

**Minutes of the 45th Annual General Meeting of the Australian Society for Microbiology held on Tuesday 4 July at 12 noon in the Grand Ballroom 1, Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart, Tasmania**

**1. Welcome**

The President, Professor Roy Robins-Browne welcomed all members present to the meeting and rang the Nancy Atkinson Bell to signify the opening of the AGM. There were 11 FASM's present and 20 MASM's. 2 associate members also attended the meeting.

**2. Apologies**

Peter Traynor

**3. Minutes of the 44th AGM**

**Motion: 'That the minutes be accepted as a true and correct record 'was proposed by Jon Iredell, seconded Dena Lyras. Motion carried.**

**4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

Items addressed as part of reports

**5. Presentation of the Annual Report and Branch Reports by the President**

Presented by Roy Robins-Browne

- Burnet Hayes award was cancelled by the UK society. Council decided to increase travel awards overall. Also, Roy has been contacting microbiology societies in the Asia Pacific region with a view to setting up new relationships.
- Two Fenner and two Pittard award winners this year, and going forward. Have increased the number of people on the judging panels for those awards.
- Held our first AusME conference in Melbourne February. Was a great success thanks to Linda Blackall and the NSAC for their work on this. Will talk to BacPath for a similar arrangement. DL and RRB will attend BacPath in September and discuss strengthening ties with ASM.
- Clinical micro meeting, struggling to get it off the ground. All these small meetings, put the pressure on the annual meeting. Something to think about in future.

## Retirements

- Chris Burke, Editorial Board chair at least 10 years. Replaced by Ipek Kurtboke
- Peter Timms, NEQB chair, replaced by Julian Rood
- TuckWeng Kok, NEQB Registrar has stepped down. Replaced by Gary Lum (looking after FASM) and Kate Seib (looking after MASM)
- Rod Bowman, chair of WFSC, retired. Replaced by Tony Jennings
- Fiona Daga has stepped down as WA chair. Replaced by Charlene Kahler.

## Science and Technology Australia

- They have been engaging with ASM more than previously. They run a number of events to which we send ASM members. State Branches to make issues known that they may wish to be put forward to STA.

## 6. Report from the Vice-President Scientific Affairs

Presented by Dena Lyras

- ASM now has 4 national theme chairs in place. They helped organise this conference and Brisbane. Tom Riley, Damian Purcell, Linda Blackall and Mark Schembri.
- Feedback can be given to Dena about the scientific aspect. A new format for oral presentations to replace traditional symposium and proffered paper sessions has been developed by the exec. It comprises three 20-minute talks and three 10-minute talks.
- Kate Seib is chair of the LOC for the 2018 conference in Brisbane, and. Nick West is the scientific chair. Invitations are going out two speakers in plenary sessions.
- Conference sponsorship. We have changed our practice of supporting scientific conferences directly (other than our own). As we want to funds people rather than meetings, we will be making travel awards available for our members to attend any approved conference.
- Research Trust and the awards that previously fell under NSAC, will now be managed by the Exec. Three VSP speakers are in the current conference program. In addition, Michael Chao, an editor of *Nature Microbiology*, is visiting the area, mostly at Nature's expense, We are trying to arrange more of this type of thing in future.

## 7. Report from the Vice-President, Communications

Presented by Jack Wang

- Social media status – 1000 followers last year. Now at 1500. Our activity last year 250k impression. The last 6 months, we've already hit that. Twitter and Facebook used the most.
- Old school media that is press releases are very expensive.
- Subscribed to GoToWebinar. Any talks that you feel your membership would be interested in, get access to the service so that they can reach further audiences.
- YouTube channel is hard to produce good quality videos. Promo videos about ASM
- Communication ambassador program

One rep for every state branch. Mostly student or ECR. Great experience for those involved. Networking is the reward but also \$100 discount on their registration.

## **8. Report from the Chair, National Examination and Qualifications Board**

Presented by Julian Rood

- Changes to the FASM – a new pathway
  - Made it easier to allow more people to go to FASM.
  - It's in operation now.
  - FASM pathway is divided into 3 alternatives to suit researchers, teachers or laboratory scientists. All items are submitted online, and application fees have been abolished.

