

# Minutes of the ASFS AGM held at The Australian National University

Thursday 14 December 2017

1.30pm

## Present

Executive: Alistair Rolls (President, Chair), Véronique Duché (Vice-President), Natalie Edwards (Treasurer), Amy Hubbell (Editor of Publications), Gemma King (Postgraduate Officer)

## **Members**

Jean Anderson, Antonio Viselli, Trudy Agar, Marie-Laure Vuaille-Barcan, Christopher Hogarth, Julie Robert, Jane Southwood, Sophie Patrick, Kim Hajek, Clara Sitbon, Barbara Hanna, Alexis Bergantz, Valentina Gosetti, Bertrand Bourgeois, Andrew McGregor, Sarah Martin, Debra Hoadley, Leslie Barnes, Paul Gibbard, Ashok Collins, Bert Peeters, France Grenaudier-Klijn, Chris Andrews, Joe Hardwick, Ben McCann

## **In attendance**

Nicolas Duhaut, Embassy  
Eleanor Harley, Embassy

## Apologies

Tess Do (Secretary)

## Approval of 2016 minutes

After minor amendments, Alistair moved that the minutes of the December 2015 AGM meeting were approved. This was seconded by Véronique.

### 1) The President's report

Alistair thanked the membership for their support of the ASFS in the last year and for their attendance at the conference. He remarked that the conference was a stunning success and thanked the organizing committee: Leslie Barnes, Ashok Collins, Gemma King and Solène Inceoglu. He presented a proposal to host a joint conference with other professional organisations in 2020 in Sydney, which was rejected by the membership.

### 2) The Vice-President's report

Veronique presented the plan for student and staff exchanges with the Université de Limoges. The membership agreed that this would be a valuable and promising initiative. Members agreed to contact Véronique if they were interested in setting up an exchange.

### 3) The Treasurer's Report (Natalie Edwards)

#### 2.1 The ASFS Membership

The Society now has 92 members. Natalie believes that there are three main reasons for this increase: linking conference registration with the membership, online presence and payments using PayPal, and high-

quality annual conferences. The membership fee for postgraduates is still \$10/year and they can attend the conference for free.

## 2.2 The Baudin grants

Six grants were given for 2016. In 2017 the Embassy changed the scheme and more grants were given but fewer to French Studies students since knowledge of the language is no longer a requirement.

## 2.3 The ASFS bank account

- \$48,000 in the account, with payments associated with the conference pending
- Last year's conference made about \$2,000 for the society

2.4 The Treasurer's report was moved for approval by Véronique and seconded by Amy Hubbell.

## 3) The Attaché culturel's presentation and discussion

Nicolas Duhaut presented changes to the Baudin Grant Scheme. In 2016, 6 grants were awarded and ASFS was involved in judging applications. In 2017 the focus changed so that more grants were awarded but not exclusively to students in French Studies. Nicolas explained that knowledge of the French language is no longer a condition for applying to the Baudin Grant Scheme. The membership expressed concern over this but still support the objective of increasing student travel, study and research in France.

The membership thanked Eleanor Harley from the Embassy for her work in supporting the ASFS over the last 2 years and wishes her well in her next appointment.

## 4) The Editor of Publications' Report (Amy Hubbell)

Amy reported that the website (business plan) costs \$399 per year and allows access to the web store run by Ecwid. Since opening the store and up to 6 December, the store handled 228 orders for \$29,872 in sales. The ASFS Conference page is the most visited on the website in 2017. News can be emailed to Amy. ASFS members can be emailed at [australiansfs@googlegroups.com](mailto:australiansfs@googlegroups.com). We also now have a Twitter account, @AuFrenchStudies. The report was moved for approval by Natalie and seconded by Barbara

## 5) The Postgraduate Officer's Report (Gemma King)

Gemma reported that 15 students attended the Postgraduate Day, held the day before the conference. The keynote speakers attended the event and the interactions between staff and students were very positive.

### Election of Office Bearers for 2018

The Chair declared all positions vacant and called for nominations.

Result of the election:

- President: Véronique Duché (proposed by Alistair Rolls, seconded by Natalie Edwards)
- Vice-President: Christopher Hogarth (proposed by Alistair Rolls, seconded by Amy Hubbell).
- Secretary: Ben McCann (proposed by Natalie Edwards, seconded by Gemma King)
- Treasurer: Natalie Edwards (proposed by Amy Hubbell, seconded by Barbara Hanna)
- Editor of Publications: Amy Hubbell (proposed by Natalie Edwards, seconded by Chris Hogarth)
- Interim Postgraduate Officer: Gemma King (proposed by Alistair Rolls, seconded by Natalie Edwards).

### Conclusion

- Thanks from Alistair to the ASFS committee, members and audience.
- As there was no other business the meeting was closed at 2:30pm.