



**PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016, 9pm to 10 pm  
Christopher Cox Room, New College, Oxford**

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from David Bridges.

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting (held on 28 March 2015)**

The minutes were accepted.

**3. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Update from the Chair**

James Conroy updated the meeting on our new partnership with the British Academy. The first round of submissions has taken place and members are encouraged to submit for the second round later this year. A greater number of proposals will improve our profile within the British Academy. Awards of up to £10K are available and submitters must be resident in the UK or one member on the application must be a UK resident. Selection is very competitive and applicants must pay really close attention to the criteria as the British Academy does the first stage of decision making. Applicants should identify that they are applying for the PESGB stream.

Patricia White is working on a Virtual Issue of JOPE and she was thanked for her continual hard work on this, which will include a round of interviews taking place at New College during the conference.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

The Society remains in a good position with sound financial reserves. The reserves have been reduced in line with Charity Commission rules with large payments through Large Grants and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference. Going forward our funding will be reduced to £165K per annum. Richard Davies presented the annual accounts and explained that the auditor has reduced the sub-headings used from previous years. Sharon Todd proposed the accounts be accepted and this was seconded by Mary Richardson.

Richard Davies also recommended that Slaters be re-appointed as our auditors for another year. This was proposed by Janet Orchard and seconded by Doret de Ruyter. The Chair thanked RD for his continuing hard work as Treasurer.



## **6. Large Grants Scheme**

Judith Suissa, Large Grants Chair, thanked all members of the Large Grants Committee for their work in taking time to consider and evaluate the applications for funding received this year. The committee members were: Sharon Todd, Alis Oancea, Geoff Hinchliffe, Ansgar Allen. Five awards were made to Simon Larter-Evans (Doctoral), Anders Schinkel (Research Fellowship), Torrill Strand (Seminar Series), Juris Vlieghe (Seminar Series), Lewis Stockwell (Miscellaneous). The next round will be announced in October with a submission deadline in January 2017. The Chair thanked JS and her committee.

## **7. Journal**

Bob Davis delivered his 5<sup>th</sup> report on behalf of the Editorial Committee and he thanked the JOPE Editorial Board, all reviewers and readers for their continued effort and support. He reported an increase in subscriptions and downloads with particular reference to the UK, China, India and Turkey. Interest in the Journal is expanding internationally and a strategy to encourage and improve contributions from the emerging markets is underway in conjunction with Wiley. Various new technological reading aids are now available on line. Vol 50, Issue 1 is an expression of the joint working of the Society and the Journal. It also celebrates a much-discussed item from our book series. Morwenna and BD are working on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference issue showcasing a rich cross-section of the work carried out in Philosophy of Education, which and will be used as part of our marketing strategy. BD is also working with Patricia White on the Virtual Issue, which will provide an archive covering the past 50 years. This will include filmed interviews and the voices of our members. The task has taken a great deal of research, time and labour but given immense satisfaction. Vol 51, issue 1 will be published in February 2017 and will be a double issue with information on what the Journal may look like in years to come.

The Chair thanked BD for creating great work with the Editorial Board. BD was invited unanimously by the Executive Committee to take on the role as JOPE Editor for a second term and he has accepted.

## **8. Annual Conference**

Morwenna Griffiths, the conference chair, prepared a full report on the work of the conference chair, the committee and the paper review committee, detailing the processes involved in preparing the conference programme. This is MG's final year as chair. The programme this year comprises three keynote speakers and 31 parallel sessions, which include 51 papers, 4 symposia and 6 workshops. There are also 13 posters. There were 131 submissions this year, with an acceptance rate of 45%, similar to the last two years. The blind reviewing process was very successful. The Chair thanked MG for her superb work and providing excellent conferences over the three years. The conference committee - Patricia White, Ben Kotzee, David Aldridge, Richard Davies and Carrie Winstanley - were also thanked by MG.



## **9. Secretary's Report**

There are now 20 branches, the newest being set up in Strathclyde under David Lewin. Both Nottingham and Warwick have been revived with new Branch Secretaries. Members are asked to contact Ben Kotzee if interested in setting up a new branch. BK reports on the activities of the Society each year to the Charity Commission in his Trustees Report. His report was accepted by the Executive Committee.

The Chair thanked BK for his active involvement within the Society.

## **10. Development Committee**

APEN - African PoE Network. Ellie Glevey, John White and Morwenna Griffiths are working together to promote PoE in Africa through conferences and seminars, membership of the Society and through JOPE. Twelve applications were received for six Teacher Scholarship places at the Conference and two bursaries were funded for Eastern European students to attend the conference. The Dewey Conference will be held at the end of September and 120 papers have been received from 25 countries. One-third of the papers are from the UK. The Chair thanked Ruth Heilbronn for overseeing the active and committed Development Committee.

