



Annual General Meeting
Saturday April 28th
Humanities Institute, University College Dublin
MINUTES

In attendance: Julie Sheridan, James Hussey, Sarah Cullen, Dara Downey, Tim Groenland, Philip McGowan, Nerys Williams, Eve Cobain, Katherine Fama, Clare Hayes Brady, Nerys Young, David Coughlan, Jennifer Daly, Ian Davidson, Kristina Graaf

1. Apologies

Ron Callan, Bernice Murphy, Fionnghula Sweeney, Caroline Schroeter

2. Minutes & Matters Arising

Minutes circulated with AGM notices. Any matters dealt with in reports.

3. Chair's Report (DC)

DC thanked all for coming to the AGM and conference. Extended sincere thanks to relieved and exhausted organisers for wonderful event. Everything was top notch, great papers, delegates etc. Hopefully it was all worthwhile.

DC noted that American Studies appears to be vibrant in Ireland – the level of debate and participation at the conference was high, and the association was very healthy and energetic itself. Subsequent reports would also suggest the subject is in a strong position BUT DC noted that there was much to be concerned about. The Americas MPhil at Trinity is not running, there is no American Studies MA at Queen's, and the only dedicated American Studies masters in Ireland now is at UCD. No postdocs and jobs coming on stream. European associations also struggling. This challenging environment means positive action to

promote and PRESERVE American Studies in Ireland is needed. DC noted that a new committee would be elected later in the meeting and hopes to see the same drive and passion in continuing to nurture American Studies in Ireland.

DC noted his thanks to the committee for all their work over the year. Also noted his honour to work with the association over this first year as Chair.

4. Treasurer's Report (NY)

NY presented the annual accounts and also the most up-to-date bank accounts.

Annual Report 2017-18 (29.4.17 - 28.4.18)

INCOME

Membership Fees	€2,069.00	approx.
IAASPG17	€981.21	approx.
IAAS18	€4,346.00	approx.
Irish Copyright License Fee	€51.40	
Annual JSTOR Revenue	€1,618.44	
Total Income for year	€9,066.05	

Cash on Hand

Current A/C €	€5,288.71
Paypal Balance €	€151.93
	€5,440.64

Paypal Balance £	£0.00
Business Savings £	£280.00
Cash on hand £	£574.00
	£854.00

OUTGOINGS

Notified BOI Bank Fees	€54.77
Committee Expenses	€274.55
WEB	€1,225.30
IAASPG17	€408.51
Emerson Lecture	€0.00
Annual EAAS Dues	€474.00
Prizes and Bursaries	€1,405.00
IAAS17 (split)	€1,782.21
IAAS18 (initial)	€1,555.86
Total Outgoings for year	€7,180.20

Pending

Prizes	€400.00
IAAS18	TBC
Macular Society Donation	£115.83

IAAS EURO ACCOUNTS				NY10- 28.4.18
Income	€		Expenditure	€
JSTOR Annual Payment	1,618.44		EBAAS Bursaries x3	450.00
Membership Fees from Paypal	254.00	approx	IAAS PG Conf Bursary	200.00
IAAS18 Fulbright Award	1,000.00		EAAS Dues	474.00
IAAS18 Clinton Inst. Contribution	200.00		IAAS ECR Bursary	300.00
IAAS18 Fees from Paypal	3,146.00	approx	IAAS18 Expenses	1555.86
Institutional Membership	50.00		Bank Fees/Charges	21.62
			Committee Expenses (Room)	80.00
			Prize Comm Expenses	15.00
Income	6,268.44		Total Expenditure	3096.48
			<i>PENDING PAYMENT</i>	
			IAAS Conf Bursary	100
			IAAS PG T&R Bursary	300
Paypal membership account balance	151.93			
			IAAS STERLING ACCOUNT/S	
			Closed BOI-QUB account (cash-on-hand)	£574.00
			Dead BOI-UU account (closure processing)	£284.00
Total Income Less Expenditure	3,171.96			£858.00
CURRENT A/C Balance at 1.2.18	5,288.71		<i>PENDING PAYMENT</i>	
			MACULAR SOCIETY DONATION (MUGS)	£115.83

5. Membership Report (JD)

Membership Report

Membership Type	Total
Concessions	47
Full Memberships	27
Emeritus	5
MA	0
Total Members	79
Total Paying Members	74

Full Membership: €40

Concession: €15

Institution	Total
Trinity College Dublin	15
University of Limerick	3
University College Cork	12
University College Dublin	11
Queen's University Belfast	8
NUI Galway	4
Ulster University	1
Maynooth University	3
DIT	1
DCU	2
UK	3
EUR	2
USA	3
ROW	0
N/A	5

JD advised the meeting of the current membership numbers. Also sounded a note of caution that numbers are in danger of declining again if consistent attention is not given to recruitment and retention.

Urged all those present to encourage new members to join up.

6. EAAS Representative Report (PMG)

PMG informed the meeting of recent developments in the EAAS including the election of new officers. As of January, EAAS accounts held €314,592.49 and there was €297,213.90 in the Amsterdam Trust Fund. German tax status has been resolved for the next two years.

New initiatives are being developed for postgraduate and early career members. Prof. Martin Halliwell has agreed to coordinate same. A summer school in Warsaw has also been suggested. Dates have been agreed for future EAAS events including the Women's Network in April 2019 in Greece, May 2020 in Warsaw, and Hungary in 2021 (political climate in Hungary might see this event moved). EAAS 2022 is in Madrid, and Munich in 2024. A new book series with Palgrave Macmillan is also in development. Noted that there were no Irish applicants for the EAAS travel awards worth €2,000 each. 14 grants available. All eligible were encouraged to apply.

