



## **Annual General Meeting**

**26 April 2014**

**NUI Galway**

Present: Philip McGowan, Clare Hayes-Brady, Rosemary Gallagher, Tony Emmerson, David Coughlan, Clair Sheehan, Dara Downey, Julie Sheridan, Jenny Daly, Ron Callan, Adam Kelly.

1. Apologies were received from Stephen Matterson; JoAnne Mancini; Hilary Bracefield.
2. Minutes of 26 April 2013 AGM, University of Limerick were taken and held to be a true record of that meeting. Suggestion made that Minutes be published online on iaas.ie.
3. In matters arising from the 2013 AGM Minutes, it was noted with regret that ordinary and special issues of *IJASOnline* had not appeared in the year intervening, despite hope and expectation.
4. Chairperson's Report (PMG): Successful year for the association, progress in: IAAS participation in joint postgrad conference in Nottingham, EAAS, BAAS and IAAS at NUIG, with great thanks to RG. Chair notes some reservations at postgrad taking responsibility, but the decision has been shown to have been the correct one. RG notes that she will do a told-you-so dance later. Last year we announced a number of new initiatives, which have been successful. This year's major innovation was the IAAS Lecture Series, by RC, which brought academic endeavour outside to the public sphere. Next year's lecture will be delivered in NCAD (pending confirmation). Non-joint postgrad symposium and national conference in Dublin in the year. Chair attended Nottingham joint BAAS/IAAS postgrad symposium. Promising work taking place in Ireland, future of the discipline and association looks to be in safe hands, also making work of more seasoned academics worthwhile, showing the production and nurturing of talent on the island. Chair expressed pride at his association with these promising academics. BAAS was also well attended and IAAS was represented in positive light. Close contact with BAAS in lead-up to 2016

(QUB, 7-9 April 2016) Chair has been co-opted to BAAS committee in advance of this. QUB will be the Chair of BAAS's last as chair, and PMG hopes that it will be his last also (implying that he will stand again this year). SM stepping down from EAAS immediately, a year in advance of expected timeline. SM has served both associations diligently and well for many years. Regrets expressed at his departure, and we hope not to lose his invaluable knowledge. Question of the future: our early career members, how can we nurture these careers in and out of academe? We have managed to spend money in worthwhile ways, and as a consequence we need to raise income. Proposal to increase full-rate membership from €30-€40 to sustain these schemes. New signatories to Euro account – PMG, WE, CHB. EAAS dues high this year due to increased membership. Proposed to include an option of voluntary donations, also to consider corporate/institutional affiliation of €50 pa. Include in promotional materials for 2014 to see if it gains any traction. Fulbright interested in working with IAAS to coordinate/connect Fulbright scholars in Ireland (and UK). Fulbright will fund this initiative (assuming it continues to be funded). Very useful opportunity to position IAAS as connecting association. Back to the journal – promoting and supporting PGEC researchers and spreading our work and reputation. Hope for two new editions this year unfulfilled. The IJAS is the first priority of the Chair. Any news/noteworthy items for website should be sent to the Committee for website inclusion.

5. Treasurer/Membership Secretary's Report (TE): Copies of financial report circulated; Income/Expenditure Euro €2323.21/Sterling: STG1661.48 Treasurer noted earlier concerns about not spending money, furthering aims of association, but notes that this has been remedied, and hopes that these initiatives will continue. Various bursaries visible in accounts, along with BAAS/IAAS symposium support. On a wider scale, such activities are positive and further our reputation in Ireland, UK and further afield. Membership has increased exponentially. EAAS subscription grew from €583.35 - €1129.35. We could get around paying for transfers if we had online banking, but online banking would cost more than the transfer charges, so the decision was made to remain without internet banking. Things are satisfactory to date – more money is being spent but more is also being brought in. Figures have changed somewhat since 21 April, including TE's lodgement of \$2002, which is pending as at 26 April.

Membership report: Mistaken date on report is in fact Treasurer's birth date. Birthday wishes were noted. 31 December 2013 membership stood at 184. 21 April 2014

membership stood at 137 (but this is changing). WE expects the number to exceed 200 this year. EAAS noted IAAS success at The Hague meeting. Concern at this growth is the relatively low level of full membership, which has not increased in the way that other categories have, but we are working to enhance this. Greater membership income would allow a lot more support for young researchers and prizes. Our aim must be at present to increase full membership. PMG notes that setting up direct debits might make sense, which will allow for automatic renewal. CHB to look into setting this up with PayPal on IAAS.ie. €6 per member is paid to EAAS, more than half of the concession rate. MAs, therefore, cost the IAAS money. Good initiative, but will remain to be seen how MA membership persists. MA attendance at conference noted as positive sign.

