



Annual General Meeting

3.45pm, Saturday April 29th

Room 2, Ulster University, Belfast Campus

AGENDA

In attendance: Alan Gibbs, Dara Downey, Nerys Young, Philip McGowan, Leona Blair, Sarah McCreedy, Hilary Bracefield, Tim Groenland, James Hussey, Sarah Cullen, Johanna Hoorenman, Bernice Murphy, David Coughlan, Katie Ahern, Rosemary Gallagher, Eilidh Hall, Hilary McLaughlin-Stonham, Mihaela Harper, Andrew Ploeg, Nerys Williams, Jennifer Daly

1. Apologies

Ron Callan, Kate Smyth

2. Minutes & Matters Arising

Minutes of the 2016 AGM were circulated to the membership in advance of this meeting, and are accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. Chair's Report (AG)

AG notes that it has been quite the year for America and American Studies. The Brexit vote and election of Donald Trump as U.S. President will have an impact that hasn't been fully felt or understood yet, and AG wonders if this might signal a surge of interest in American Studies as a subject for study. Also notes that there is continued devaluing of arts and humanities both at home and abroad, and there is also an ongoing and worrying dearth of opportunities for Early Career people and newly-minted PhDs. There may be signs of this easing with a 2 year post coming up in UCC soon. The IAAS continues to perform a valuable role, and not only awards bursaries and prizes but has worked hard to increase and expand same. Members of the Association also provided expert commentary in the media during the U.S. Presidential election with Julie Sheridan and Jennifer Daly both appearing on UTV Ireland, as well as former members such as JoAnne Mancini regularly appearing on RTE. AG notes that IJAS will have 2 special issues coming out this year. 2016/17 saw a strong series of events for the IAAS with an excellent

Annual Report 2016-17 (31.3.16 - 29.4.17)

INCOME

Membership Fees	€1,784.70
IAASPG16	€680.00
IAAS17	€1,972.40
Annual JSTOR Revenue	€1,849.30
Total Income for year	€6,286.40

Cash on Hand

Current A/C €	€4,237.74
Paypal Balance €	€149.58
	€4,387.32
Paypal Balance £	£735.32
Business Savings £	£280.00
Business Current £	£500.00 <i>approx.</i>
	£1,515.32

OUTGOINGS

Notified BOI Bank Fees	€85.72
Committee Expenses	€306.83
IBAAS16 (split across reports)	€104.15
IJAS Marketing	€44.05
WEB	€864.34
IAASPG16	€485.00
Emerson Lecture	€149.97
Sponsorship	€250.00
JSTOR fee	€5.00
Annual EAAS Dues	€600.00
Prizes and Bursaries	€1,325.83
IAAS17 (initial)	€1,529.15
Total Outgoings for year	€5,750.04

Pending

Book Prize	€500.00
IAAS17	TBC
Macular Society Donation	£115.83

2 IAAS Annual Accounts

NY proposes the establishment of a savings account (Euro) to ringfence the annual funding for prizes etc. This will allow for an easier sense of how much extra money the Association has to play with for other events and initiatives. All agreed that this should be done. NY also apologises for lack of pie chart but she did a conference instead.

5. Membership Report (JD)

Membership Type	Total
C	44
F	29
E	5
MA	0
Total Members	78
Total Paying Members	73

JD informs those present that the Association currently has 73 paying members. Notes that there is a slight dip in membership compared to this time last year, but this is as a result of IBAAS delegates being pointed in the direction of the IAAS in order to avail of membership rates for that conference. We did manage to retain some, but most were just once-off joiners. So while membership is holding steady and indeed full paying members are generally on the increase, JD notes that the Association and its members still need to be evangelical

about people with jobs joining and seeing it as something worth their time. Also notes that now that membership for full-paying members automatically renews it should be easier to retain these members once we persuade them to join up. RG observes that it's not for the want of trying sometimes. JD acknowledges this but encourages everyone to be persistent nonetheless. AG notes that he wanted a rep in each institution who would know who to encourage to join. JD confirms that lists of members by institution were sent to committee members last year to give them a sense of where the gaps were. This can be done again. All agreed the rep idea is worth exploring.

