



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

MINUTES

**Saturday 1st April 2017, 9pm to 10.30 pm
Lecture Room 6, New College, Oxford**

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Carrie Winstanley and Wilf Carr. Members at the AGM joined to congratulate Carrie on becoming a Professor.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting (held on 2 April 2016)

The minutes were accepted.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Update from the Chair

James Conroy reported that it has been a busy year. A survey carried out by Runnymede on 'Race and Representation' in the Society has resulted in a statement against complete intolerance and a Race and Ethnicity Committee has been established.

An agreement has been set up with the British Academy to fund small grants. There are two calls per annum in May and September. PESGB would like to fund three grants each year and encourages members to apply. There is a 15 - 20% success rate as the British Academy is keen to support educational societies. Applicants have to be from the UK but the award does not have to be spent in the UK.

The Society will be budgeting carefully over the coming year after spending some of its reserves on the 50th Anniversary celebrations and distributing Large Grants. This spending was in line with Charity Commission rules.

5. Secretary's Report

The Society now has 22 branches with a new branch being re-instated in the South-East once more in Canterbury. The branches have been very active with meetings and events and members are encouraged to get involved. A draft annual report to the Charity Commission was presented. The Society currently has 578 members and the annual conference and smaller events are well attended throughout the year, the Journal continues to flourish, we support members with Large and Small grants, membership fees remain low, our website is used extensively and we are pursuing many activities in the UK and abroad through the Development Committee.

Acceptance of The Trustees Report was proposed by Judith Suissa and seconded by Mary Richardson.

Society election procedures and options

At the AGM in 2016, the question was asked why the Society conducts its elections at the AGM where only a small number of members are present. The PESGB constitution currently says that elections should be carried out at the AGM but other options are available for consideration. The four options to consider are:

1. Maintain the status quo
2. Voting by proxy
3. Postal voting
4. Online voting

Both the postal and online voting system will involve a change to the constitution and incur cost implications. Election announcements would need to be made much earlier and given more publicity to secure both nominations and voting before the AGM. This could be done through the website to allow all members access. A nomination was made to try a system of voting by proxy for one year with a closing date for nominations at the end of February (to be discussed and organised at F&GP) but also to discuss a motion to change the constitution to allow online voting (to be discussed at the next Executive Meeting in November).

6. Treasurer's Report, Accounts and Appointment of Auditors

The Society no longer holds such high reserves having paid out money in line with Charity Commission rules for Large and Small Grants and expanding the work of the Society. The level of reserves agreed by the Executive Committee is £100,000. In order to rebalance our income and expenditure it is proposed to increase the membership fees by £10 to £34. This will be the first increase since 1995. The student membership fee will not be increased. Both membership fees and conference fees have been held at relatively low rates for a long time. Most of the Society funding is from the Journal and publishing revenue can be changeable. A facility to set up a system to make a voluntary charitable donation was suggested will be set up with an explanation on the website. The motion to increase fees from 1 January 2018 was proposed by Liam Gearon and seconded by Doret de Ruyter.

The accounts for 2016 are under review by Slaters' and it is proposed to ask them to continue as our reviewers for 2017. This motion was proposed by Amanda Fulford and seconded by Christine Doddington.

7. Journal of Philosophy of Education

Bob Davis, the editor, expressed his great thanks to everyone involved in making the Journal such a great success. The Publishers Report showed a 7% increase in subscriptions and 14% increase in downloads. Both national and international renewals and subscriptions are increasing with positive increases showing in China, India, Turkey and Latin America. The Journal is now available in libraries in Egypt and many other developing countries. Thanks

were offered to Patricia White who has collaborated on a very successful Virtual Issue, comprising 12 videos showing interviews with previous editors and interviews from the 2016 conference. Each paper has its own note attached giving its context and connections. Philosophers Eye has a blog by Bob Davis and Patricia White about the Special Issue.

Vol 51, a double issue was a great success promoting new ideas and voices. Future issues will include a Special Issue in August on Education and Expertise; Dewey papers from Ruth Heilbronn and Christine Doddington will be ready for publication in November 2017 and Philosophy, Literature and Education by Liam Gearon and Emma Williams in 2018. Further proposals are now required for 2019.

Penny Enslin is stepping down from the Editorial Board and will be replaced by David Aldridge. Two further vacancies are available. Bob Davis will continue for a further term in office to continue the strategy planned for the Journal. There will be a focus on the UK and commissioning articles not routinely received, ambitious activities and high standards will continue to be pursued with great enthusiasm. There will also be greater collaboration with China.