## **11. Race and Ethnicity**

This new group was established in November 2015 following discussions at the Executive Committee Away Day. The members are Judith Suissa, Darren Chetty, Michael Merry, Zara Bain, Jack Bicker Paul Standish and Naziya O'Reilly. The group will promote and support the study of PoE addressed to questions of race and ethnicity; recruit new members from racial and ethnic groups currently under-represented; create a network for people with an interest in PoE relating to race and ethnicity. The inaugural meeting was held at the conference on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016 and was well attended. A survey is currently being carried out by the Runnymede Trust into race and representation within the Society and an Extraordinary Executive Meeting will be held in the summer to discuss its findings. Members are asked to contact Darren Chetty: [dmchetty@hotmail.com](mailto:dmchetty@hotmail.com) if they are interested in joining the group. Information will be included on the website.

The Chair thanked JS and DC for their work in setting up this new initiative.

## **12. Website**

The new website is going from strength to strength and developing annually. Mary Richardson, Naomi Hodgson and Ruth Heilbronn have been working on the redesign of the website and JOPE cover to bring them up to date. There have been over 3000 more hits on the website this year. Social media support is improving but more work is needed on this and we are looking to employ a professional company to assist. The Resources section of the website can be added to and members are asked to contribute MR with any contributions they think may be useful: [Mary.Richardson@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:Mary.Richardson@ucl.ac.uk). An electronic version of the Newsletter will be provided from the website in future, although some hard copies will still be published. Ruth Wareham has been taken on board to look after this. A blog site



is being created and John White will be the first contributor. It will be stated that the opinions of the blogger will be their own and not those of the Society. There will be no possibility to reply to the blog page other than through Twitter as we do not have the resources to manage this.

The Chair thanked MR, NH and RH for doing an extraordinary good job introducing the new website.

### **13. BERA**

The annual conference will be held in Leeds in September 2016. Richard Davies and James Conroy are both on the BERA Board and Janet Orchard and Chris Winch are also working with BERA. PESGB members are encouraged to engage with BERA and submit papers each year.

### **14. IMPACT**

IMPACT 22 written by Janet Orchard and Christopher Winch “What training do teachers need?” was launched in November 2015. The pamphlet received a good deal of publicity in TES and in Schools Week. A podcast of the event is available on the website. IMPACT 23 written by Christopher Martin “Should students have to borrow?” will be launched on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May at the Institute of Education, UCL. Another three titles are in the pipeline from Jonathan Webber and Clea Rees, Carrie Winstanley, and Adam Swift and Matthew Clayton. Any ideas for future titles should be forwarded to Michael Hand: [m.hand@bham.ac.uk](mailto:m.hand@bham.ac.uk).

The Chair thanked MH and the IMPACT Board for putting PoE into the policy sphere.

### **15. Elections**

Vice Chair - Richard Smith is standing down after two years and one nomination has been received. Paul Standish is nominated by James Conroy and Seconded by Morwenna Griffiths. Paul has been a member since 1979 and will now take on the role of Vice Chair and Chair Elect.

Conference Chair - Morwenna Griffiths has been in this role for three years and is now standing down. Padraig Hogan is nominated by Richard Smith and Seconded by Ben Kotzee. Padraig will take on this role and start to organise the 2017 annual conference.

Elected Member - Judith Suissa is coming to the end of her term as an elected member. Christine Doddington is nominated by Christine Tubb and Seconded by Paul Standish. Christine will take on this role immediately.

Secretary - Ben Kotzee has come to the end of his term as Secretary but has agreed to re-stand. He is nominated by Carrie Winstanley and Seconded by Richard Davies.

The Chair thanked everyone for standing for election and for all the hard work carried out in these Executive roles.



## **16. Any other business**

The Chair thanked Janet Orchard for her work with teacher practitioners and encouraging them to join the Society. It is hoped that this practice will be extended and members are asked to contact Janet or any member of the Executive Committee if they have any ideas to promote this initiative: [pesgb@sasevents.co.uk](mailto:pesgb@sasevents.co.uk).

Andrea English asked why elections are conducted at the AGM and not, for instance, by post or online. BK responded that the procedure for voting is laid down in the Society's constitution. All paying members who attend the AGM are allowed to vote. If members of the Society want the constitution amended this should be brought up at the AGM and will then be discussed by the Executive Committee and resolutions brought back to the next AGM for endorsement.

The Executive Committee has to determine that there is at least one nomination for a post before the vote but any member can put their name forward in time for the AGM. Richard Davies agreed that openness and transparency are of the utmost importance and the Executive Committee always tried to ensure this was apparent. Andrea English felt that it was not possible for all members to vote if they could not afford to attend the conference. The Executive Committee will discuss this further and bring a proposal to the next AGM in 2017.

Plamena Pehlivanova asked if the Society had a particular aim or goal; how do we evaluate our success; how do we impact policy; what is our education policy; what are the priorities and is there a case for reviewing these? The Committee replied that our effectiveness is measured by the REF and most projects are evaluated internally e.g. Summer School, Philosophy for Teachers. JOPE and IMPACT successes are apparent in the downloadable data available. The Executive Committee will discuss these issues and report back to the AGM in 2017.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

## **17. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at New College, Oxford on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.