

**Minutes of the AGM held at the University of Manchester
9.30am, Monday 11 July 2005**

Present: Maria Alvarez, David Archard, Peter Baumann, Helen Beebee, Sven Bernecker, Peter Cave, David Evans, Gordon Finlayson, Adrian Haddock, Brad Hooker, Dan Hutto, Dudley Knowles, Ieuan Lloyd, Derek Matravers, Tony McWalter, Adrian Moore, Peter Osborne, Dawn Phillips, Aaron Ridley, Tom Sorell, Georgia Testa (minutes), Jo Wolff.

The Chair, Onora O'Neill, was unable to attend. Jo Wolff was appointed to chair the meeting

The meeting started with a presentation from and question session with Antony Duff concerning the working criteria of the RAE Philosophy sub-panel for 2008. Other members of the panel attending were Jonathan Dancy and Suzanne Stern-Gillet.

A copy of the presentation with a brief note about the main changes in the 2008 draft as compared to 2001, were posted on the web site after the draft documents were formally published later in July.

1. Apologies: Robin Attfield, Andrew Bowie, Thom Brooks, Stephen Clark, Katherine Hawley, M.M. McCabe, Stephen McLeod, Onora O'Neill, John Rogers, Roger Trigg, Tim Williamson.

2. Election of Officers

Georgia Testa, the Returning Officer, gave the results of the election.

The candidates were: David Archard (Lancaster), Andrew Bowie (Royal Holloway, London), David Evans (Belfast), Dudley Knowles (Glasgow), Adrian Moore (Oxford), Duncan Pritchard (Stirling) and John Rogers (Keele).

David Archard, Dudley Knowles, Adrian Moore and Duncan Pritchard were elected to serve for a term of three years (and so until 2008).

Returning Officer's Report:

The election was called as four members of the Committee reached the end of their term in 2005: David Evans (Belfast), Katherine Hawley (St. Andrews), Dudley Knowles (Glasgow), and Timothy Williamson (Oxford). They had been elected for two years only, at the inception of the BPA.

Katherine Hawley and Timothy Williamson decided not to stand for re-election. David Evans and Dudley Knowles were re-nominated.

Full individual members with an email address (296) were emailed with instructions and a ballot form, which could be returned by email or post. Nine people were sent a ballot form and instructions by post.

The ballot forms were emailed/posted 4 May and the deadline for receipt of ballot forms was noon Wednesday 6 July, giving 63 days to vote. Three reminders of the deadline for the receipt of ballot forms were sent to members with an email address.

305 members were eligible to vote and 145 of those individuals had voted (20 by post). No ballot forms were rejected.

There had been no problems in authenticating emailed ballot forms as people had been instructed to either reply to the initial email circulating the ballot form or forward a completed form from the email address to which the initial election notice had been sent.

No voting was permitted at the AGM as sufficient time had been given to vote prior to the AGM.

The outgoing members of the Committee were thanked for their work.

3. Minutes of the October 2003 AGM

The minutes were approved.

4. Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

5. Chair's Business

The Chair, Onora O'Neill, was absent as detained in Cambridge by her institutional commitments.

6. Treasurer's Report

The report was circulated at the meeting.

Membership had increased in almost all categories.

Full individual memberships increased from 224 in 2004 to 305 in 2005 (+81).

Associate memberships fell from 26 in 2004 to 9 in 2005 (-17). However, many associate members converted to full membership in 2005, due to the changed criteria for full membership.

Departmental membership increased from 44 (2004) to 48 (2005). However, as two departments who paid in 2004 had closed (Swansea) or were due to close (Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College) in 2005, there was a net increase of 6 new departmental memberships.

Learned society membership increased from 12 (2004) to 15 (2005).

Income also increased.

Individual memberships: £2723 (2004): £4586 (2005) – an increase of £1863.

Departmental memberships: £1760 (2004): £1880 (2005) – an increase of £120. One payment is pending which will take the increase to £160.

Learned societies: £501 (2004): £565 (2005) – an increase of £64.

2005 Individual memberships increased in number due, in large part, to active efforts by the Executive Committee to recruit new members. Also, members who subscribed at the introductory reduced rate of £10 (full) or £6 (associate) in 2004, paid the full rates of £15 or £8 in 2005. In addition, recruitment flyers were included in two mailers by the A Level Philosophy Association and this attracted 40 memberships from teachers. We will continue to try to attract new members. The Executive Committee has been stressing the political importance of membership when trying to recruit new members. Members at the meeting were asked to persuade colleagues to join.

Expenditure for 2005 also increased from £4763 (2004) to £6163 as of 1 July 2005. Additional expenditure relating to the AGM and the costs of sending the 2005 newsletter are likely to take expenditure to £7000 - £7200. As a result, expenditure may slightly exceed income. However, there is no cause for worry as we have the cushion of the NCP funds transferred in 2004.