Institution	Total
TCD	12
UL	4
UCC	12
UCD	9
QUB	8
NUIG	3
UU	4
NUIM	1
DIT	1
DCU	1
UK	2
EUR	2
USA	4
ROW	1

6. EAAS Representative Report (PMG)

- Considerable churn in terms of changes to the various Association reps and also changes in terms of the webmaster team on both the website & journal
- EAAS Board meeting was held in Lausanne on 29 & 30 March, followed by the 2nd Women's Network Symposium. This was my first EAAS Board as Chair and I accomplished about 90% of what I wanted to
- We are currently out to tender for new website developers and have agreed up to €10000 for this purpose
- The *European Journal of American Studies* and its editorial team is working hard on its forward planning – and a new web platform for *EJAS* is also on the agenda with the new website

- I am in discussions with Routledge, Taylor & Francis about the possibility of housing our journal with them and consequently increasing our visibility and global reach
- The website and the journal will be (re)launched at EBAAS 2018, 4-7 April 2018 in London
- Part of the monies for these new online outlets is coming from savings made by discontinuing our current publishing relationship with Winter Verlag which publishes the conference proceedings and the Rob Kroes Prize-winning manuscript. Each volume costs the EAAS €4500 approx. and this is no longer an expense that I think is justified
- Instead, I am in advanced discussions with Palgrave Macmillan in New York to establish a new EAAS book series with them at no cost to the Association. Visibility in 5000 libraries worldwide.
- I want the EAAS to plan further ahead and have an agreement in principle from Heidelberg to host the 70th anniversary conference in 2024; after London next year, we are going to be in Warsaw in 2020 and then (most likely) Madrid in 2022 – certainly, that conference will be in Spain.
- What I didn't get, but nearly did, was agreement to introduce a two-tier subscription system for full and PG members of Associations. Some member associations pointed out that it really would make little difference to them on the ground if we had a €6 rate for full members and a €3 rate for PG members given how few PG members they have. Following the agreement to move away from Winter Verlag, which was a bit fraught, this was not something I was going to hold sway on this time
- That said, a proposal to tally the number of PG members to full members across the 22 Associations was agreed and I'm nearly there with the maths on that, a couple more Associations to submit their figures. We in the IAAS are bucking the trend as two-thirds of our members are PG members, whereas across the EAAS as a whole it is exactly the other way about, with one-third of members paying PG rates. My argument is that we should then look to spend one-third of our income on PG initiatives – the EAAS Treasurer has, this week, contacted me to say that, in terms of income from subscriptions, we do currently spend about this proportion on travel grants for students (approximately €14000 per annum). Notes there were no applications from Irish members for any of these grants.
- And speaking of money, the EAAS coffers are healthy with total assets as of 31 Dec 2016 at €306,302.40, a slight drop (of €130) on the previous year due to a dip in the Amsterdam Trust Fund's projected asset strengths.
- So, steady as she goes on some fronts and all change on others.

7. PG & Early Career Caucus Report (RG/KA)

KA notes that the symposium held at UCC last November was largest to date, with 16 speakers and 35 registered delegates. All the abstracts submitted were good which was why it was decided to expand the programme. RG notes that parallel panels do work and should be considered going forward at future PG events as the interest is clearly there.

RG informs those present that the special issue of *IJAS* arising from the 2015 symposium was delayed (RG notes her apologies) but KA has been helping out in recent weeks and it is now almost ready to go.

