



**Minutes of the Committee meeting of the Utopian Studies Society  
Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona, Spain, 12th July 2018**

**Present:** **Chair:** Gregory Claeys, **Treasurer:** Adam Stock, **Secretary:** Justyna Galant.  
**Committee members:** Artur Blaim, Andrew Milner, Julia Ramírez Blanco, Lisa Garforth, Laurence Davis, Michael Kelly, Pavla Vesela, Sorin Antohi, Susanna Layh. Verity Brugman.

1. Artur Blaim proposes to ascertain that all nominees for the Committee are introduced before the elections. All agree. Laurence Davis proposes brief descriptions of candidates are sent via email well in advance of the conferences. Justyna Galant explains this could not have been done this year due to last minute information on the Committee resignations.
2. Adam Stock asks the Society to consider moving the USS account out of England, noting also that he may be stepping down from his position as the Treasurer next year. Sorin Antohi asks AS to remain in post.
3. Justyna Galant suggests an email discussion within the Committee on the rules, terms of office and obligations of Committee members. JG proposes a different internal organisation of the Committee with particular members as representatives of their geographical regions or thematic fields. Additionally, some Committee members could have a special status, such as Nichole Pohl as the editor of Utopian Studies Journal. Andrew Milner seconds the proposal to retain the special status of Nichole Pohl as Committee member. All agree. Michael Kelly raises the question of the terms of office, proposing the 3-year period, possible for the reelection once. Adam Stock agrees terms of office need to be agreed for administrative hygiene. Laurence Davis raises doubt over the possible extension of the 3-year Committee membership period to 5 years. GC explains that would have primarily administrative advantage. LD expresses his preference for retaining the 3-year period. Seconded by Julia Ramírez Blanco. The question whether Committee members should be asked for a declaration whether to step down after a 2-year absence at USS conferences is revisited. JG suggests retaining the 3 years' term does not require the declaration as the members would be due for reelection the following year. Seconded by Michael Kelly. GC suggests retaining the post-2-year nonattendance declaration arguing that Committee members are obliged to attend the Society's conferences every year. Artur Blaim proposes that Committee members who do not attend USS conferences for 2 years while in office should not be entitled to stand for

reelection. Adam Stock proposes appointing a social media officer or other functions within the Society's Committee. GC seconds the proposal suggesting these appointments would not necessarily be subject to the 3-year term of office.

4. Julia Ramírez Blanco proposes to prepare an interactive map of utopian organisations and study centres to be placed on USS website.
5. Justyna Galant notes that due to a complain on the Committee's transparency received by David Bell via email, minutes from Committee meetings will be posted the USS website.