



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

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**New College (MacGregor Matthews Room: also streamed to Conduit Room and via Zoom)**

**1. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

The minutes were recorded as accurate and approved.

**3. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Update from the Chair**

Bob Davis, PESGB Chair, welcomed everyone to the AGM. He commented on the difficult and turbulent times we are facing and why we believe in Philosophy of Education. PESGB has always responded resourcefully to uncertainty, and he felt sure that this would continue to be the case.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

Richard Davies, Treasurer, reported that the Society is in a very good financial position with approximately £500,000 in the bank and no concerns declared by Slaters & Co, our auditors. RD is looking to invest £300,000 of Society money in gilts. It is not a straightforward process but will be completed very soon. RD asked for the meeting to approve the accounts. Michael Hand approved. RD asked for approval to continue with Slaters, our accountants for another year? This was approved. Question: Do our accountants within Slaters change? RD will look into this. BD thanked RD for his excellent work during the year and commented that although we are still learning about being a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, the change has been galvanising, with great cooperation throughout the society, for which he was very thankful.

**6. Secretary's Report**

Chris Winch, Secretary, reported on membership and branch activity. We currently have 460 members. We have welcomed 44 new members since the beginning of the year. There has been plenty of branch activity particularly from London, Strathclyde-Glasgow, Birmingham, Bath and Bristol and Cambridge branches.

**Elections**

Vice Chair: Janet Orchard - 56 votes. Qasir Shah - 25 votes

Janet Orchard was duly elected as PESGB Vice Chair.

Elected Member: Alison Brady - 38 votes. Doret de Ruyter - 37 votes. Dustin Webster - 7 votes

Alison Brady was duly elected as PESGB Elected Member

Secretary: Michael Hand was the only candidate and was duly elected as PESGB Secretary.

## **7. JOPE Report**

There were no questions about the JOPE report. David Bakhurst, Editor, reported that the Editorial Board and the membership have risen to the challenge of collaborating with OUP, ensuring continuity and greater diversity. The role of the Editorial Board is to be positive and go for growth. Around 50% of articles in JOPE are available on Open Access. Authors are given the option to publish on OA, which is an expensive option. OUP has publishing agreements with many universities, allowing academic staff to publish in the Journal without paying the Article Processing Charge. Open Access gives authors increased visibility and is being used more in the UK and Europe. America is moving more slowly in this direction and Canada started in 2025.

## **8. Conference Committee**

Laura D'Olimpio, Conference Chair, advised members that the Trustees have approved a reciprocal arrangement with PESA. The next PESA conference takes place in Melbourne in December, and a call will be sent out for symposia submissions for all to apply. The submissions will be voted upon by the Conference Committee. PESA is looking to put forward an early career scholar to present at the PESGB Conference. The Conference Committee is looking at using an app at the next conference and reducing paper copies in the welcome pack.

## **9. Grants Committee**

The current selection of Large Grant submissions is under review. Joris Vleighe, the Grants Committee Chair, highlighted the requirement for Small Grant holders to provide feedback on their experiences attending other conferences. This information can be used on the Society blog.

## **10. Development Committee**

Áine Mahon, chair of Development Committee reported a busy year supporting the pre-conference workshop, a writing retreat, teacher education bursaries and Summer School. The committee welcomes any new development ideas and can offer grants of up to £3K. AM thanked the presenters of the 2026 pre-conference workshop, Qasir Shah, Paula Ambrossi and Rowena Azada-Palacios.

## **11. Communications Committee**

Alex Nikolaidis, chair of the Communications Committee, thanked members of his committee for their work on the website, newsletter, blog and social media. The committee covers a wide range of society work behind the scenes. There is currently a vacancy for a Newsletter Editor and AN asked for applications or suggestions for a suitable candidate.

## **12. Inclusion Committee**

Oli Belas chairs the Inclusion Committee and there had been an informal meeting of the committee held at the conference. A more formal meeting will be held at conference going forward and this will be included in the programme. The committee is hoping to raise awareness of its role of ensuring inclusivity within the society. OB will provide feedback from the meeting and conversations during the conference to the Trustees.

## **13. IMPACT**

Andrea English, chair of IMPACT, reported that there are topics in the pipeline to produce a pamphlet each year. Several topics had also been provided at conference. The pamphlets are



very important in influencing policy makers and AE is keen to receive any suggestions of future topics.

#### **14. BERA Philosophy of Education Sig**

The BERA PoE SIG convenors are Naomi Hodgson, Victoria Ekpo and Kate O'Shaughnessy. BERA 2026 will take place in Manchester, 8 - 10 September. There were 20 submissions that identified Philosophy of Education as their secondary theme. The SIG has submitted a proposal for an educational-philosophical cafe to provide space for longer-form discussion of educational questions and issues. There are termly SIG newsletters and an online SIG Meet and Discuss session. BERA members should receive the newsletters and invitations to register for the online forums. Information is also available on the website and LinkedIn. The next meeting will be held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2027.

#### **15. Any other business**

Bob Davis referred to the REF and commented that PoE had historically done well with representatives from PESGB, Richard Smith and Jim Conroy. The names released recently included no representatives from PoE on the panel and were dominated by names from sociology of education. The society will consult with other interested societies e.g. History of Education and look at how they are dealing with this. BD stressed that this situation could have serious consequences and asked members with any influence to use it to turn this around and ensure we have representation. When this happened previously, letters were written and it may be time to lobby again to prevent PoE papers being placed with other topics. The panels sit for 6-7 years and the next change will be in 2029. There is a need to act swiftly.

BD thanked Ruth Heilbronn and Chris Winch for their great service to the Society over many years. Ruth and Chris are now retiring from the Board of Trustees.