Some teething problems with new website meant that some awards were not advertised as widely as they could have been. Noted the establishment of new EAAS networks including Contemporary American Poetry and the LGBTQ network. Also noted the difficulties that some of the smaller associations were experiencing in maintaining membership and staying active etc.

7. PG & Early Career Caucus Report (SC & JH)

The November symposium had 16 speakers, 31 delegates. PG reps noted that there were a number of new members at the symposium with good turnout from UCC and UCD in particular! Noted thanks to Dearbhaile Heuston (TCD) who wrote a review of the symposium for US Studies Online. Also noted thanks to the School of English at Trinity for financial support of the event. Planning for 2018 symposium in early stages but most likely will be in the Long Room Hub again. Reps noted that they would be recruiting helpers as TCD UGs were keen to get involved. Hope to increase the number of panels to give more opportunities for presenters. DC noted thanks to the PG Reps for the 2017 symposium and congratulated them for organising a great event.

8. IJAS Online Report (DC)

DC noted that since last year there had been big developments. In 2017: issue 6 was published along with

the special issue on Marilynne Robinson. 2018 will see issues 7 and 8 published. Issue 7 will be a special PG/ECR issue from Katie Ahern, Kate Smyth, and Rosemary Gallagher. DC hoped that it would be live within next two weeks. A series of articles would then be published over the rest of the year to form issue 8.

Other ongoing work is archiving the journal within JSTOR. Issues 1 and 2 are already archived. 3,4, 5 would be completed soon. DC noted that from now on the editors would be formatting simultaneously with online publication. DC also noted that the IAAS receives payment for every downloaded article in JSTOR. The journal will remain open access so the association has the best of both worlds.

The editorial board currently consists of DC, Dara Downey, Clair Sheehan, Clare Hayes-Brady, and Tim Greenland. DC noted that DD would be stepping down from journal board. DC thanked DD for all her work on the journal. DC appealed for people to volunteer to work on the journal, particularly people not on the IAAS committee. A new rota system has been implemented to ensure work is divided fairly and attended to on time. DC also invited speakers at the conference to submit work for consideration in journal.

9. IAAS online activities (JD)

JD updated the meeting on developments on the website. A security cert was added to iaas.ie so all payments are fully secure. Web interns were recruited and update the news section each week. Anything to be posted (CFPs, job ads etc) can be sent to postings@iaas.ie. Mailing list had 478 subscribers.

10. Prizes Subcommittee (DD)

• Recent Awards

Early Career Travel, Research, and Conference Bursary (€300): Cathal Smith (NUIG)

Postgraduate Travel and Research Bursary (€300): Samantha Gowdy (QUB)

Postgraduate Conference Bursary (€200): Caroline Schroeter (UCC)

BAAS Postgraduate Conference Bursary (€200): No applicants

EBAAS Conference Bursary (3 x €100): Ciaran O'Rourke (TCD), Gaby Fletcher (NUIG), Caroline Schroeter (UCC)

IAAS Annual Conference Bursary (PG and open) (2 x €100 – only one awarded): Maria Quigley (NUIG)

Total awarded since April 2017: c. €2240

DD advised the meeting of upcoming awards and deadlines and encouraged all those eligible to apply. Noted that the current subcommittee consists of Katie Ahern (UCC), Daniel Geary (TCD), Bernice Murphy (TCD), and Susan Norton (DIT).

DD noted the importance of advertising the bursaries and essay prizes and asked for ideas about how to reach beyond the association's usual channels.

11. IAAS18 Conference Report (NW)

It was felt that the theme of this year's conference was really strong – NW noted thanks to Maria Stuart for coming up with the idea. There was a huge response to the CFP. NW noted that the IAAS website really helped with advertising the conference. Noted her thanks to all of the organising team. Sue Currell's plenary was recorded and will be posted on the Humanities Institute website. Noted that final accounts would not be ready until after the conference but even with outstanding bills the finances should be ok. NW noted that Fulbright had a requirement for public outreach as part of the funding they gave towards the conference hence the plenary being open to anyone and recorded. Also noted that maintaining links with Fulbright would be very beneficial for the association. DC congratulated the organisers and delegates for an excellent event.

12. Elections to Executive Committee (JD)

JD informed the meeting that the following nominations for vacant positions were received;

Vice-Chair: Katherine Fama (UCD)

Treasurer: Nerys Young (UU)

EAAS Representative: Philip McGowan (QUB)

Ordinary Committee Members: Bernice Murphy (TCD), Caroline Schroeter (UCC)

All were deemed elected unopposed.

13. AOB

It was announced that the 2019 annual conference would take place in UCC, dates would be announced in due course.

DC noted that DD has been on the IAAS committee as long as he has been a member and it would be difficult to overstate her dedication and commitment to the IAAS. Noted that she was a pleasure to work with, thanked her for all she had done for the IAAS, and presented her with flowers on behalf of all the membership.

DD thanked everyone, and noted that she presented her first ever paper ever at an IAAS PG symposium in UCD many years ago. Noted that this was the first time she met Tony Emmerson and that gave her a lasting positive impression of the IAAS. Encouraged anyone who might be interested to join and get involved.

Meeting was adjourned.