

Utopian Studies Society

Annual General Meeting of the Utopian Studies Society Charles University, Prague, 5 July 2014

MINUTES

Present: Committee members: Fátima Vieira (Chair), Jim Arnold (Treasurer), Lorna Davidson (Secretary), Antonis Balasopoulos, Artur Blaim, Greg Claeys, Laurence Davis, Vincent Geoghegan, Ruth Levitas, Tom Moylan, Nicole Pohl, Lucy Sargisson, Jorge Bastos da Silva, Pavla Veselá, Nathaniel Coleman, and 47 ordinary members.

1. **Apologies.** Pere Gallardo
2. **Minutes of the AGM held in New Lanark, 4 July 2013.** These were approved unanimously on a motion by Vincent Geoghegan, seconded by Tom Moylan
3. **Matters arising.** None
4. **Finance:**
 - a) **Treasurer's Report 2013/14.** Jim Arnold presented the report, which was available at the meeting. This was approved unanimously, on a motion by Annette Magid, seconded by Andrew Milner.
 - b) **Election of new Treasurer.** As he had previously advised, Jim Arnold was resigning as Treasurer of the Society and Adam Stock of Newcastle University had agreed to accept this office. Adam Stock was formally proposed by Nathaniel Coleman, seconded by Ruth Levitas, as a member of the committee, and as the new Treasurer. This proposal was accepted unanimously by the meeting. It was resolved that Adam Stock would be the authorised signatory for the Society's account at the Royal Bank of Scotland, and that the existing mandate be replaced in accordance with this change of officer. Fátima Vieira and Tom Moylan, on behalf of the Society, expressed their thanks to Jim Arnold for his outstanding contribution and support for the Society since its establishment, and for his work as Treasurer. This was heartily endorsed by the members present and a presentation was made.
5. **Election of Office-bearers and Committee**

Secretary referred members to the current list of committee members (noted on the agenda) and advised that they would all be eligible for re-election at the AGM in 2015. She further advised that Fátima Vieira had intimated her intention to step down as Chair of the Society at the AGM in 2016, by which time she would have completed 10 years in office. As a result, the committee proposed to discuss a procedure for the election of a new Chair, and this would be tabled for consideration and approval at the AGM in July 2015. She also advised that in due course she would be retiring as

Secretary, and so a wider consideration of “succession planning” would be appropriate. Noted and agreed.

6. Conference Plans - updates from representatives of the organisers

a) 2015 Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK. Nathaniel Coleman confirmed that the dates would be 1-4 July, and issued “postcard” invitations with the address of the conference website which will go live soon. Ruth Levitas was confirmed as a keynote speaker.

A varied programme is planned, with possible excursions to include the Holy Island of Lindisfarne.

b) 2016 Lisbon, Portugal. Fátima Vieira confirmed that the venue would be Lisbon, and the dates would be co-ordinated with ICSA whose 2016 conference was also to take place in Portugal, at the Tamera community. The 500th. anniversary of the publication of Thomas More’s Utopia would be a special theme of the 2016 meeting.

c) 2017 Gdansk, Poland. Artur Blaim confirmed that he and his colleagues were looking forward to hosting the 2017 conference. It was anticipated that the University would have a new building open by then, and more details would be provided in due course.

d) Fátima Vieira invited suggestions for the venue of the 2018 conference. No firm proposals were offered at this stage, though some tentative suggestions are under consideration.

7. Any other competent business. Brian Greenspan reminded members of the forthcoming Society for Utopian Studies meeting in Montreal, 23-26 October 2014: information has been circulated to USS members, and some limited travel grants are available.

A Magid advised that the Northeast Modern Languages Association was to include a panel on Transnational Utopian Literature for the first time, and that a Call for Papers would be circulated for the meeting planned for Toronto, 30 April-3 May 2015.

Fátima Vieira drew proceedings to a close, and concluded by warmly thanking Pavla Veselá and her team of helpers for their organisation of an excellent conference. Presentations were made and Pavla, on behalf of her colleagues, thanked everyone for their participation. She expressed special appreciation to Fátima Vieira, Greg Claeys and Lorna Davidson for their advice and guidance.

8. Date of next meeting – Newcastle University, July 2015

www.utopianstudieseurope.org