Playtime: formes, fonctions et theories du jeu”

Present:

Greg Hainge (in the chair), Bertrand Bourgeois, Peter Brown, Jacki Dutton, Anne Freadman, Françoise Grauby, Barbara Hanna, Joe Hardwick, Hélène Jaccopard, Caroline Lipovsky, Henry Mera, Hugues Peters, Liz Richniewski, Alistair Rolls, Michelle Royer, Diane de St Léger, Marie-Laure Vuaille-Barcan, John West-Sooby, Sonia Wilson.

Apologies:

Peter Cowley, Juliana de Nooy, Tess Do, Jennifer Hatte, Louise Maurer, Jane Southwood

Business arising from minutes:

Problems with website: these were ongoing and meant that the updating of articles was on hold.

ERA: Greg Hainge reported that the process had dragged on but that the rankings had now been determined. There was however the potential for further action: lobbying Thompson ISI so that more Humanities publications were included. John West-Sooby reminded members that there would be an ERA round-table on the Saturday of the conference, as per his suggestion.

Baudin scholarships: The 2009 AGM had directed GH to advise the Embassy of the Society's desire that the recipients of the Baudin scholarships be decided by committee, rather than by the Society president. GH reported that the Embassy had not agreed to this. The suggestion was made that some Baudin funding could be raised through institutional membership and the Embassy was in favour of this. However, the Society does not have institutional membership. ASF had suggested approaching external bodies for funding but there had been no time.

Embassy support for conference speakers: The Embassy was very keen that the guest visit at least one other state than that in which the conference was held. Moving the conference from July had been useful in this respect, in that other universities would be better placed to host speakers. There was some discussion of the kind of activities in which the speakers could be involved.

Membership records: There had been some discussion about how this job could be shared between the secretary and the treasurer. Sonia Wilson and Tess Do were considering this matter.

Approval of minutes of previous AGM

JWS proposed that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted, with a typographical error corrected. Alistair Rolls seconded this.

Baudin scholarships

JWS said that it was unjustifiable that the Embassy reject the Society's wish, clearly expressed at the previous AGM, that the selection process take place by committee, and wanted GH to explain

the Society's position again, this time backed by a motion. There was some discussion of the previous committee-based process and the best action to take with respect to the Embassy. Liz Richniewski suggested that it would be politic to suggest that a Baudin committee draw up a list of suggestions which would be ratified by the Embassy, and JWS agreed that what we wanted was wider academic input into the initial ranking process. Diane de Saint-Léger was in agreement that the process needed to be more open.

A motion was put forward by Anne Freadman and seconded by JWS that a letter should be written on behalf of the Heads of French Programmes expressing gratitude for the support the Embassy shows through the provision of these scholarships but stating that we firmly believed that the ranking of applicants should be undertaken by a representative committee of academics.

The motion was carried by a show of hands.

President's report

(a) GH expressed his thanks to the conference organizing committee from the University of Sydney and the wonderful job they had done in bringing us a conference with high quality papers, catering and buildings.

(b) ERA: the implications of ERA were still ongoing. GH stated that the list was now much better than it had been and that he had been able to have some direct input at the Brisbane office. *AJFS* had had vigorous international support. Unfortunately there had been glitches in the final iteration of the rankings with some journals missing from the lists which GH had seen immediately prior to publication. Unfortunately ERA was not willing to make any further changes to rectify these oversights.

JWS asked if the % for distribution for French studies journals were correct. GH said that this had dropped off – that it was impossible to have Bell curve and criteria. No definite data on distribution. But not too bad.

ASF proposed thanks to GH for all his work on ERA, and this was supported by acclamation from the floor.

(c) Baudin scholarships: of 66 applications, 13 had been funded. The scholarships had a higher profile but therefore the % success rate was decreasing. The Embassy would support a further 13 Baudin scholarships in 2011.

(d) Embassy support: GH once more expressed gratitude for the Embassy's financial support at a time of economic crisis. The Embassy had granted money for a further conference speaker, but there was uncertainty as to future support.

The current state of play was: ASF was holding 2000€, for the 2011 conference. The Embassy was providing a further 2000€. The question was whether to keep this 2000€ for the 2012 conference or whether to spend it, both options being open.

JWS proposed that, given the fluidity of the current situation, the organizers of the 2011 conference could apply for access to the further 2000€, with the ASF Executive having the final say on whether the funds could be used. LR seconded the motion.

In discussion of this motion, GH suggested that we think of ways of bringing over keynotes with half the usual amount and that we hold on to the money, with the option to release it on a needs basis. Peter Brown was in favour of using the money towards a big conference event which would build momentum for the future. Perhaps the size of current conferences suggested that our conferences are only large enough to warrant one plenary. The Embassy might prefer to direct money towards other schemes such as internships and assistantships.

- (e) In conclusion, GH wished to open a discussion about the future role and function of ASFS: which was the best mix of activities, did we need to add more (income generation) terminate some (*Carnet?*).

Treasurer's report

Sonia Wilson presented her Treasurer's report. Beyond Embassy funding, our source of income is membership subscriptions. She encouraged members to renew online.

Our main expenses were the conferences, Baudin scholarships (since we hold the money) and the *Carnet*.

Carnet editor's report

Barbara Hanna reported on the considerable investment of time required to produce a *Carnet* and wondered what its role might be. Obviously publishing in the *Carnet*, or indeed producing it had no immediate pay off in terms of institutional metrics. Jacki Dutton suggested that a quarterly e-letter would serve the purpose of informing society members about the discipline, and would cut expenses. AR and JWS suggested the e-letter be housed on the website.

These suggestions would be further investigated.

ASFS conference 2012

Hélène Jaccomard, who had previously expressed some interest on the part of UWA, explained that due to changed circumstances (departure of two members of staff) hosting the 2012 conference was no longer an option.

PB suggested that the conference could link in with a major applied linguistics conference on the Language-Culture nexus, already scheduled to take place at ANU in November 2011: the date and the coinciding conference might draw in a new group of members. AR and PB were happy to organize ASFS as jointly hosted by Newcastle and ANU, but held at ANU. It was suggested that there might be regional linkage funding available.

Future conferences

ASF suggested that a yearly conference was making heavy demands on a small pool of staff and that it could be preferable to look at a conference every two years. JWS pointed out that French Studies staff were often involved in the organization of conferences other than ASFS and that scheduling these with a yearly rotation of ASFS conferences was indeed demanding. He suggested that perhaps future conferences could alternate between larger conferences and smaller events which would allow an AGM and a HODs meeting. The smaller events could for example coincide with the Rudé conference.

This matter (large-small conferences/ conferences every two years) was referred to the 2011 AGM.

Election of Office-bearers

Results of the election:

President: Françoise Grauby (proposed by GH, seconded ASF)

Vice President: Louise Maurer (proposed by GH, seconded LR)

Treasurer: Sonia Wilson (proposed by ASF, seconded BH)

Secretary: Tess Do (proposed by JD, seconded Marie-Laure Vuaille-Barcan)

Carnet Austral editor : Barbara Hanna (proposed by ASFS, seconded AR)

Postgraduate and Research officer: Peter Cowley, subject to his acceptance of the position (proposed by LR, seconded ASF).

Greg Hainge was therefore the Immediate Past President of ASFS.

The meeting closed at 6pm with a vote of thanks to Greg for all his contributions as President of the Society.