

## Minutes

**In attendance:** Catherine Gander (CG), Nerys Young (NY), Katherine Fama (KF), James Hussey (JH), Philip McGowan (PG), Sarah McCreedy (SMcC), Maria Manning (MM), Janice Deitner (JD), Ron Callan (RC), Caroline Schroeter (CS), Tim Groenland (TG)

### 1. Apologies

Apologies sent on from David Coughlan (DC), who could not be present for the committee meeting.

### 2. Minutes & Matters Arising

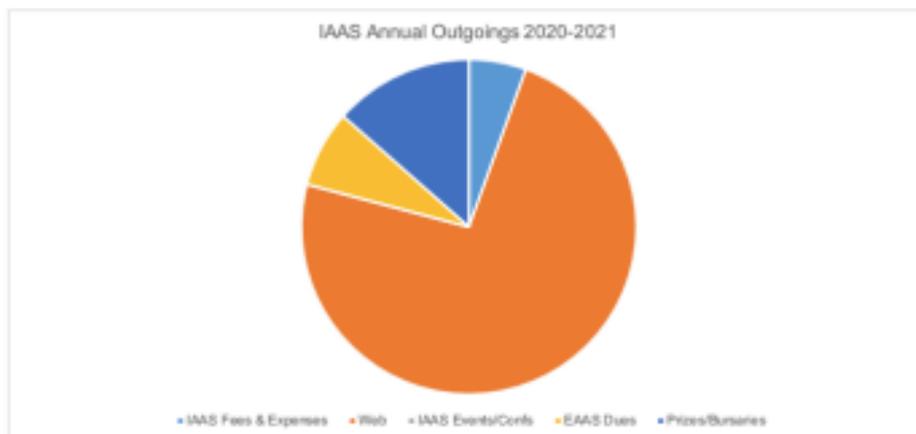
No issues were presented with minutes from the previous meeting. Due to last year's pandemic restrictions, there were no AGM minutes from 2020 to present for this edition of the IAAS AGM.

### 3. Chair's Report

CG wanted to thank everyone for their efforts with the conference, and wished to note the success of the event. CG wished to say a massive thank you, in particular, to JoAnne Mancini, David Connolly and Catherine Leen. The quality of papers and panels, across the weekend, was outstanding, and the IAAS truly appreciates the efforts of those that attended. CG wished, also, to note her thanks to Sarah McCreedy, for her support and help behind-the-scenes. Apart from thanking people, CG indicated that the conference revenue was sitting in the business unit of Maynooth University, with registrations for the 2020 conference kept, with the bill-payer's permission as donations. NY and CG are on the case in terms of moving this money over to the correct IAAS account. The money for keynote speakers will be moved from the MU finance office to the IAAS to avoid unnecessary payment of tax.

### 4. Treasurer's Report

NY started with good news - the IAAS has money! Although it has been a tough year for all, it has actually worked out well for the Association. Money usually spent on travel bursaries was used to launch the redesigned website and implement the needed back-end fixes.



From the pie chart, the majority of expenditure went through web services, with the second largest outlay coming through prizes and bursaries. Income is up on the last year, and NY made a specific plea for committee members to keep pushing JStor links to *IJAS* content in reading lists. Even with book prizes and others to come out, we have reached our AGM in rude health. NY, after being asked by KF, wished to clarify that the Douglass poetry sponsorship money has come out of the accounts, but is not reflected in the figures presented today. CG asked why there had been a delay on the poetry prize payment. NY assured us that there was nothing sinister to this, merely a delayed email response from the recipient. To finish the report, NY noted that she is undertaking a "How to be a Treasurer" course over the coming months, and hoped that it would help in the

association's plans for a rainy day fund going forward.

## **5. Membership Report**

As of the AGM, the Association had 120 members, consisting of 67 full members, 49 concession members and 5 honorary members. This represents, as far as most of the committee were aware, the highest membership total for the IAAS.

