

Committee & AGM Minutes - Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Utopian Studies Society held at the University of Maria Curie Sklodowska University, Lublin 10 July 2010

Present: Fátima Vieira (Chair), Jim Arnold (Treasurer), Lorna Davidson (Secretary), Greg Claeys, Lyman Tower Sargent, Antonis Balasopoulos, Jorge Bastos da Silva (committee members) and 31 ordinary members.

- 1. Apologies:** LD advised that apologies had been received from Ruth Levitas, Laurence Davis, Tom Moylan, Nicole Pohl, Lucy Sargisson, Alex-Alban Gomez, Pere Gallardo and Liz Russell .
- 2. Minutes of the AGM held in Porto, 4th. July 2009.** Approved unanimously on a motion by Annette Magid, seconded by Jorge Bastos da Silva.
- 3. Matters arising.** None
- 4. Finance: Treasurer's Report 2009/10.** J Arnold referred members to the Treasurer's report available at the meeting. Since AGM 2009 income of £824.42 had been received from Uni. of Porto, representing the levy on 2009 conference reg. Fees. In accordance with USS policy, funds had been withdrawn to disburse grants to 7 post-graduate students at a cost of 840 Euros. Balance currently stands at £3,509.92. Financial statement was unanimously approved on a motion from L. T. Sargent, seconded by A Magid.
- 5. Election of Office Bearers and Committee:** – Current Office-bearers and Committee members were elected in 2009 for a period of 3 years (see list below). However, F Vieira noted that Alex Gomez had not attended the conference for several years. Accordingly, she proposed to write to him and request that he stand down from the committee, to make way for a more active member of the Society. In the event that he agreed to this, Chair proposed to co-opt Artur Blaim to the Committee. Unanimously agreed to proceed as proposed.
- 6. Conference Plans**
 - a) 2011. University of Cyprus, Nicosia. Antonis Balasopoulos provided an update on plans for Utopia, Crisis, Justice. He referred members to posters available at meeting and the website, www.cyprusconferences.org/uss2011 He will continue to discuss detailed plans with members of the Committee.
 - b) 2012. Possible venues were discussed. Prague and Istanbul would both be possible venues in future, but not as early as 2012. Pere Gallardo had offered to host the 2012 conference in Tarragona. F Vieira proposed that we should accept, and this was unanimously agreed.
 - c) 2013. New Lanark was proposed as the venue for various reasons: 2013 will be the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Utopian Studies Society at New Lanark in 1988, as well as the bicentenary of the publication of Robert Owen's "New View of Society. In addition, ICSA proposes to hold its conference at Findhorn in Scotland in 2013. Greg Claeys would be

Programme Chair, with Lorna Davidson organising accommodation etc. Agreed to consider suitable dates.

L Davidson advised that while all these future plans were agreed in principle, in view of the difficult economic situation with many institutions facing cut-backs, we would have to be prepared for the possibility of some changes along the way. Noted.

7. Publications, E-Journals, etc. - Nicole Pohl had provided information on Utopian Studies in all delegate packs., and members were encouraged to consider subscription to this journal. Jorge da Silva suggested that the USS website could have a page for information about new publications – LD agreed to arrange for this. A Blaim advised that they were considering options for publishing selected papers from the 2010 meeting and would advise participants in due course.

F Vieira advised that the University of Porto's PhD in Utopian Studies had been approved, and would commence in Sept. 2011. The E-Journal "Spaces of Utopia" would be re-launched soon.

8. Any other competent business - None.

Fatima Vieira concluded by thanking the Lublin Conference team for a very successful and well organised conference, and looked forward to seeing members again next year.

The meeting was closed.

The next AGM will be held at the International Conference in Cyprus in July 2011.