

THE ARISTOTELIAN SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 6th July 2007, 4.00 pm
University of the West of England, Room 2B067

Present: Thomas Baldwin (Chair); Helen Beebee; Rachel Carter (minutes); Rachel Cooper; Dorothy Edgington; Mark Kalderon; Peter Milne; Lucy O'Brien; Jennifer Saul; Suzanne Uniacke; Jo Wolff.

Apologies: Alessandra Tanesini; Scott Sturgeon;

1. Minutes of the last meeting.

These were recorded as correct.

Matters arising from the minutes

Under item 7(ii) it was noted that enquiries had revealed that the Society was not eligible to become a member of the Institute of Philosophy as it was not a university department. Nonetheless it had a very close relationship with the Institute in that it shared office space and provided activity. University rents were increasing sharply however, so the renting agreement had to be kept under review.

2. Accounts

Audited accounts for the last year and the cash assets as of the end of June were presented and approved. It was noted that the Society had made a small loss this year. While the bottom line was stable, the Society's income had been hit by the dollar exchange rate. With the change in print model, the Society was entering a transitional phase and needed to monitor expenditure and income closely. There was some discussion of the costs of the Joint Session, which had made an overall loss in 2006, partly because of high administrative costs. The local organizer had also felt that the department had subsidized the costs of the conference. As a result the Society and the Mind Association had agreed in future that Mind would provide a conference grant of £2000 which would not form part of the balance sheet but could be set against any loss or kept by the department in case of profit. The local organizer was expected to break even on

conference costs. With regard to Aberdeen, there were only two members of staff in addition to the teaching fellows so it was not unlikely that the cost of administrative support might mean that the conference ran at a loss. The Mind Association might agree to offer extra financial support in such a case.

3. Subscriptions

Members noted the subscription numbers for 2002-2007.

The subscription rates recommended by the Executive Committee were approved, with no change from last year. As the administrative cost of changing standing orders was so high it was thought best to keep rates steady for at least 5 years. In general the Society broke even on membership subscriptions.

4. President for 2008-09

The Council's nomination of Professor M G F Martin was accepted. Professor Simon Blackburn had been invited to serve for 2009-10.

5. Officers for 2007-08

The President would be Professor Dorothy Edgington, confirmed at the last AGM.

The following was accepted:

Honorary Director: Dr Lucy O'Brien; Editor: Dr Mark Kalderon; Lines of Thought Series Editor: Dr Scott Sturgeon. Executive Committee: the above, Professor Thomas Baldwin (outgoing President), Professor M G F Martin (President Elect), Professor Helen Beebee, Dr Rachel Cooper, Professor Barry Dainton, Dr Peter Milne, Dr Jennifer Saul, Dr Suzanne Uniacke, Professor Jo Wolff (outgoing Honorary Secretary).

6. Replacement of journals with electronic pre-prints

While the Society was still waiting to see the full economic impact of the new print model, the intellectual impact had been very positive and the new arrangements were considered to be in keeping with the spirit of the age.

7. Any Other Business

(i) Use of the Society's reserves

While it was good practice to keep the level of reserves under review, in view of the fact that the Society was undergoing a temporary period of instability it was considered that this was not a good year to decide on ways to spend the Society's reserves, but it could be brought forward to reconsideration in a couple of years' time.

Decision

It was agreed to review this matter in two years' time.

(ii) It was agreed to amend Section 3 of the Society's Rules to read: 'The offices of the Director and the Treasurer may be held by the same person.'

The meeting closed at 4.40pm. The next meeting will be at 4pm, Friday 11th July 2008, University of Aberdeen.