2024 Annual General Meeting of the Australasian Society for Continental Philosophy

Wednesday, 4th of December 2024
D2.194 Little Percy Baxter Lecture Theatre and via Zoom
13:15-14:15

Minutes

Attendance: Matthew Abbott, Charles Barbour, Sean Bowden, Daniel Brennan, Tom Corbin, Elizabeth Culhane, Joe Hughes, Katrina Jaworski, Marguerite La Caze, Norma Lam-Saw, John Lechte, Martin Leckey, Chris Mayes, Pat McConville, Joeri Mol, Christine Polowyj, Antonia Pont, Jack Reynolds, Laura Roberts, Jacinta Sassine, Marilyn Stendera, Dimitris Vardoulakis, Magdalena Zolkos

Apologies: Luke Monks-Quinane, Annie Sandrussi

1. Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country
2. Approval of minutes from 2023 AGM
    a. The minutes are available on the website.
    b. Motion to approve the minutes put forward by Dimitris Vardoulakis, seconded by Jacinta Sassine, motion passes unanimously
3. Elections
    a. Chair
        i. Nominee: Charles Barbour; seconded by Dimitris Vardoulakis; elected unopposed
    b. Deputy Chair
        i. Nominee: Marilyn Stendera; seconded by Dimitris Vardoulakis; elected unopposed
    c. Secretary
        i. Nominee: Sean Bowden; seconded by Dimitris Vardoulakis; elected unopposed
    d. The committee thanks outgoing Chair Dimitris Vardoulakis, outgoing Deputy Chair Jack Reynolds, and outgoing Secretary Marilyn Stendera

    CVs and candidate statements were received in accordance with the timelines and regulations set out in the Constitution.
4. Changes to the constitution
    a. The updated constitution and an executive summary can be found online, and were circulated to members in advance of the AGM, as well as being presented to attendees.
    b. No questions or concerns noted by attendees.
    c. Motion: special resolution to accept all the proposed changes to the constitution en bloc, put forward by Dimitris Vardoulakis, seconded by Jacinta Sassine, the motion passes unanimously.
5. Next year's conference
    a. Background: The executive committee has received an offer from CHASS to participate at the 2025 Congress, which will be held at the University of Melbourne. No other institution agreed to host the conference. Key benefits of the CHASS arrangement include access to State government funding, free rooms, and access to CHASS support.
    b. Members who want to provide an alternative and host the conference at their institutions can ask their department heads to submit an Expression of Interest to the executive committee within two weeks of the AGM.
    c. Motion: to give members two weeks from the date of the AGM to arrange for their department heads to submit an EoI to host the conference at their institution; and, if

no better alternatives are presented, to proceed with accepting the CHASS offer and participate in the 2025 Congress at the University of Melbourne. Put forward by Dimitris Vardoulakis, seconded by Jack Reynolds, accepted unanimously.

d. Further discussion:
    i. The 2026 CHASS Congress will be held at ANU; given how few members the Society has in the ACT and concerns about making the conference more accessible to precarious/independent scholars and HDRs/ECRs, the executive will explore alternatives.
    ii. Several attendees from across the region, including Hong Kong, have expressed interest in hosting the conference in future. If that option is taken up, there will need to be a lot of advance planning to ensure accessibility, especially for HDRs/ECRs. One idea is to explore options for funding/sponsorship, especially given the opportunities the conference would generate for enriching collaborative connections across the region.
    iii. It would be wise to establish an EoI process so that conferences can be planned well in advance, and to help individuals negotiate with their institutions. This should include detailed instructions and pro forma templates (letters for heads of departments, EoI forms). The 2025 executive will look into this.

6. Reports

a. Secretary – Marilyn Stendera
    i. 253 members for 2025 so far.
    ii. Significant increase in conference registrations this year (from 231 to 251) mainly for in person attendance.
b. Treasurer – Daniel Brennan
    i. Accounts are in the black, further details available on request. Conference costs will only be paid after the AGM, so these numbers will change soon.
    ii. The biggest expense is the payment for journal access.
    iii. Discussion
        1. Interest: currently is around $20-40 per month. This is influenced by whether the balance is stored in the bank or PayPal account, which is important to note. Currently this is just a standard account; we could explore options to increase interest dividends.
        2. John Dalton Bursary: This year, the committee rejected a few applications for the Bursary, initially based on both eligibility and number of bursaries available. One recipient withdrew, so in the end we were able to provide both free registration and a payment to all eligible applicants. A key consideration for 2025 onwards will be to use the Society's healthy financial position to make its activities more accessible to HDRs, ECRs and other precariously employed members. This should include increasing the Bursary (both in amount and number).
c. Chair – Dimitris Vardoulakis (see attached)
    i. The Society thanks Dimitris for his incredible work during his time as Chair.
    ii. Thanks to all involved with the executive and conferences during this period.

7. Other business

a. Thanks to the Deakin team on the ground – Jack Reynolds and Chris Mayes – for making a great conference happen.