Utopian Studies Society

Annual General Meeting of the Utopian Studies Society
Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona, Spain, 7 July 2012

Minutes

Chair: Fátima Vieira
Present: Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, 10 committee members and 26 ordinary members.

Fátima Vieira welcomed everyone to the meeting. She invited all those present to join her in thanking Pere Gallardo, Liz Russell and their team for organising such a successful and enjoyable conference; gifts were presented in appreciation of their efforts.

1. **Apologies.** Apologies had been received in advance from L Davis, T Moylan and V Geoghegan

2. **Minutes** of the AGM held in Nicosia, 11 July 2010. (Available at meeting). Approved unanimously, on a proposal from A Magid, seconded P Gallardo.

3. **Matters arising**. None

4. **Finance: Treasurer's Report 2011/12**. J Arnold presented the financial report, copies of which were available at the meeting. It was approved unanimously, following a proposal by R Levitas, seconded by A Blaim.

5. **Election of Office Bearers and Committee:**
   It was confirmed that Pavla Veselá had been elected to the Committee at the AGM 2011. Secretary confirmed that all current members had expressed their willingness to continue, though some were also prepared to stand down to make way for new members if this was desired. In the event, on a proposal by L T Sargent, seconded by A Magid, it was agreed to re-elect all current office-bearers and committee members for a further 3 years. This can be reviewed at the annual general meetings, in the light of any changes in circumstances. (Noted that J Arnold had previously announced his intention to stand down as Treasurer after USS 2013). In addition, it was unanimously agreed that Nathaniel Coleman should be co-opted to join the committee. (See revised list below).

6. **Conference Plans**
   a) **2013 New Lanark**, Scotland (Greg Claeys/Lorna Davidson) 1-4 July 2013. LD advised that in response to a request at the AGM 2011, Iain M Banks had been invited to participate in the conference and had agreed to do so. Details of the programme would be announced in due course. She also reminded members that there is limited Hotel accommodation available in New Lanark and it has all been booked out to USS. She urged participants to share rooms where possible! However, where additional rooms had to be booked outside the village, transport would be provided to transfer delegates to and from the conference venue.
   b) **2014 Prague** – Pavla Veselá, confirmed that the venue in 2014 would be Prague, and agreed to confirm the dates as soon as possible. **[Post-meeting note: Dates for USS meeting in Prague will be 2-5 July 2014].**
   c) **2015**   No firm proposals for 2015 were received.
   d) **2016**   Fatima Vieira confirmed that the Portuguese members would host the conference in 2016, and were planning that the venue would be Lisbon.

7. **Saskia Poldervaart & Henry Near memorial award**. It was unanimously agreed that it would be fitting to find a way of recognising their contributions to Utopian Studies. LD proposed that recipients of the 2013 travel grants should also receive a copies of works published by SP and HN, with a suitable inscription, to be presented at New Lanark. Unanimously agreed to proceed as proposed. LTS to advise on appropriate publications. LD to action.

8. **Any other competent business.** L T Sargent reminded members that the SUS (see http://utopian-studies.org/) will meet in Toronto in October 2012, and in Charleston, South Carolina in 2013. Some grant awards are available to assist students from outwith USA to attend.

9. **Date of next meeting** – 4 July 2013, New Lanark

    Office-Bearers and Committee Members, re-elected July 2012

    Chair: Fátima Vieira, **Secretary:** Lorna Davidson, **Treasurer:** Jim Arnold
    Committee Members:
    Antonis Balasopoulos , Artur Blaim, Greg Claeys, Laurence Davis, Pere Gallardo, Vincent Geoghegan, Ruth Levitas, Tom Moylan, Nicole Pohl, Lucy Sargisson, Jorge Bastos da Silva, Pavla Veselá
    Co-opted member - Nicholas Coleman.

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