6. EAAS Representative: SM absent, apologies noted. Chair attended EAAS, which was a great success and represented Ireland well. PMG and Philip Coleman chaired a workshop with Irish scholars, great success. IAAS held up as example of how to recruit members. Chair spoke to EAAS President about direction of American Studies – 2016 Romania, 2018 London. IAAS members encouraged to take part in these conferences. SM will be missed, has been a sterling colleague. His successor will have a lot to live up to.
7. Postgraduate & Early Career Caucus: JD – Nottingham great success, 17 IAAS members presented and represented association well. Interest from BAAS members likely for October/November's IAAS symposium. Venue likely to be Dublin. MAs at IAAS conference clearly enjoyed themselves; worth discussing the history of the association. There is a gap between very young members and very long-standing members, which may threaten the future of the association, and it's important to create a bridge. Suggestions welcome. Chair asks if PGEC reps should be bridges, RG responded that there should be links formed between these constituencies. Joint PGEC event scheduled for 2016 will be January, which is problematic given the QUB event in April. Emerging academics panel for QUB conference may be worth considering for that year. Cost of BAAS noted – QUB event may be more expensive than normal. DD suggests UCD as a venue (although not Clinton Institute), HI or Boston College also possible. RC suggests targeting those in touch with MA students and coordinators. If coordinators are active, more likely that students will be too. October/November time for PGEC symposium will also allow for greater MA participation.

8. IJAS Report: SM absence noted, also apology for stalled progress. Has suggested meeting next week. AR happy to get involved also. Very important to get journal out, ideally before Oct/Nov meeting. Very possible to produce an issue, just needs meeting.
9. IAAS.ie: very good. Lots of material to be put up. Google analytics suggested as well to track traffic. Activity on social media is interesting. May be useful to harness these links for entries for book prizes etc. Books for review should be directed to Vice Chair, which needs to be clarified. JS's email can be used for this. Next book prize 2013-2015, to be awarded at next year's conference. Book suggestions can also be sent to JS, and promotion of the prize is important.
10. 2014 Conference Report: (RG) Very interesting panels, delegates enjoyed the two days, good attendance. 54 paid registrations for conference and 3 VIPs and some assistants whose registration fee was waived. Total of 60 participants. Financially, Fulbright Commission paid for Prof Strong. His participation and the Fulbright link made the whole conference much more affordable. €519 from Explore project and €250 from College of Arts. Early and late registration is a good idea for future reference. Total spend of €2760, income €3052 (€292 profit, some of which will be spent on flowers). IAAS Conference Gmail address will be passed on for next year's conference.
11. 2015 Conference date & venue: 2015 Conference venue and date: BAAS conference next year 9-12 April 2015, Northumbria University. Dublin. LRH suggested, UCD also an option. LRH has themes for funding, which would be worth considering. 24-25 April 2015 suggested for IAAS conference. Sat/Sun conference mooted but may be more expensive. DD and others Dublin-based nominated as point-people.
12. 2016 Joint Conference: (PMG) 2016 IAAS/BAAS: still happening, still in QUB. Meeting in September will be informed of any issues arising from BAAS meeting in London in summer. Keynote speakers yet to be confirmed, but Fulbright may be useful in sourcing these possibly.
13. John Berryman Centennial Conference request for support. Dublin in October and U of Minnesota, centenary of JB's birth. Support requested from IAAS up to €250, agreed. Proposal to also support attendance of IAAS member up to the same amount again, with the proviso that our membership forms be included in conference packs. Membership flier is to be circulated more widely and online.

14. Prizes subcommittee (JS): Since inception last year, funds have been much sought after. IAAS/BAAS Conference Bursary last year to Katie Aherne (also four mini-bursaries for Nottingham). Some money to RG for Berkeley trip, under the PG travel and research bursary. WTM Riches prize awarded to Sarah Cullen at this conference (announcement to be posted on iaas.ie shortly). Essay has been passed along for peer review consideration for the IJAS. SM has had to step back from prizes subcommittee. Three applications for the BAAS conference bursary, under consideration at present, decision expected soon. Research and travel bursary, two applications in at present, none for postdoctoral. Rolling bursary makes it difficult to schedule results. When/how should this be managed? Proposal to stipulate its disbursement at the end of the year. Could move the BAAS bursary to the end of the year as well. Agreed. JD wonders if the travel bursary could be broadened to include venues other than the US. Change agreed. We will revisit the frequency of research bursaries as and when we have more funds available. Berryman Centennial deadline to be discussed, will have to be soon. Book prize: interest on Twitter noted – names to be passed to JS, and encouragement for those with books coming out to apply ([jasherid@tcd.ie](mailto:jasherid@tcd.ie)).
15. Executive Committee Elections: Chair: PMG nominated JS. Seconded JD. Deemed elected, unopposed. Treasurer/Membership Secretary: WE nominated PMG, seconded CHB. AR nominated CHB, seconded JD. WE elected to continue. OMC positions x2 AR deemed elected, unopposed. DC nominated, deemed elected unopposed. EAAS representative: PMG nominated, seconded, deemed elected unopposed.
16. Proposed change to full membership rates from €30-€40/STG35 agreed. Proposal to amend concession membership from €10-€15/STG12. Also agreed. Applies to next financial/calendar year. Change comes in on 1 January 2015.
17. AOB. AR to join IJAS.  
CHB requests conference support for symposium on burlesque in September. €250 granted.  
PMG notes RC's contribution to the IAAS and proposes that RC be made Honorary Committee Member (to mirror the US Consulate positions, no obligation to attend meetings). SM also proposed as Hon Mem. RC is uncomfortable with the notion, and would help out anyway. Asks to check with SM. Final thanks to RG for excellent conference, AGM adjourned.

