

Society of Architectural Historians of Australia & New Zealand

President: Christoph Schnoor
Treasurer: Catherine Lassen
Secretary: Amit Srivastava

Minutes: Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2016

Location: Japanese Room, Melbourne School of Design, University of Melbourne
Saturday 9th July 2016, 2.00 pm AEDT

Attendance: Christoph Schnoor (CS), Amit Srivastava (AS), John Ting (JT), John Macarthur (JM), Catherine Lassen (CL), Stuart King (SK), Gevork Hartoonian (GH), Ari Seligmann (ASe), Peter Scriver (PS), Andrew Leach (AL), Julie Willis (JW), Philip Goad (PG), Christine McCarthy (CM), Rebecca McLaughlan (RM), Nigel Westbrook (NW), Paul Hogben (PH), Robert Riddell (RR), Janina Gosseye (JG), Gill Matthewson (GM), Naomi Stead (NS), Ashley Paine (AP), Amy Clarke (AC), Andrew Steen (ASt), Hannah Robertson (HR), Anoma Pieris (AP), Renee Miller-Yeamon (RMY), Bill McKay (BM), Maryam Gusheh (MG), Ann Marie Brennan (AMB), Isabel Rousset (IR), Nicole Sully (NS)

Attachments:

1. Apologies

Paul Walker, Justine Clark, Karen Burns, Robin Skinner, Ursula de Jong, Julia Gatley, and Alexandra Brown. Andrew Leach (AL) had to leave the meeting early.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

Two items were raised for minor correction, namely Item 4.2 (PH) and Item 8.2 (JM). The minutes were accepted with the proposed corrections. Motion to accept (PG) seconded (PH) and passed unanimously. No action items or works arising from previous minutes.

3. Reports:

a. President's Report

The President (CS) thanked the 2016 conference organisers (PG & AMB) for a sterling conference and for creating synergies with the connected events *Spaces in Transition* and *Rethinking Modern Asia-Pacific Architectures* organised by SAH-Asia.

The President also thanked Anthony Moulis and Alexandra Brown for organising the SAHANZ Inaugural PhD Symposium on Architectural History held on 27th November 2015 in Brisbane, which included 4 invited speakers and 23 paper presentations. He also extended a vote of thanks to Robin Skinner for maintaining the website.

The President observed that while the Society's activities have expanded considerably, there is not a comparable growth in the membership and capacity of the members to take on these activities. He deplored that the situation has changed since the golden times of the 1990s and senior society members are laden with admin duties with little time left to devote to research. The future impact of this will need to be evaluated.

The President outlined the growing partnerships with SAH and EAHN, including a successful SAHANZ session at SAH Pasadena in April 2016 and EAHN Dublin in June 2016, as well as a planned session for SAH Glasgow in 2017. The attendance from SAHANZ members at these sessions was considerable, and conversations are being held for future collaborations. In particular, there are discussions for an EAHN themed conference in 2019, with an expression of interest received from the University of Sydney.

Reporting on the Committee activities, the President outlined the difficulties with the handover of the Treasurer duties to CL and thanked Leonie Matthews for her contribution. He announced Julia Gatley's departure from the position, thanked her for her contribution, and welcomed Bill McKay (BM) as being co-opted to fill in that position. He also reported on the resignation of JG as Secretary and from the committee and the appointment of AS as interim secretary until elections at the next AGM. Finally, NW agreed to being co-opted into the committee to fill the vacant position.

The President reported that the Conference Guidelines were under development in a sub-committee and are envisioned as a Handbook for Conference Organisers once completed.

