

Minutes of the ASFS AGM held at the University of Western Australia
1:00-2:30pm
Thursday 6 December 2018

Present

Executive: Véronique Duché (President/Chair), Christopher Hogarth (Vice-President), Natalie Edwards (Treasurer), Sophie Patrick (Postgraduate Officer), Ben McCann (Secretary).

Members

Marie-Laure Vuaille-Barcan, John West-Sooby, Jarrod Hayes, Trudy Agar, Antonio Viselli, Andrew McGregor, Kerry Mullan, Jackie Dutton, Guillaume Thouroude, Andrea Bellia, Mohamed Mahiout, Alistair Rolls, Greg Hainge, Julie Robert, Jean Anderson, Charles Rice-Davis, Françoise Grauby, Tess Do, Paul Gibbard, Christie Margrave, Sarah Jones, Dan Finch-Race, Laté Lawson-Hellu, Bénédicte André, Diane de Saint Léger, Hélène Jacomard, Sabine Kuuse, Valentina Gosetti.

Apologies

Amy Hubbell (Editor of Publications), Kim Hajek, Barbara Hanna, Clara Sitbon.

Approval of 2017 minutes

Véronique moved that the minutes of the December 2017 AGM meeting be accepted. This was approved by Natalie Edwards and seconded by Julie Robert.

1) The President's report

Véronique thanked those in attendance for their support of the ASFS in the last year and for their attendance at the conference. She thanked the organising committee at UWA: Hélène Jacomard, Paul Gibbard, Sophie Patrick, Sabine Kuuse, Bonnie Thomas and Céline Doucet. The conference theme was singled out as being particularly thought-provoking.

4 Baudin grants were given for 2019 (out of 28 applications).

Mélanie Maillot was awarded the best Postgraduate Essay Prize (4 applications were received by the committee – each applicant receives extensive feedback)

The President thanked Amy's work on collating members' publications on the ASFS website.

Marie-Laure Vuaille-Barcan thanked the ASFS membership for covering the costs of attending the September 2018 FATFA conference in Sydney.

Valentina announced that the 2019 ASFS conference would be shared venture between The University of New England (UNE Sydney) / Western Sydney University. It will take place in Parramatta from 10-12 December 2019 and will blend with "The Effects of the Oulipo: Impact, Continuities, Appropriations, Reactions" Conference (Western Sydney University, 11-13 December 2019). The conference theme will be *Making and Breaking Rules*.

Antonio Viselli presented a proposal to host the 2020 ASFS conference in New Zealand (perhaps in Auckland or Wellington) which was warmly received by the membership

To coincide with the Semaine de la Francophonie, the Embassy has proposed a national *dictée*. More details to be circulated.

2) The Treasurer's Report (Natalie Edwards)

2.1. The ASFS bank account

- \$45000 in the account, with payments associated with the conference pending
- Last year's conference made about \$1500 for the society

2.2 ASFS Membership: the Society now has 78 members.

The Treasurer's report was moved for approval by Alistair Rolls and seconded by Laté Lawson-Hellu.

3) The Editor of Publications' Report (Amy Hubbell)

Since opening the store, up to 3/12/18, Ecwid has handled 304 orders for a total of \$41,852 in sales. The majority of sales go through Paypal.

The website has 60 followers and over 36,000 all-time views.

The ASFS 2018 Conference page is the most visited page on the site this year with about 2400 views.

The Editor of Publications' report was moved for approval by Valentina Gosetti and seconded by Christopher Hogarth.

4) The Postgraduate Officer's Report (Sophie Patrick)

Sophie reported that 4 students attended the Postgraduate afternoon, held the day before the conference. The interactions between staff and students were very positive.

This led onto a broader discussion about postgraduate student attendance at this year's conference (numbers were down from 2017 and 2016) and the geographical factors that might hinder postgraduates from attending/presenting in venues far from the south-east corner of Australia. The committee resolved to discuss this issue throughout 2019.

The Postgraduate Officer's report was moved for approval by Hélène Jacomard and seconded by Kerry Mullan.

5) Election of Office Bearers for 2019

The Chair declared all positions vacant and called for nominations.

Result of the election:

- President: Véronique Duché (not contested)
- Vice-President: Christopher Hogarth (not contested)
- Secretary: Ben McCann (not contested)
- Treasurer: Natalie Edwards (not contested)
- Editor of Publications: Amy Hubbell (not contested)
- Postgraduate Officer: Sophie Patrick (not contested)

6) Any other business

John West-Sooby proposed that for the 25th anniversary of the Society, Brian Nelson and Colin Nettelbeck be appointed Life Members in recognition of their service and support of the ASFS and to honour the founding role they have played in bringing ASFS into existence in 1993 and helping to establish it as a unifying force for French Studies in Australia. The motion was unanimously approved.

Alistair Rolls proposed the development of a National Research Statement to draw together researchers in diverse areas of French Studies to champion the relevance and timeliness of our work, to defend it against accusations of narrow academic interest, and to promote greater visibility of French Studies research in the wider community. Broader discussion ensued about the feasibility of postgraduate book prize in the field of French Studies, the ongoing crisis of academic publishing, translation as a form of research, research written in Languages other than English, the merits of an edited collection .v. journal articles; French is not a discrete 'discipline'.

Dan Finch-Race raised the point that links between UK and Australian universities and French Studies societies were mutually beneficial and should be sustained.

7) Conclusion

- Thanks from Veronique to the ASFS committee, members and audience.
- The meeting closed at 2:20pm.