## **6. EAAS Representative Report**

PG confirmed a virtual version of the postponed conference would be going ahead from 31st April to 2nd May, with everything in place bar the inevitable technological issues that would crop up during the course of the weekend. A number of member associations have asked for their fees to be waived, given the current situation and an inability to hold meetings. The EAAS will be instituting a standalone web officer as part of the committee, because the current website is limited and possibly turning members away. A call will be coming out after the conference for, hopefully, an in-person conference in Madrid in 2022, during the weekend of the 7th - 10th April. CG noted the incentives for joining the EAAS, with PG highlighting that only 14 applications were received last year for 15 prizes of €2000. Once things start opening up again, it is hoped that these bursaries will come back on stream for ECRs.

## **7. PG & Early Career Caucus Report**

SMcC and MM indicated that there was nothing major to report, but expressed happiness that a number of returning delegates from the 2020 symposium as conference attendees.

## **8. IJAS Online Report**

In the context of the conference's theme of "Counter Narratives and Hidden Histories," *IJAS* is pleased to say that it has contributed a number of articles to the JSTOR & Schomburg Center Open Library project, which sees JSTOR collaborating with the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture to create an open library of existing JSTOR content based on the Center's [Black Liberation Reading List](#), in order to contribute to the ongoing scholarly conversations around racial justice and inequality.

2020 saw *IJAS Online* publish Issue 9, the IAAS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary special issue on Irish American Studies. Many thanks and congratulations to guest editor Tim Groenland for producing an extraordinarily successful issue with 22 contributors, which really captured the vision and energy of the association. Issue 10, 2020/21, is shaping up to be another exciting, bumper issue. Finally, and as usual, the editors of *IJAS Online* will be delighted if conference participants want to submit essays to the journal for consideration for publication.

TG wished to record a special thanks to DC for his help in putting together the special edition.

## **9. Prizes Subcommittee**

KF wished to thank everyone involved with the book prize, and noted that there were a number of upcoming prizes for the rest of the year. With prizes withdrawn for travel bursaries, an expanded slate of 50th Anniversary prizes will be presented. KF asked committee members to share news of this and continue the promotion push for these prizes.

## **10. Elections to Executive Committee**

CG started the elections to the Executive Committee by noting last year's write-off and the subsequent changes to the usual tenure of two years. A number of people have been confirmed as staying in their positions, with MM remaining on as a PG Rep. CG wished to record that it has become more evident since the last AGM that being an Early Career Researcher is an increasingly precarious position. With this in mind, and the need to do more for ECRs, CG wished to take advantage of a clause in the constitution to create two additional memberships of the Executive Committee. CS and TG have been nominated for these roles, and both have accepted this. CG wanted to express her gratitude to JH as he stepped down from the position of secretary, thanking

him for his work and commitment to the association. There are two nominations for the Secretary Position, namely Sarah McCreedy and Fionnghuala Sweeney. SMcC was asked to leave the meeting to respect the election process and was duly elected to the committee. Janice Deitner was elected to the committee as a Postgraduate Representative. The OCM elections took place next, and after a veritable eternity, much gnashing of teeth and fevered debate, JH and Adam Kelly were elected as OCMs for two years. Fionnghuala Sweeney was co-opted as a member of the Prizes Subcommittee for one year, and an OCM for one year.

## **11. AOB**

PG noted the need to start thinking about next year's conference. After brief consultation, it was decided that it would be best to have the 2022 conference at on the first or last weekend of April. CG indicated that the where was of more interest to her, and asked for institutions to be volunteered by those in attendance. Given that David wasn't present, the possibility of holding it in Limerick grew more attractive, particularly with no other volunteered institution. PG indicated that the conference hadn't been held in Limerick since 2013. CG confirmed that the emails nobody wants to receive would be sent out soon and we would go from there.

CG provided a reminder that Alan Gibbs would be giving the 2021 Emmerson lecture, but that some work would be needed to work out issues with regard to the right digital platform. With that, and a gathering silence, the AGM and conference drew to a close. CG thanked everyone for their attendance and participation, and welcomed our new members.