

Utopian Studies Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Utopian Studies Society Lisbon University, 7 July 2016

Present: **Chair:** Fátima Vieira, **Secretary:** Lorna Davidson

Committee Members: Antonis Balasopoulos, Artur Blaim, Jorge Bastos da Silva, Greg Claeys, Nathaniel Coleman, Laurence Davis, Pere Gallardo, Pavla Veselá, Zsolt Czigányik, and 64 ordinary members.

1. Apologies. Adam Stock (Treasurer), Michael Kelly, Ruth Levitas, Lucy Sargisson, Jim Arnold.
2. Minutes of the AGM held in Newcastle, 4 July 2015 [previously posted on the USS website] unanimously approved on a proposal by Andrew Milner, seconded by Zsolt Czigányik.
3. Matters arising None
4. Finance: Treasurer's Report for 2015/16. [Printed copies were available at the meeting]. Secretary advised that Treasurer A Stock was unable to attend the conference, but that she and the Treasurer had been in regular contact re the financial issues relating to grants etc. A Stock would respond to any queries arising, but she recommended approval of the financial statement provided. This was unanimously approved.
5. Conference Plans - updates from representatives of the organisers
 - a) 2017 Gdansk, Poland: Colleagues from Gdansk provided an update on their plans and showed a short film of the city, the new University building and Cultural Centre. Dates now confirmed as 5-8 July 2017. The theme, appropriately, will be *Solidarity and Utopia*.
 - b) 2018 Budapest, Hungary. This is to be organised by Central European University in collaboration with Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE). Theme to be confirmed, but may be Ideology and Utopia.
 - c) Proposal for 2019 – Monash University Campus in Prato, Italy. Andrew Milner gave a short presentation. Agreed that this would be an excellent venue, subject to confirmation of the capacity of the meeting rooms. To be reconsidered at the AGM 2017 when further information is available.
 - d) Proposal for 2020. Pere Gallardo proposed a conference at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. Agreed to consider this when more information is available.

6. Office Bearers and Committee.

Office-bearers

Chair: *Fátima Vieira*, **Secretary:** *Lorna Davidson*, **Treasurer:** *Adam Stock*

Committee Members (elected in 2015): *Antonis Balasopoulos, Artur Blaim, Greg Claeys, Laurence Davis, Pere Gallardo, Vincent Geoghegan, Nicole Pohl, Lucy Sargisson, Jorge Bastos da Silva, Pavla Veselá, Nathaniel Coleman, Michael G. Kelly, David Bell. Zsolt Czigányik, as a future conference organiser, was co-opted, as is the usual practice.*

Election of new Chair.

Fátima Vieira, the out-going Chair, addressed the audience. She had been honoured to serve as Chair of such a dynamic society. She was amazed and delighted by the breadth and depth of research and scholarship exhibited by the USSE members, and noted that two very distinguished candidates were nominated for election to succeed her. The audience expressed their appreciation of her commitment and outstanding achievements.

The two nominated candidates **Antonis Balasopoulos** and **Greg Claeys** were then introduced by Tom Moylan and Artur Blaim respectively, and addressed the audience.

Following this, votes were cast in a secret ballot, and added to those cast earlier in the week by those who were unable to attend the AGM, or had already decided which candidate they wished to vote for. The votes were counted in the auditorium by Lorna Davidson (Secretary), Laurence Davis (senior committee member) and Fátima Vieira (outgoing Chair). The result was announced by Laurence Davis. Greg Claeys secured a majority of the votes and was duly elected as Chair for a term of 3 years. [G. Claeys, 51 votes; A Balasopoulos, 37 votes; 1 Abstention recorded].

7. Any other business. Greg Claeys expressed his delight at being elected, and, acknowledging that Fátima Vieira was a very hard act to follow, he promised to work hard for the future success and development of USSE.
8. Closing Remarks. Secretary, on behalf of the members, expressed huge appreciation for all the preparation and hard work that had gone into organising such a successful conference and stimulating programme. Flowers and gifts were presented.
9. Date of next meeting – Gdansk, July 2017

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