Costs have increased since the first year due to the following:

- ◆ Office expenditure – an increase in postage due to the provision of the newsletter to all members and also to departments and societies who were not members. Also, all costs of administration (print cartridges, paper, envelopes, postage etc.) needed to be covered.
- ◆ Production of two editions of the newsletter during the year. The 2004 edition was produced and distributed in September 2004. The 2005 edition was produced in and will be distributed during July 2005. The 2005 production date was brought forward to take advantage of the BPS and Joint Session conferences where the newsletter was included in delegate packs. More copies of the newsletter were printed as a result. This is likely to be the continuing practice as it will function as a recruitment drive and help raise the profile of the Association. In the coming year only one edition of the newsletter will be produced.
- ◆ Executive Secretary – in 2004 the Executive Secretary was in post for only half of the year while in 2005 she will be in post for the whole year.
- ◆ Executive Committee members – costs of attending meetings was higher in 2005 as there was one meeting that started in the morning, meaning that members of the Committee had to travel in peak hours. This early start was necessary to ensure that all business matters scheduled for the meeting could be discussed.
- ◆ Recruitment flyers - recruitment flyers were included in two mailers by the A Level Philosophy Association. However, it was decided that as the second mailer was much less effective than the

first that it would be more cost effective to fund only one mailer per year to teachers. This will reduce costs in the coming year.

Operating costs will reduce in the coming year as the Executive Secretary is leaving. Dan Hutto has an assistant paid for by Hertfordshire and so we may need to pay only for administrative support for the Secretary, Jo Wolff.

The Association approached the following learned societies with a request for a contribution to a reserve fund to enable it to act in a timely and appropriate fashion to developments that affect the profession, as our income is insufficient to generate such a 'fighting fund'.

Donation	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Donated</u>
Analysis Trust:	£1,000.00	£500.00 (awaiting)
Scots Philosophical Club:	£500.00	£500.00
Aristotelian Society:	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Mind Association:	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
Royal Institute of Philosophy:	£1,000.00	
	<u>£8,500.00</u>	<u>£7,000.00</u>

7. Secretary's Business

Jo Wolff reported that anecdotal evidence suggested that new memberships were a result of the work of the BPA, particularly the intervention at Birmingham to prevent the department closing. Also, it seems that those who teach philosophy but in a unit outside a Philosophy Department particularly value membership.

However, while we will continue to work to increase memberships, the long-term health of the Association will depend on identifying other sources of income. Next year, for example, the Committee will try to obtain sponsorship from a publisher for the newsletter. The Executive Committee had decided against raising subscription charges so early in the life of the Association.

The 2005 newsletter is available on the web site and will be sent to members in July. However, Jo Wolff drew the meeting's attention to the following items:

- ◆ Life memberships.
- ◆ Consultation with the RAE – the Committee had argued successfully for the panel to be the maximum size possible. Learned Societies had also co-operated to co-ordinate their nominations for the panel.
- ◆ The rise of AS and A2 level Philosophy – four subjects are commonly taken at AS level, one of which is subsequently dropped at A2 level. While Philosophy has become increasingly popular at AS level, the number continuing to A2 level has also increased. The effect of this is an increasing number of applications for Philosophy at degree level. Therefore, the profession needs to consider the level of contact it wants to have with teachers of Philosophy in schools and sixth-form colleges. The Committee has appointed an officer – Tom Sorell – to be responsible for AS and A2 issues. The RIP are also taking an interest in this matter and we will explore the possibility of linking up with the RIP in initiatives and activities for AS and A2 teachers.
- ◆ Recipients of major awards – this detail was included in the newsletter to get people to think about the type of grants they apply for.
- ◆ AHRC – The AHRC needs to show that research it has funded is of international standard and that research in the humanities overall reaches this standard. It put out for consultation the suggestion that research output in a discipline be measured according to a top-ten ranking of journals within that discipline. Tim Crane (UCL) got 35 Heads of Department to support the rejection of this proposal and, as a result, the AHRC withdrew the suggestion before the end of the consultation period. However, the issue of how research is to be measured will inevitably return and we, as a profession, need to have a positive suggestion that can inform the AHRC's policy. The problem is to find some measure that does not distort the activity that funding is meant to promote. The report in the newsletter was intended to establish a baseline for discussion. Using RAE 2001, Jo Wolff identified where philosophers published work that could be considered of an international standard. He used the publishing data relating to eleven 5* and

five 5 grade departments in order to cover a fairly representative range of philosophy disciplines. The meeting was informed that an officer will be appointed at the next meeting of the Committee to have responsibility for this issue.

In the subsequent discussion it was suggested that the RAE results be used as a measure. A number of problems with this suggestion were identified.

- ◆ It would require assessment to wait until after the 2008 exercise or rely on out of date information.
- ◆ Given the AHRC stress on deliverables when awarding funding, there is the risk that AHRC sponsored research will not achieve a sufficiently high RAE ranking to demonstrate that AHRC funding effectively promotes research of an international standard.
- ◆ There is also the worry that as the RAE is conducted by members of the profession it will not be regarded as sufficiently external.
- ◆ The AHRC is less interested in individual outputs than the RAE, so the RAE would be an inappropriate or insufficient measure.

In addition, it was suggested that in order to include inter-disciplinary work of a high standard in the AHRC assessments, that we need to make contact with other research councils involved in the funding of such work.

8. AOB

There was no other business. The meeting closed at 11.30am. The next AGM will be held at the University of Southampton on Monday 10 July 2006.