

**Australian Political Studies Association
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

MINUTES

**Tuesday, 29 September 2015
University of Canberra
Canberra, ACT**

INTRODUCTION AND FORMAL BUSINESS

1. WELCOME

- 1.1 Professor Linda Botterill welcomed members to the 2015 AGM.

2. APOLOGIES

- 2.1 No apologies to note.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST AGM

- 3.1 The minutes of the 2014 AGM, held on 30 September 2014 were agreed.

Acceptance of Minutes proposed by Professor Jason Sharman; seconded by Professor Brian Head.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 4.1 No further business arising from the 2014 AGM.

5. OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- 5.1 Linda Botterill's President's Report is printed verbatim in Appendix 1.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

- 6.1 The membership received a report on APSA finances from Professor Jason Sharman. There has been a decline in income, including in royalties from the journal.

- 6.2 APSA has received income from the University of Sydney conference in 2014, which can be seen in the income table.

- 6.3 APSA has subsidised several workshops run by members, usually in the range of \$6,000 - \$10,000. This funding is dependent on workshops obtaining additional funding from other sources.

- 6.4 The website costs in 2015 are one-off costs, as this was a restructure of the member's section of the site.

- 6.5 Jason flagged some issues with the budget, including the auditing process. Currently, APSA is audited in the assumption that transactions are GST free. This is subject to change.
Issues

- 6.6 The full financial report is available on the website.

Acceptance of Treasurer's report proposed by Professor Brian Head; seconded by Professor Jenny Lewis. None dissenting.

7. EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

- 7.1 Professor Jenny Lewis (University of Melbourne) was nominated, and agreed, as the new Vice-President. *Nomination by the APSA Executive; seconded by Stephanie Lawson.*

- 7.2 Dr David Smith (University of Sydney) was nominated, and agreed, as the new Ordinary Executive Member for 3 years.

Nomination by Luke Mansillo; seconded by Anika Gauja.

7.3 Dr Siobhan O'Sullivan (University of New South Wales) was nominated, and agreed, as the new Ordinary Executive Member for 3 years.

8. AJPS REPORT

8.1 Professor Geoffrey Stokes reported a number of improvements in relation to the journal. These include:

- A significant increase in the journal's Impact Factor, which rose to 0;
- Surpassing two other peer publications in the rankings.
- An equalisation in gender regarding success rates for sole-authored research articles;
- Timely acceptance rates of articles.

8.2 *AJPS* now has a social media presence with 240 followers. This is coordinated by David Hundt.

8.3 Professor Stokes thanked contributors to the journal for their efforts. He also thanked the members of the editorial team, especially Professor Marian Simms for their work on the journal editing and producing.

8.4 Professor Stokes noted that the tender process was currently taking place, as detailed in membership communication. He also added that if anyone is interested in tendering they can contact him about the process.

9. WOMEN'S CAUCUS REPORT

9.1 Professor Gillian Whitehouse reported on the Women's Caucus. She noted that the Carole Pateman and the Leadership prizes had been launched in 2015, after finalising the rules and selection criteria, advertising and selection. Winners will be announced at the dinner tonight.

9.2 Gillian also noted that the online presence of the Women's Caucus had been greatly increased, with updates to the website and the Facebook page relaunched.

9.3 Louise Chappell will take over the role of Women's Caucus representative in the first half of 2016. It is normally a two year role but Gillian is unable to attend the conference so Louise will step in.

9.4 The panel was confirmed for the Women and Politics prize was confirmed at the Women's Caucus meeting.

9.5 The next stage of the gender audit is under discussion.

9.6 Linda thanked Gillian for her work on the APSA Executive.

10. STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

10.1 Professor Kath Gelber is unable to attend the conference and has provided a written report in the AGM Agenda papers.

11. POST-GRAD UPDATE

11.1 Nivek Thompson is unable to attend the AGM and has been asked to provide a written report to put on the APSA website.

11.2 Linda thanked Nivek for her work on the APSA Executive as the Postgraduate representative.

12. IPISA WORLD CONGRESS

- 12.1 Professor Kath Gelber is unable to attend the conference and has provided a written report in the AGM Agenda papers.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 13.1 John Parkinson raised an issue that is affecting colleagues in Japan. The minister of education wrote to Japanese universities instructing them to scale back teaching of subjects which were not considered scientific or related to prosperity. This included humanities, social sciences law, and economics. This is something the association should take a position on and interest.

John moved a motion in three parts:

- a) Find out what is happening and the responses from other associations
- b) Offer support to colleagues in Japan
- c) Prepare to prepare positions in advance.

This was seconded by Ariadne Vromen.

- 13.2 Mary Walsh thanked Professor Botterill for her work this year and also for bringing the APSA conference to the University of Canberra.

This was seconded by Brian Head.

- 13.3 Alan Fenna raised the topic of the Museum of Democracy prize ceremony, querying if this was a decision made by the executive and if the awards would be a regular event.