8. *IJAS Online* Report (DC)

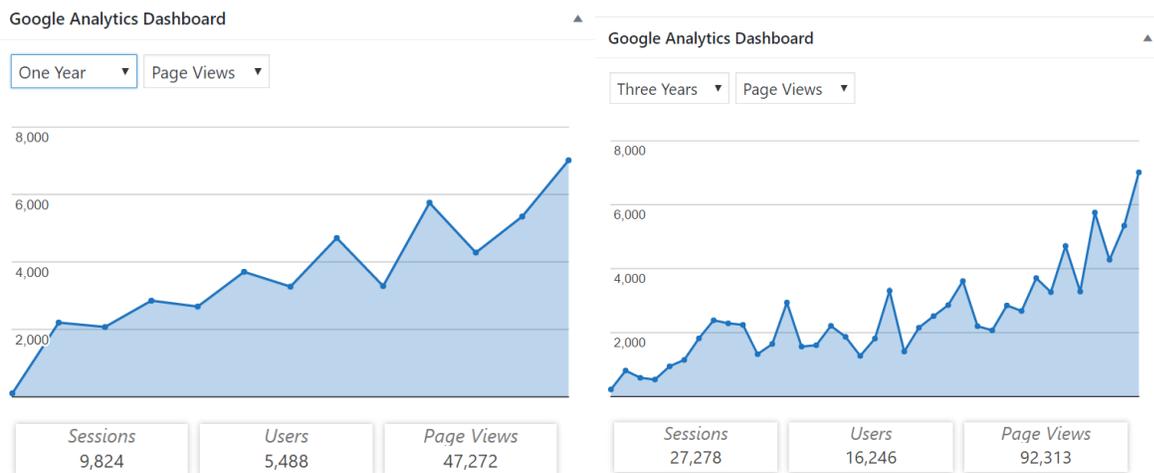
DC informs all that since the last AGM the journal has published articles on Updike and Vonnegut, and also a number of book reviews. The journal has now fully moved to a model of rolling publication with special issues, and there is continuous updating of the site. Two special issues will be published in 2017 – PG issue edited by RG, KA, KS, and the Marilynne Robinson issue edited by JD. TG is now reviews editor and Clair Sheehan also joined the editorial board. DC notes there is a need to increase the number of regular submissions. Have received a lot of submissions but have also rejected a lot after peer review. DC will be issuing another CFP to keep the journal in mind as somewhere to publish. DC also notes that there are currently lots of books available for review and invites anyone interested to regularly check <http://ijas.iaas.ie/index.php/books-for-review/?issue=issue-1> to see if there is anything they would be interested in reviewing. The Editors are also open to proposals for future special issues and DC asks that anyone with ideas approach him.

AG also encourages IAAS17 panellists to rework papers and consider submitting them to journal. DC notes that once they're through review process the article will be online quickly so there isn't the same delay as with traditional publication models.

9. IAAS website (www.iaas.ie) (JD)

JD informs the committee that the website is doing well. Summer of 2016 saw the recruitment of three volunteer web interns who rotate posting duties for CFPs, job ads, events news etc on the website. This has seen an increase in traffic to the site, made the site a reference point for American Studies in Ireland, and has significantly eased JD's own website-related workload. Will be issuing a call for new interns soon

and encourages all interested to apply. JD also notes that over the summer months BG will be installing security certs on the main website. The growth in visitors to the website is heartening to see (attached graphs showing growth over the last 12 months and last 3 years) and shows that the Association is moving in the right direction in getting its message out.



10. Prizes Subcommittee (DD)

DD recalls the late TE's belief that the IAAS should spend its money on prizes and supporting members in their research. Association continues to work hard on providing supports and awards that are relevant to membership and currently offers/has recently awarded the following:

Recent Awards

1) Peggy O'Brien Book Prize (€500)

- Applicants: 5
- Winner: Daniel Geary (TCD)

2) Postdoctoral and Early-Career Award (€300)

- Applicants: 1
- Result: Not awarded

3) Postgraduate Travel and Research Bursary (€300)

- Applicants: 2
- Winners: Sarah Cullen (TCD) and Jordan Markey (NUIG)

4) BAAS Conference Bursary (€300)

- Applicants: 2
- Winner: Sarah McCreedy (UCC)

5) Adam Matthew Digital Essay Prize (€100)

- Open to: "late-stage PhD candidates, early career researchers, and independent scholars in the field of North American studies."
- Applicants: None.