8. Annual Conference

After his first year as Conference Chair Padraig Hogan made the following recommendations to the Executive Committee:

- a) in the Call for Papers state that all submissions must be original material i.e. not already published, or not under consideration for publication.
- b) to include an item in the Frequently Asked Questions stating that in the event of a submission being accepted the author will have an opportunity to add an acknowledgement of any sources of funding that assist with the cost of conference registration and travel costs.

The keynote speakers were given a choice this year to have respondents and they all declined. This will give more time for Q & A but is not a precedent. It was suggested that the timing for the keynote sessions may be altered if there are no respondents in future.

This year there were 135 submissions received for the conference and 68 accepted.

9. Committee on Race and Ethnicity

This group was established in 2015 for an initial period of 5 years. The aims of the group are to support, recruit and network. The current actions being carried out include:

- a) providing guidelines for the conference
- b) organising a race and liberal relations event
- c) provide a statement on discrimination for the website
- d) setting up a seminar
- e) furthering the Runnymede Trust report recommendations

Recommendations from the group include:

- a) a sub theme at every conference on race and ethnicity
- b) a statement on the website
- c) monitoring the acceptance rate on delegate contributions to the conference
- d) set up a reporting system on abuse
- e) consider rotating the venue for the annual conference - although costs may be inhibitive.

10. Large Grants Scheme

Limited funding resulted in the Society supporting Doctoral Grants only. The recipients in 2017 were: Grace Coles, Kristine Gorgen, Kate O'Shaughnessy, Plamena Pahlivanova, Matt Plen and Qasir Shah. Judith Suissa is coming to the end of her role as Large Grants Chair and will be replaced by David Lewin. One other place will also become available on the committee.

11. Development Activity

The Development Committee continues to be extremely busy. There is a report on Teacher Education by Janet Orchard on the website. The Dewey Conference was very successful in October in Cambridge. Work continues in support of CEUPES and APEN - PoE in Central Europe and Africa. Other committee work includes a Summer School, Graduate Writing Scholarships, New Researchers in PoE, the Pre-conference seminar and providing four teacher scholarships for the annual conference.

12. Newsletter

The final printed Newsletter in its original form was published in 2015. Going forward the Newsletter will appear on line and contributions will be accepted throughout the year. A year book will be put together at the end of June and limited printed copies will also be produced. The Newsletter will be more interactive online. Ruth Wareham is the editor and has sent out a call for contributions but can be contacted at any time with submissions.

13. Website

We are now in the third year with our new website and improvements are being made with more information about the Society in the About Us section. There are now thousands of hits being received and more searches. Mary Richardson is keen to hear from members with ideas of any changes required. Ruth Heilbronn is updating the Resources section and also welcomes any suggestions from members. The plan is to develop our social media strategy this year, focusing on Facebook and Twitter. More imagery is required for the website and more posting generally. The committee thanked Kim Thurlow at SAS for regularly updating information for the Society.

14. Impact

Two Impact pamphlets are planned:

Randall Curren: Why Character Education?

Carrie Winstanley: Meeting the needs of more able pupils.

Michael Hand asked that members blog and tweet about these to raise awareness and is happy to receive any ideas for policy changing publications.

15. BERA Philosophy of Education SIG

The BERA SIG is an extremely important committee with regard to networking within BERA, although only small comprising Richard Davies, Janet Orchard and David Aldridge. Empirical Disciplines - early July?

16. Elections

Honorary Vice-President: Richard Smith elected and accepted. Richard is a previous Chairman of the Society. No objections were received.

Conference Organiser (2018) - Ruth Wareham elected and proposed by Patricia White and seconded by Judith Suissa. Ruth was elected unopposed.

7 names were put forward for the 4 Elected Members places:

Andrea English
Jack Bicker
Alison Mackenzie
Doret de Ruyter
Andrew Davis
Eli Glevi
Amanda Fulford

Voting was carried out and the elected members selected are: Jack Bicker, Doret de Ruyter, Andrew Davis and Amanda Fulford.

17. Any other business

Jim Conroy ends his role as President of the Society and is replaced by Paul Standish. The Society thanks Jim for his excellent term as President of the Society and extends its best wishes to Paul in his role for the next three years.

18. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at New College, Oxford on Saturday 24th March 2018 at 6.45 pm.