Finally, the Saunders Grant received 4 applications and was awarded to RMY for her project titled "Domestic projections of hospitality in Australia's migrant hostels in the 1960s".

b. Secretary's Report (Read by President CS on behalf of JG)

The report outlined 5 meetings of the committee on 29 Oct. 2015, 12 Jan, 17 Mar, 15 Jun, and 7 Jul 2016. The first 4 meetings were via Skype and the final meeting in person. The membership has increased from 112 members in 2013-14 to 118 members in 2014-15 and then again to 130 members in 2015. Latest figures include 95 full members, 27 student members and 8 life members. The membership data for 2016-17 will be assessed after conference registrations are finalised.

c. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer (CL) commented on the issue of problems with handover raised before, explaining how the varied geographical locations of involved stakeholders (such as the banking institution) had made the process harder. She confirmed that the transfer from Leonie Matthews to her as signatory had taken some work with the Sydney ANZ Bank bureaucracy, but that this handover had now been confirmed.

The Treasurer reported that the financial position of the Society remains firm and that the Society has generated income from membership subscriptions. Assets on 30th June 2016 were \$80,877.40, with a general operating account of \$65,705.11 and David Saunders Grant account of \$15,172.29. The rate for subscriptions remains \$90 for full members and \$60 for student members.

The Treasurer reported that based on current funds and grant amount the David Saunders Grant will run out in another 6 years, and that the future of this grant needs to be discussed.

Action: Discuss future strategy for David Saunders Grant (carried out in Business Arising)

The Treasurer reported that the audits for 2014 and 2015 had been completed and ratified by the SAHANZ Committee, and the tax returns for 2014 and 2015 had been completed and given over to Julia Gatley (JGa) to submit in New Zealand.

The auditing process is currently being done by a Perth based firm, but the Society will seek a Sydney based accountant to complete the 2016 audit. We will also seek tax exempt status which will help with filing returns and allow us to accept donations.

d. Editorial Board Report

AL delivered the Editorial Board Report. He confirmed the appointment of JGa onto the board for a 6 year term. AL reported that the membership of the board is stable and there will be no further appointments for the next 2 years, and that GH and JT have been appointed as editors for the 34th annual conference proceedings. He further impressed that the publications have greater visibility now and the process of digitization, indexing and promotion through social media has greatly aided this condition. He reported that the inclusion on the European Index for Humanities had been confirmed. Finally, Taylor & Francis were considering developing some of the special issues as books and this is under discussion.

e. Fabrications Editors Report

SK delivered the report on behalf of SK, JGa, and AP. He began with thanks to JGa. He further reported

that the publication was continuing with its output format of 3 issues per year, but this would shift to themed issues for the first two issues and an open third issue in 2018. The last issue of 2015 Vol. 25 No.3 was published as a themed issue edited by AP while Vol. 26 No.1 was an open issue edited by SK and JGa. Vol. 26 No.2 themed around “Networks and Flows” was just in and the call for Vol. 26 No.3 to be edited by JGa and AL had just closed. SK thanked all the contributors, the editorial board, Taylor & Francis and Robin Skinner before closing his report.

f. 2016 Conference Convenor’s Report

The convenors thanked AP and Amanda Achmadi for organising the parallel SAH-Asia events and for sharing the keynote speakers. They commented that the PhD plenary that was part of the parallel event was a very good way to achieve participation by graduate students in the conference events. The convenors then thanked prior organisers for their valuable advice, as well as various session chairs, referees, catering organisers, graphic designer and volunteer PhD students. They also thanked the sponsors and the tour leaders, and extended their gratitude to the keynote speakers.

The convenors reported that there were a total of 94 registrants for the conference not including day visits. A total of 137 abstracts were received, while 87 papers were received and finally 75 papers selected for presentation at the conference. There was 1 case where the presenter could not come to the conference due to family circumstances and this paper will not be published in the proceedings. The proceedings will to be released over the period of the next month. AMB added that with 2 keynote speakers they had made a conscious decision to include a woman keynote speaker to address gender equity, and urged that this should be considered a good practice example for future events.

g. 2017 Conference Convenor’s Address

GH presented the theme of the next conference to be held in Canberra in 2017 and discussed the possible interpretations of the theme. He further introduced the proposed conference venue, and keynote speakers and confirmed the establishment of the organising and academic committee for the conference.

