

Minutes Record
JSAA Annual General Meeting
Coombs Theatre, Australian National University
1.00 pm, Tuesday 3 July, 2007

1. Attendance and Apologies

In Attendance:

Michelle Hall, Purnendra Jain, Chihiro Thompson, Ian McArthur, David Walton, Beatrice Trefalt, Judith Snodgrass, Peter Drysdale, Arthur Stockwin, Sandra Wilson, Ken Anderson, Olivier Ansart, Elise Tipton, Gaynor Sekimori, Nanette Gottlieb, Alan Rix, Andrew Gosling, Vera Mackie, Robert Cribb, Toshio Takagi, Carol Hayes, Ysuko Claremont, Roman Rosenbaum, Daisuke Akimoto, Joel Rathus, Jennifer Scott, Rowena Ward, Jill Miller, Mariko Mugitani, Wakao Koike, Masayo Hasegawa, Jeremy Breaden, Christopher Pokarier, Jun Yano, Hiromo Masumi-So, William S. Armour, Michie Akahane-Suparman, Rebecca Corbett, Marika Leininger-Ogawa, Leonie Stickland, Laura Dales, Seiko Yasumoto, Tessa Morris-Suzuki, Matthew Stavros, Jenny Corbett, Shun Ikeda, Barbara Hartley, Alison Tokita.

Apologies

Li Narangoa, Ikuko Nakane.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The Secretary, Barbara Hartley, explained that there had been a lack of a quorum at the previous AGM, held at the Australian Association of Asian Studies biennial conference in late June, 2006, at the University of Wollongong. However, minutes of this non-quorumed meeting were moved and accepted.

Moved: Vera Mackie

Seconded: Carol Hayes.

(A quorumed meeting had been held in Brisbane in August, 2006 to ratify the Associations financial records.)

3. President's Report

President, Associate Professor Alison Tokita, presented the report given below.

Moved: Alison Tokita

Seconded: ?????

It gives me great pleasure to deliver the president's report for my period of office. Since the Executive has not had close contact with the ANU conference organizing committee it has been like a surrogate birth, enjoying the fruits of a wonderful conference

without the pain of gestation and delivery. I express my appreciation, and that of the Executive, to Kent Anderson and Trevor Wilson, and their committee; and to the ANU's generous and strong support for this conference.

The last two years since the Adelaide conference have seen the coming of the RQF and some panic, and the JSAA sent a submission about some things which need to be considered for Japanese Studies research, such as recognition of publication in Japanese journals, in Japanese, and translation.

I think it is justified to claim that our profession is in a healthy state, which is most encouraging after some gloom and doom in the past few years. Judging by the consistently high quality of our journal and its international reputation, the quality and variety of panels in this conference, and the number of book launches by our members. In particular, congratulations are due to Nanette Gottlieb, who has been made a Fellow of the Academy of the Humanities, and to all the authors who have had book launches in conference.

One should never be complacent; we know that "rationalization" is always a threat, that there are not enough positions for our best PhD graduates, nor enough students going through to advanced language study and postgraduate study.

The Executive had discussed the desirability of offering more support for the linguistics colleagues in the profession, encourage more to become members, and to encourage them to publish in the journal. In this regard, Carol Hayes has proposed the creation of a teaching forum to run as part of or alongside the JSAA.

Vale: In the past twelve months or so we have lost some valued colleagues: Mal Smith; David Sissons; Anthony Alfonso. We will miss them keenly, but their contributions to Japanese Studies in their respective fields will be long remembered.

As for the contributions of living members who have made contributions during long careers, this meeting will be formalizing the category of Life Membership of the Association, so please think about who might be nominated for this category.

An issue which has been the concern of this Executive has been how best to cater for background speakers of Japanese, seeing them as a resource for the future of the Japanese Studies profession. This needs to be done through curriculum development at tertiary level for appropriate language maintenance and challenging content about Japan.

The Association has given financial support to

- ANU conference seeding money of \$5000
- \$1000 to Matt Stavros' history workshop (University of Sydney, November 2007)
- \$500 to support the Mal Smith memorial symposium at the University of Melbourne
- Prize of \$500 for best postgraduate paper in this conference.

An initiative is the offer of reading of ARC applications being prepared by members of the Association. A call will go out around November for this.

A number of links have been developed with other Associations: first, with the Australian Studies Association of Japan. Supported by the Australia Japan Foundation, Kent Anderson, David Walton and I attended their annual conference in Osaka, June 9-10; and we welcome three members of the ASAJ to this conference. There will be a follow-up joint workshop in Tokyo in November, when further collaborative projects will be discussed.

Links with other Japanese Studies associations include the Japanese Studies Association of Canada (which I am invited to in August). The Asian Studies Association of Australia has offered the facility of a shared database for joint online membership system. Other Executive members have attend or plan to attend the conferences of NZAsia; Japanese Studies conferences in Beijing, Thailand and elsewhere; EAJIS and BAJIS. The Executive has been discussing mechanisms for establishing links, such as member rate registration at conferences as a beginning.

Ian McArthur has been active in seeking Media contacts, an area where we feel we should be making our voice heard on behalf of the profession.

Many of these initiatives need to be taken up by the next Executive over the next two years, as they have not all been fully enacted. I thank the Executive for their enthusiasm and support and creativity over this term and I wish the incoming Executive the best for a fulfilling new term.

I thank all of you members for your work over the last two years; as a network, the JSAA is only as strong as its individual members, and their position in their local institutions. Coming together as a community of scholars in this conference can however confirm our intellectual and educational aims, and encourage us to keep up our high standards as we work at the multiple tasks we all carry out on a daily basis – of which research is the highest reward.

4. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

The Secretary, Dr Barbara Hartley, gave the report below.

Moved: Barbara Hartley

Seconded: David Walton

Membership

There was no membership drive conducted in the 2006-2007 financial year. As a result membership was a low level. However, the success of the conference and attendance at the Annual General Meeting indicated that there was strong interest in the Association. Discussions had been held at previous meetings regard the possibility of increasing

membership fees and this had been approved at the 2005 AGM. It was therefore felt that another rise was inappropriate at this time. Previous meetings had also rejected the notion of increased conference fees. It was felt that one of the Association's strengths was its accessibility.

Active recruitment by individual members was seen to be the key to keeping the Association solvent. It was noted that if each of the fifty members in attendance at the AGM recruited three new members the Association would maintain a vital and healthy membership situation. Members were urged to do this where possible.

It was noted that the Association continued to give very strong support to post-grads and provided a strong post-grad network as evidenced by the conference support given to these members. A post-graduate prize for the best paper developed from a presentation at this conference would be given once more in 2007.

Recognition was given to the excellent website design and maintenance carried out by Michelle Hall. Michelle's contribution was greatly appreciated by the membership.

Treasurer

Given that the end of the Association's financial year coincided with the AGM it was, once again, not possible to provide an audited account of the Association's finances. However, a proximate financial report was prepared by the Treasurer and is attached. It was noted that a membership drive would be conducted in July and August.

Interim Proximate Financial Report

Opening Balance: 30 176

Incomings

Membership: 1735

Australian Studies Association of Japan: 35 000

TOTAL CREDITS: 66 911

Outgoings

2006 Journal	7 398
2007 Journal	7 420
Seed Funds, 2007 Conference,	5 000
Post-grad Prize	50
Admin Assistance	89.10
Exec Travel	2 950.46
Travel to ASAJ Conference, Tokyo	3 733.39

TOTAL OUTGOINGS	26 649.95
Outstanding	
Additional ASAJ Travel	3 517.11
Exec Pre-Meeting Dinner	191
TOTAL OUSTANDINGS	3 708.11
TOTAL DEBITS	30 358.06
BALANCE REMAINING	36 552.94

It was noted that two further items, namely \$1000 conference support for Matthew Stavros of University of Sydney and \$500 in support of the Professor Mal Smith memorial, was not included in the figures provided and needed to be taken into account.

It was also noted that a follow up meeting would need to be held later in the year to ratify the audited finances.

5. Journal Editor's Report

To be provided.

6. Constitutional Changes

Members had been previously notified as per the constitution that two constitutional changes would be proposed for ratification.

Proposed Change 1

This proposal was sought to enable the inclusion of life and retired members in JSAA categories of membership. In addition to the current ordinary, student and corporate members, it was proposed to add retired and life members to the categories of membership listed in section (5) of the constitution.

That the following clauses be added to Section 5 of the JSAA constitution:

5 (4) retired members who shall be members over the age of 55 who are no longer in the full-time work force, and

5 (5) life members who shall be nominated for this category of membership with the support of the Executive and for whom all membership subscription shall be waived.

Moved Barbara Hartley
Seconded Peter Drysdale.

Proposed Change 2

This proposal supported the division of the secretary/treasurer position into two separate positions and comprised a change to section 13 (2) of the constitution which lists the executive positions.

That Section 13 of the JSAA constitution be amended as follows:

- (b) one Secretary of the JSAA Inc elected by the ordinary members of the JSAA Inc
- (c) one Treasurer/Membership Officer of the JSAA Inc elected by the ordinary members of the JSAA Inc

(Such a change would result in a change to the subsequent numbering of this part of Section 13 of the document.)

Moved Barbara Hartley
Seconded Purnendra Jain

7. Declaration of Nominees to Executive Positions

The Executive positions were declared vacant according to the constitutional changes minuted above.

Positions declared vacant were President, Secretary; Treasurer, one student representative, four ordinary Committee members (student representative to be elected from body of student members; all other positions to be elected by ordinary members).

For the following positions, a single nomination was received and so these members were declared elected to the positions listed:

President: Professor Kent Anderson (ANU)
Secretary: Ikuko Nakane (Melbourne)
Treasurer: Michelle Hall (Melbourne)

The following nominations were received for the Ordinary Executive positions:

Beatrice Trefalt (Monash)
Olivier Ansart (Sydney)
Barbara Hartley (Tasmania)
David Walton (UWS)
Chihiro Kinoshita Thomson (UNSW)

Given that there was one more nominee that required, Barbara Hartley withdrew and indicated her willingness to consult with the incoming Executive as required.

Two post-graduate nominations were received:

Jeremy Breaden

Joel Rathus (Adelaide)

Mr Breaden withdrew his nomination.

Past President, Alison Tokita, and Journal Editor, Judith Snodgrass, were appointed to the Executive ex-officio.

Therefore the 2007-2009 JSAA Executive is as follows:

President: Professor Kent Anderson (ANU)

Secretary: Ikuko Nakane (Melbourne)

Treasurer: Michelle Hall (Melbourne)

Ex officio (Past President): Alison Tokita (Monash)

Ex officio (Journal Editor): Judith Snodgrass

Ordinary Executive position: Beatrice Trefalt (Monash)

Ordinary Executive position: Olivier Ansart (Sydney)

Ordinary Executive position: David Walton (UWS)

Ordinary Executive position: Chihiro Thomson (UNSW)

Post-graduate representative: Joel Rathus (Adelaide)

8. Other Business

Site of 2009 Conference

Associate Professor Chihiro Thomson indicated that University of New South Wales would host the 2009 Biennial Conference with assistance from other universities in Sydney. The meeting thanked Chihiro for this offer.