Upcoming Awards

1) WTM Riches Essay Prize (€100 book token)

- Due in: 31st May 2017
- Open to: “undergraduates and students in the first year of research or taught postgraduate programmes.”
- Applicants: 1 (and 1 enquiry)

2) Early Career Travel, Research, and Conference Bursary (€300)

- Due in: 30 June
- Applicants: None

3) Postgraduate Travel and Research Bursary (€300)

- Due in: 30 June
- Applicants: None

4) MA Travel and Research Bursary (€100)

- Due in: 30 June
- Applicants: None

5) Postgraduate Conference Bursary (€200)

- Due in: 30 June
- Applicants: None

DD notes that the Association has increased the number and value of bursaries on offer, and there is a broad range of awards across all stages. Encourages members to point others in direction of prizes, and reminds all that the WTM Riches Essay Prize deadline will be coming up soon.

JD also notes that one of the things that the committee worked very hard on over the past year was the overhaul of the Prizes Subcommittee. In order for the decision-making process to be more transparent, and also to ease the burden on members of the Executive Committee, a number of external people were approached to act as assessors and all agreed to participate. JD expresses thanks to all those involved in making this work.

11. IAAS17 Conference Report (NY)

NY confirms that IAAS17 had 46 paying delegates, 38 who gave papers, and everything seems to have gone well. The orange crème brulee at dinner was excellent, and NY hopes everyone has enjoyed themselves and found the event stimulating. Accounts are still to be finalised but thinks the conference may break even, which is good news. NY also expresses thanks to those at UU who provided catering etc, and especially to HMS who was a brilliant assistant.

12. Elections to Executive Committee

AG steps down as Chair, and JD runs elections. Before beginning the process, JD expresses thanks to AG

for his work as Chair.

JD informs the committee that two nominations were received for the position of PG reps. Before nominating them, JD takes a moment to express heartfelt thanks to the outgoing reps for their tremendous work over recent years in creating such a vibrant and energetic PG network, in particular to RG who has been an important part of the committee for the past five years.

JD nominates Sarah Cullen and James Hussey for the position of PG and Early Career Co-Chairs. As there are two vacancies and no other nominations, both are deemed elected unopposed.

JD informs those in attendance that no nominations were received for the position of Secretary. Asks if anyone would like to nominate themselves now. Nobody does. JD nominates herself for the position of Secretary. Deemed elected unopposed.

JD informs those present that, quite worryingly, not a single nomination or expression of interest was received for the position of Chair. JD invites nominations from the floor. PMG volunteers to stand as Chair again. After some discussion, DC nominates himself as Chair and is deemed elected unopposed.

13. AOB

JD notes that she had intended to move a proposal to create a dedicated Early Career rep position on the Executive Committee, but withdrew this motion for a number of reasons including a general lack of candidates willing to take on the role and JD's own doubts as to how viable the position would be. Suggests that it could be one of the most thankless positions on the committee as there is currently nowhere for EC people to go in Ireland and the Association is limited in how much we can actually do to effect any change in this respect. TG also notes that EC people are already overloaded as it is, and asking someone to take on another thing like this position could be unreasonable. RG is quite passionate about the need for this role. Thinks it would be a good opportunity to keep people involved who might be moving away from academia but would still like to be involved in some way. Perhaps think about it for next year? RG is willing to run workshops without being on committee and appeals to the Association to think deeply about a forgotten cohort. JD suggests leaving committee structure as it currently stands, but to retain the option to co-opt for 1 year an EC member who would be interested in taking on the role. Can then revisit it to see if it is something that is worth making a permanent fixture on the committee. All agreed. BM also suggests that those on the committee or in the Association more widely who already have academic jobs could make themselves available to help those in the process of applying for jobs with

interview/CV/cover letter tips and advice.

RG also notes that RTE are currently hiring for Brainstorm, a project that will combine academic writing with something along the lines of Salon.com. RG suggests members should consider applying/submitting work once it's up and running.

DC notes his surprise, but also his honour, at being in the position of Chair now and notes his thanks to former Chairs AG and PMG for their commitment to the Association. Also expresses thanks to NY and HMS again for their work on the conference and draws AGM to a close.