**Motion 'That the reports (Agenda Items 5 to 8) be accepted' was proposed by Jon Iredell, seconded Anthony Baker. Motion carried.**

## **9. Presentation of the Financial Reports by the Vice-President, Corporate Affairs**

Presented by Cheryl Power

- Audit results are in and posted on the website for everyone to see/review.
- Research trust is looking healthy for award payouts. Investments are in the form of hybrid shares. Research trust is topped up each year from Society funds. Many members also donate to the research trust directly.
- It's important that we declare all funds of the society to avoid contravening the laws under which we are constituted.
- The financial report must include funds held by state branches, SIGs etc. Most of the branches are in a healthy position.
- When looking at the financial report, need to remember that our income represents a 9-month year, as we have changed our financial year from 1st July- 30 June, to 1st April-31st March.
- Conference last year made a small profit. After giving 20% to the WA Branch, the residuum goes to the Research Trust.
- Society also has investments and shares.
- CP likes to keep the society audit separate from the conference audit.

**Motion: 'That the Annual Accounts of the Society be accepted' was proposed by Roy Robins-Browne, seconded by Stephen Graves. Motion carried.**

## **10. Determination of Annual Subscription Fees**

No plans to increase the fees for the annual subscription fees.

## **11. Appointment of the Auditor**

Cheryl Power advised retaining the services of Eric Townsend as the Society's auditor for the coming financial year and proposed the auditor be appointed by the Society.

**Motion: 'That the auditor is reappointed', was proposed by Stephen Graves, seconded by Tony Della-Porta. Motion carried.**

## 12. Motions to amend the ASM Constitution

The following motions were read out by the President.

12.1 Motion 1. That Clause 9(ii) of the ASM Constitution be amended to read:

'(ii) has satisfactorily completed two years of postgraduate work to advance the discipline of microbiology.'

12.2 Motion 2. That Clause 14.1 of the ASM Constitution be amended to read:

'14.1 An application for membership as a Member of the Society shall be proposed by a Fellow or Member of the Society. The proposer should personally know the applicant, but this requirement may be waived by the Council in its discretion from time to time.'

12.3 Motion 3. That That Clause 14.2 of the ASM Constitution be amended to read:

'14.2 An application for membership of the Society, whether as a Member or otherwise, shall be made in the form determined by the Council and be accompanied by the fees prescribed as payable by the Council.'

2.5 Motion 4. That Clause 30 of the ASM Constitution be deleted:

'30. DIVISIONS OF THE SOCIETY. The Council may establish as many Divisions of the Society as is deemed appropriate to represent the scientific interests of the Society's membership, provided it is satisfied that there will be sufficient Members, Fellows and/or Honorary Life Members comprising the membership of each Division as will enable it to carry out its functions. There shall be no residential qualifications for membership of a Division. The Special Interest Groups (SIG) within the Society shall report on their activities to the assigned Division Chair who will represent them on NSAC. The Chair of each Division will be responsible for oversight of national activities in that Division's area of interest assisted by the Chair Elect or Immediate-past Chair. They will also be responsible for coordinating the scientific content of the Annual Scientific Meeting. Each Division shall conform to such rules and have such powers, functions and duties as are determined from time to time by the Council in the By-Laws.'

All associated clauses shall be amended accordingly.

12.6 Motion 5. That Clause 10 of the ASM Constitution be deleted:

'10. SENIOR ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Any person:

- (i) who has graduated with a diploma or equivalent in microbiology; and
- (ii) has at least five years or equivalent employment post-qualification; shall be eligible to apply to become a Senior Associate Member.'

All associated clauses shall be amended accordingly.

12.7 Motion 6. That Clause 14.4 of the ASM Constitution be amended:

'14.4 A Student or Sustaining member may receive notices of all general meetings of the Society and be heard, but shall not be entitled to vote nor eligible to hold office on the Council. This Clause shall prevail to the extent of any inconsistency in this Constitution.'

The associated definition of 'Voting Member' in clause 51 shall be amended

accordingly:

'Voting Member' means any Member who is a Member, Fellow, Honorary Life Member or Associate Member.'

12.8 Motion 7. That Clause 32.1 of the ASM Constitution be amended:

'32.1 The Council of the Society shall consist of the following officers and delegates all of whom shall be Fellows, Members or Honorary Life Members:...'

**It was agreed that the motions above could be voted on as a singular vote.**

**Motion: 'That the above motions to change the ASM Constitution be adopted' was proposed by Jon Iredell, and seconded Cheryl Power. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **13. Office Bearers for 2017/18**

- all members of the Executive Committee will retain their positions for the next 12 months, but are actively seeking their replacements
  - Jack will end in July 2018, when Rebecca LeBard will take over
  - Dena will end in July 2018. and Kate Seib will take over
  - Roy's term will end in July 2018; Dena will take over.
  - As Dena is now filling two roles in exec, Jon has agreed to stay on as immediate past president for another year.
  - No replacement has been found for Cheryl, who will continue as Acting VP, Corporate Affairs, until a replacement is identified.

### **14. Closure of the meeting**

Meeting closed at 1:18pm