



Japanese Studies Association of Australia, Inc.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 3 July 2003

The Annual General Meeting of the JSAA Inc opened at 5.30 pm on 3 July 2003 at the Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, in conjunction with the JSAA 2003 Biennial Conference.

Present

Masaki Baba, Chris Burgess, Cathy Burns, David Chapman, Hugh Clarke, Romit Dasgupta, Peter Drysdale, Roger Farrell, Dorethea Filus, Nagisa Fukui, Michelle Hall, Howard Gilbert, Nanette Gottlieb, Purnendra Jain, Katsumi Kakazu, Sanae Kawana, Chihiro Kinoshita Thomson, David Kelly, Radha Krishnan, Ian McArthur, Noriko Miyake, Ross Mouer, Megan McKinlay, Narelle Morris, Ellen Nakamura, Chino Nakano, Colin Noble, Craig Norris, Koji Okamoto, Karl Pell, Anthony Rausch, Ritsuko Saito, Mayumi Shinozaki, Judith Snodgrass, Toshio Takagi, Ben Tipton, Elizabeth Thomson, Alison Tokita, David Walton, Shoko Yoneyama

Apologies

Gordon de Brouwer, Ann Phillips

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Secretary/Treasurer Dr Christopher Pokarier apologised for the oversight which resulted in copies of the minutes from the 21 March General Meeting, held at the University of Sydney, not being available at the meeting.

2. Business Arising

Secretary/Treasurer Christopher Pokarier reported that he and JSAA Executive Member Professor Gordon de Brouwer, Publicer Officer for the Association, had completed all filing requirements with the ACT Registrar-General following the 21 March General Meeting which had accepted the Auditor's report. The Association was compliant with all requirements under the provisions of its incorporation.

Dr Pokarier reported also on the final negotiations with Taylor & Francis, publisher of the Association's journal *Japanese Studies*. As authorised by the previous general meeting, Executive representatives Elise Tipton, Judith Snodgrass and Christopher Pokarier had agreed to a new five year contract. The Association had successfully negotiated with T & F representative Jerry Mayer for the removal of a clause requiring the Association to pay for a minimum 200 members' copies even when the membership was below that figure. This represented a substantial reduction in the financial risk to the Association and was a valuable concession, especially as T & F had agreed to also increase the rebate for editorial assistance to \$4000 from its current \$3000 figure. At the direction of the Executive representatives, Christopher Pokarier had signed the contract on behalf of the JSAA.

3. President's Report

Assoc. Prof. Elise Tipton reported further on initiatives that had been undertaken by the outgoing Executive and endorsed at the General Meeting in March. These included the postgraduate paper prize to be awarded out of the conference, the postgraduate workshop, and the JSAA life memberships which to be awarded at the conference dinner later in the evening.

Assoc. Prof Tipton expressed her appreciation to the Executive for all their contribution and to the conference organisers.

It was moved that the Presidents' Report be accepted.

Moved: Chihiro Kinoshita Thomson

Seconded: Colin Noble

Carried Unanimously

4. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Dr Christopher Pokarier reported on the financial position of the Association, explaining that it been maintaining a small structural deficit owing to a low membership base and high fixed costs with the journal, audits etc. However the membership situation was improving and quite a few conference participants had opted to take out memberships at the time of registration. The new T & F contract also addressed the financial burden of the journal, requiring the Association to only pay for enough copies of the journal to supply to its existing membership base.

Dr Pokarier also expressed the hope that the conference might run a small surplus which would pass to the Association. He emphasised that under the provisions of the Japan Foundation's support for the conference Queensland University of Technology rather than the JSAA Inc., was the host institution and so there was an onus on him as conference convenor to also make sure that QUT was fully compliant with its commitments to the Japan Foundation. Dr Pokarier said that a full set of financial statements from the conference would be made available to the incoming

Executive in due time. QUT would be reporting to the Japan Foundation at the end of March 2004 so the Executive would be informed of the final financial position of the conference by that point. The terms of the Japan Foundation grant to the conference included a component for disseminating outcomes from the conference so that would be ongoing for some time after the conference proper.

Dr Pokarier reported that the Executive had agreed to provide \$800 in support of postgraduate participation in a workshop in Perth organised by Dr Sandra Wilson. It was recognised that the distances involved made postgraduate involvement difficult otherwise and that the JSAA's profile in WA needed to be enhanced.

Dr Pokarier thanked all the Executive members for their valuable contributions and support in the lead up to the conference.

It was moved that the Secretary/Treasurer's report be accepted.

Moved: David Chapman

Seconded: Nanette Gottlieb

Carried Unanimously

5. Journal Editor's Report

Dr Judith Snodgrass reported that the current issue was going out and had come together well. She informed the meeting, for the benefit of those who had not attended the meeting in Sydney in March, that Dr David Walton and Dr Tomoko Aoyama would be guest editing forthcoming issues.

Dr Snodgrass expressed her appreciation to the Assoc. Prof. Chihiro Kinoshita Thomson and Dr Shoko Yoneyama for their contribution to editing and that she was looking for further contributors to the editorial team.

Institutional subscriptions were increasing and Dr Snodgrass encouraged all attendees to seek to have their own institution subscribe to the journal.

A vote of thanks for Judith's ongoing work as editor was moved.

Moved: Alison Tokita

Seconded: Ross Mouer

Carried Unanimously

6. Results of the Call for Nominations to the 2003-05 Executive

Dr Pokarier reported on the results of the call for nominations. One nomination for the position of President was received, for Prof. Purnendra Jain.

There had been just enough nominations to fill the regular executive positions. They were for: Dr Kaye Broadbent, Dr Ian McArthur, Dr David Walton, Ms Evelyn Anderson

No nomination was received for the position of Secretary/Treasurer or Postgraduate Representative. Dr Pokarier undertook, under the provisions of the JSAA constitution, to issue another call for nominations.

It was moved that nominated candidates be declared duly elected unopposed.

Moved: Elise Tipton
Seconded: Cathy Burns
Carried Unanimously

7. East Asian Studies at the University of Durham

The meeting discussed the planned closure of the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Durham and the implications for East Asian Studies in the United Kingdom.

It was moved that “The JSAA expresses its concern about the threatened closure of the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Durham.”

8. Conference Convenor’s report

Dr Pokarier stated that there was little specifically to report as participants were currently attending the conference so had a good feel for how the event was developing. As discussed earlier, he would report back to the new Executive on the conference financials.

Dr Pokarier said that the Association was deeply indebted to the Japan Foundation and its Australian director, Mr Koji Okamoto, who was attending the meeting. Participants expressed their appreciation through a round of applause for Mr Okamoto and other Japan Foundation representatives also present.

9. Other Business

Attendees were informed of the new survey of Japanese Studies in Australia under way under the direction of Professor Peter Drysdale and the importance of making sure that all institutions presented a full picture of the level of activity in relation to Japanese Studies. Professor Drysdale thanked participants in advance and invited communications from JSAA members on the survey.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.40 pm.