

Minutes of the ASFS AGM held at UNE Sydney
1:24pm-2:20pm
Wednesday 11 December 2019

Present

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

Members

Marie-Laure Vuaille-Barcan, Jarrod Hayes, Trudy Agar, Andrew McGregor, Alistair Rolls, Julie Robert, Jean Anderson, Charles Rice-Davis, Tess Do, Paul Gibbard, Dan Finch-Race, Clara Sitbon, Valentina Gosetti, Gemma King, Joe Hardwick, Leslie Barnes, Sonia Wilson, Loic Bourdeau, Alex Kurmann, Charles Rice-Davis, Pierre Emmanuel Ros-Barbier, Yuri Cerqueira dos Anjos

Apologies

John West-Sooby, Hélène Jacomard

Chair's Introduction

Christopher Hogarth welcomed delegates to the ASFS conference and thanked Chris Andrews for his generosity in allowing the ASFS conference to dovetail with the Oulipo conference later that week. Christopher also thanked Sophie Patrick and Valentina Gosetti for their work in organizing this year's conference.

Approval of 2018 minutes

Véronique moved that the minutes of the December 2018 AGM meeting be accepted. This was approved by Julie Robert and seconded by Clara Sitbon.

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 Sophie Patrick, Valentina Gosetti and Chris Andrews. She thanked the organisers of the postgraduate day for helping support PG and ECR scholars in French Studies.

4 Baudin grants were given for 2019 (out of 27 applications).

Marianne Braux was awarded the best Postgraduate Essay Prize (2 applications were received by the committee – each applicant receives extensive feedback)

No proposals to celebrate/promote the 2019 Semaine de la Francophonie were received.

2) The Treasurer's Report (Natalie Edwards)

2.1. The ASFS bank account

- \$37000 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.

Natalie proposed setting up a bursary scheme for post-graduates wishing to attend the 2020 ASFS conference in New Zealand to assist in off-setting travel costs. Each bursary would be \$200.

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

Amy indicated her decision to step down as Publications Editor.

Business account costs \$396 per annum.

Since opening the store (up to 11/12/19), the Ewid online store has handled c.400 orders for a total of \$57,792 in sales. The majority of sales go through Paypal.

The ASFS 2019 Conference page is the most visited page on the site this year with about 2400 views.

Facebook page is currently inactive.

Julie Robert suggested setting up a LinkedIn account for the Society.

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

Sophie reported that 8 students attended the Postgraduate afternoon, held the day before the conference (10 December). The interactions between staff and students were very positive.

5) Election of Office Bearers for 2020

The Chair declared all positions vacant and called for nominations.

Result of the election:

- President: Natalie Edwards (not contested)
- Vice-President: Ben McCann (not contested)
- Secretary: Leslie Barnes (not contested)
- Treasurer: Christopher Hogarth (not contested)
- Editor of Publications: Gemma King (not contested)
- Postgraduate Officer: Clara Sitbon (not contested)

6) Any other business

Joe Hardwick noted that the Cultural Studies Association of Australasia (CSAA) has a very strong New Zealand presence and raised the question as to whether it is now time for ASFS to change its name (particularly apposite given the venue for the 2020 conference). The subsequent discussion among members included the following topics:

1. Feasibility of name change
2. Legal requirements for name change
3. Current governance structures
4. Relevant societies in NZ
5. Dialogue with the French Embassy

Natalie Edwards proposed setting up a mentoring network for colleagues to share ideas, concerns, and teaching and research ideas, to capitalize on our diverse cluster of disciplines within French Studies.

Christopher announced that the next three ASFS conference venues had already been decided.

Conferences for the next three years were mapped out:

2020	New Zealand (Wellington) 1-3 December 2020 (proposed date) The conference theme will be <i>Mouvement(s)</i>
2021	Brisbane
2022	Sydney

Ben McCann informed members that a survey would be circulated to ASFS members in the early part of 2020 to canvas their opinions about a range of topics connected to the organisation.

7) Conclusion

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