Linda responded that it was an initiative of the Local Organising Committee with the Museum of Democracy. The Executive have not made a decision about the future of the awards.

Alan moved a motion that the matter be considered by the executive involving consultation to the membership and reporting to the membership.

This was seconded by Jason Sharman.

- 13.4 Louise Chappell queried if the AJPS editors were employing strategies to increase the number of submissions. Marian responded that AJPS were active in different networks with early career researchers. She encouraged senior members of APSA to co-author with younger researchers and publish in overseas journals.

- 13.5 Linda noted that the AGM was her last formal duty as president. She acknowledged and thanked Brian Head as Immediate Past President for his ongoing advice and wisdom in this role. She also thanked the APSA Executive and Shari Blanck for her work as APSA Executive Assistant in 2015.

- 13.6 Linda handed over the stick of office to Adrian Kay as the new APSA President.

APPENDIX 1: OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Australian Political Studies Association

Outgoing President's report to the Annual General Meeting

University of Canberra

29 September 2015

- APSA's membership has dwindled somewhat in the past year from the 405 Brian Head reported at last year's AGM to 370 this year.
 - Of these 113 are postgraduate members.
- Please encourage your colleagues to join the Association.
 - It is particularly notable how few senior colleagues are members and we also have some group co-convenors who are non-members as well.
 - In their case I assume this is an oversight and hope that they will move to correct it.

Administrative support

- We greatly appreciate the continuing support of the University of Melbourne in hosting the secretariat function for the Association.
 - Shari Blanck took over the role of Executive Assistant around the time of last year's conference and has done an excellent job supporting the work of the Executive.
 - APSA currently pays for two days a week of Shari's time and she manages to achieve a considerable amount for us in this time, meeting deadlines and keeping on top of the minutiae of the APSA office.
- As Brian Head mentioned in last year's Presidential Report, we have ongoing concerns about the loss of corporate memory associated with the changes to administrative staff that we have experienced and also the limited terms of the Executive members.
 - This year we have continued the work started under Brian's Presidency to improve our systems and document our policies and processes more clearly.
 - We still have a way to go and there remain some gaps in some of our paper trails.
 - If any of you have dusty boxes of APSA paperwork in a basement or disused office somewhere, we would appreciate it if you could let us know.

Website and communications

- Following the overhaul of the Association website last year, we have been making ongoing improvements.
- Many of you will have noticed that APSA has entered the twenty first century and now has a Twitter account and the addition of the Twitter feed to the APSA home page has given it some much-needed dynamism.
 - I urge you to follow APSA if you are active on Twitter.
- There is still a way to go with the website. Thank you to members who responded to the survey about the functionality of the website.
- Work is in progress to make the requested changes, including making the membership database searchable by other members and providing access to past and present conference papers.
 - We have some issues around the storage of conference papers which is currently under discussion with the web designers.

- There is also a news section on the site for members only so if you have items you wish to post, please let Shari know.
- The Research Groups each have their own page on the site and Groups are encouraged to send Shari updates regularly for uploading.

IPSA World Congress, 15-19 July 2018, Brisbane

- Arrangements for the IPSA Congress in Brisbane continue to advance and I would like to thank Prof Kath Gelber for her ongoing hard work and enthusiasm in making this event happen and for her ongoing contribution to the Executive as a co-opted member.
 - This arrangement will continue.
- The call for papers and panels is now out for the 2016 World Congress to be held in Istanbul.
 - The organisers of the Brisbane Congress will host the closing ceremony of the Istanbul event so it would be good if there was a strong Australian contingent attending.

AJPS Editorship

- A call for tenders to take over the editorship of the *Australian Journal of Political Science* from 2017 was put out earlier this year with a deadline of 31 July.
 - Unfortunately we didn't receive any bids so we have extended the deadline to 30 October.
- The current team have done an excellent job; I would particularly like to note the increase in the journal's impact factor and also to congratulate the team on the 50th anniversary issues.

APSA Workshops

- Calls for Workshop funding were issued at the beginning of the year and we were pleased to fund a Workshop on *Accountability in Global Environmental Governance* convened by Assoc Prof Susan Park from the University of Sydney.
- We did not receive any bids to run a postgraduate Workshop so have decided to fund a larger 5 day Workshop in the first half of 2016.
 - Calls for bids to run this Workshop were sent out last week.

Relationship with other professional associations

- We are currently making arrangements with IPSA to include a link to APSA membership on the IPSA membership sign up page.
 - At the moment only a couple of national associations have taken advantage of this feature of the IPSA site so it will increase our visibility internationally.
- Last year I attended the NZPSA conference in Auckland as a representative of APSA
 - We and NZPSA would like to hold a joint conference in the future but there are some issues to be resolved around timing.

Future venues for APSA Conferences

- We have hosts for the next three APSA conferences and encourage others to consider volunteering for conferences from 2019 onwards.
 - UNSW will be hosting next year's event in the usual week in September
 - Monash will host us in 2017

- and the 2018 conference will be held in Brisbane in conjunction with the IPSA World Conference in July that year.