A motion to accept reports was moved (JW) seconded (JM) and passed unanimously.

4. Business arising

a. The President (CS) put forward the bid for the 2018 Annual Conference submitted by Victoria University of Wellington. The bid was accepted unanimously.

b. The President (CS) put forward the bid for the 2017 PhD Symposium submitted by University of Western Australia (NW) and The University of Adelaide (PS). NW reported on the plans for holding the symposium in Adelaide for easier access. PS added that the 2017 event will coincide with the SAH-Asia and CAMEA events being held in Adelaide. The bid was accepted unanimously.

c. The President (CS) initiated a discussion on the future of the Saunders Grant with a proposal to reconsider the current grant amount of \$2000. The options presented by the group for ensuring longevity of the grant included replenishing the grant from the operating account (JW), and adding a set amount of around \$15000 to the grant account (CM). The proposal of increasing the grant amount from \$2000 to \$3000 (CS) was met with some confusion, which acknowledged the need for increase (RMY), but was not sure about the arbitrary allocation of a new value like \$3000 (PS). It was proposed (JG) that the increased amount might be sourced through increased membership fees, but there was resistance to the increase in fees when there was surplus in the operating account (CM). NW made a suggestion that since a new accountant will be appointed in Sydney one should wait for financial advice. There was a motion (CM) to make a move on replenishing the grant account if the accountant agrees, but this was not passed. JW proposed that since there were too many interrelated issues maybe this cannot be resolved at the AGM. Motion (JM) to seek a comprehensive report from the accountant about the future of the grant was seconded (JW) and passed unanimously.

Action: Seek comprehensive report on Society’s financial status and its implications for the future of Saunders Grant from the newly appointed accountants in Sydney.

5. Any Other Business

a. JM raised the issue of the need for members to be present at the conference to deliver the paper. He was concerned that if the rules were not interpreted correctly this could lead to unfair and unequitable practice where members who were legitimately unable to attend the conference would be denied an opportunity to publish their work. He added that the current convenors (PG & AMB) had demonstrated good judgement, but there needs to be greater clarity in terms of good practice regarding this issue. He claimed that the original intention of having delegates present is to allow for Q&A after paper presentation but these can be achieved through different means these days. His primary concern was that we need to be able to take the members on their word and demonstrate an atmosphere of trust. The group agreed that this topic was worth a discussion. JM proposed that the SAHANZ Committee take this into consideration and possibly allow for other electronic means (Skype) for presentation.

Action: SAHANZ Committee to consider issue of mandatory presence of members at conference to present papers and implications of allowing for other electronic alternatives.

b. NS informed the AGM of an incident where the architects of a building that was the subject of her paper published in the proceedings of the 2015 SAHANZ conference had widely circulated a refutation document challenging her competence and scholarly capacity.

Since NS was satisfied with the response of the Editorial Board, PH suggested that all complaints should be referred to the Editorial Board in the future. NW added that a process for legal advice should also be considered. Motion (PG) to have Editorial Board develop some processes and policies to deal with complaints for SAHANZ publications seconded (NW) and passed unanimously. Motion (JM) that the Society should support academic freedom of its members seconded (CS) and passed unanimously. PG proposed a vote of thanks for NS to bringing this issue to the attention of the AGM.

Action: Editorial Board to develop processes and policies to deal with complaints against SAHANZ publications.

With no further business the meeting was brought to a close at 3.30pm.

ACTION POINTS

Treasurer	Seek comprehensive report on Society's financial status and its implications for the future of Saunders Grant from the newly appointed accountants in Sydney.
SAHANZ Committee	SAHANZ Committee to consider issue of mandatory presence of members at conference to present papers and implications of allowing for other electronic alternatives.
Editorial Board	Editorial Board to develop processes and policies to deal with complaints against SAHANZ publications.