



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of
Utopian Studies Society / Europe
6th July 2022, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj, Romania**

Present: **Chair:** Gregory Claeys, **Secretary:** Zsolt Czigányik, **Committee Members:** Artur Blaim, Corin Braga, Fátima Vieira, José Eduardo Reis, Sorin Antohi, and ca. 50 ordinary members in person and online.

1. Gregory Claeys opens the USS/E 2023 AGM. The agenda is accepted unanimously.
2. **Lifetime Achievement Award** is presented to **Professor Fátima Vieira**. Gregory Claeys laudates the awardee.
3. The chair thanks the organisers, Corin Braga and his team for their work in organising the conference.
4. The chair thanks the work of Justyna Galant as **secretary** of the society and announces that Zsolt Czigányik replaced her after she had resigned. The committee had approved of this change.
5. **EDI officer. Dr Marta Komsta** was nominated as EDI officer. The members received her bio in an e-mail prior to the AGM and voted electronically. The vote closed on 7th July at 10 GMT with the following result:
Dr Marta Komsta was elected as EDI officer with 51 votes for, 1 vote against, 8 abstentions (60 voted).
6. **Treasurer.** Since Zsolt Czigányik replaced Justyna Galant as secretary, a new treasurer was sought, and Dr. Kenneth Hanshew was nominated during the conference.
Dr Kenneth Hanshew was elected as treasurer by the AGM unanimously.
7. **Amendment of point 8. of the constitution of the society.** The current constitution limits office holders to six (2x3) years of service. This runs the risk that the committee may become unserviceable. It is proposed that this limitation be lifted. Office holders

may serve for more than six years if they are re-elected. If more candidates are elected than vacancies exist, those with the majority of votes will be elected.

The result of the electronic vote: the amendment is accepted (33 votes for, 14 votes against, 13 abstentions)

8. ECR/EDI (Early career researchers and equality, diversity, inclusivity) statement.

The following statement was drafted by the committee to be posted on the society website and to be followed in our activities:

“The Society endeavours to assist ECR members in any way possible, including (where applicable) providing financial assistance to attend meetings, and providing advice respecting publication, presentation and other skills at an annual Skills session held at each Society meeting. ECR members may be elected to the Committee, bearing in mind that the normal expectation is that Committee members attend each Society meeting.

The Society promotes the general goals of equality, diversity, and inclusivity (EDI). Prejudice and/or bullying which takes into account nationality, gender, sexual preference, disability, ethnicity, age, religion, race or any other form of identity is not permitted in Committee or Society meetings, or any communication directed to either the Committee or the Society. Violation of this rule may result in expulsion from and/or a prohibition of membership in the Society, if a majority of the Committee agrees.”

The result of the electronic vote: the statement is accepted (50 votes for, 10 abstentions)

9. USS/E CONFERENCE PLANS FOR 2024: On behalf of Central European University’s Democracy Institute, Iva Dimovska and Zsolt Czigányik offer a presentation of Budapest and the Democracy Institute as the prospective organising venue of USS/E 2024 Conference. The proposed date is 3-5 July, 2024.

The result of the electronic vote: the proposal is accepted (53 votes for, 2 votes against, 5 abstentions)

10. Zsolt Czigányik presents a Treasurer’s report which is then unanimously approved.

11. Jorge Bastos da Silva remarks that the current conference’s sessions are being recorded without the participants’ prior consent. The issue is discussed, and as unanimity cannot be reached concerning the recordings, they are deleted by the conference organizers.

Note: the electronic voting process was overseen by election officers Ana Maria Spariosu and Sorin Antohi.