

Australian Science Communicators Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date: 13 December 2010

Time: 6.00pm local time

Venue: RiAus, 55 Exchange Place, Adelaide,
South Australia

[Meeting opened at 6.00pm]

Items for Discussion

1. Confirmation of members attending, apologies

- 25 members attended (see attached list)
- 16 members offered apologies (see attached list)

2. Notification of proxies

- 16 sent their proxies to member attendees (see attached list)

3. Minutes of 2009 AGM

- Tim Thwaites moved to accept minutes; David Ellyard seconded → motion carried

4. President's report

- (see attached report for details)
- Jesse Shore recorded a vote of thanks to the membership base, especially to those who contribute at the national level
 - A vote of thanks to Rob Morrison, Lisa Bailey and ASC SA team for organising the AGM
- David Ellyard recorded our gratitude and thanks to Jesse Shore for his outstanding work and effort throughout the year
- David Ellyard moved to accept President's Report; Rob Morrison seconded → motion carried

5. Treasurer's report

a. presentation of statement of accounts

- Items to note include:
 - We have received approximately \$36000 in membership subscriptions, which is down approximately \$10000 from past year
 - Conference income means 2010 income is much higher
 - Change in renewal date to all occur on the 1st September has impacted on the overall membership income, but this should correct itself in the future
 - Kali Madden is now the Executive Officer and has undertaken significant duties in the past year, which is why the secretariat cost is higher
 - Using Skype for national meetings has reduced the cost of communications

- Last year we moved to capitation automatic returns of 10% of membership income to branches, with the remaining 10% held in a fund which branches can bid for
- Tim Thwaites noted that the success of the 2010 conference showed that ASC can run a conference and make a profit
 - This should be an important source of income for ASC in the future, as many attendees were not members, and there were sponsors – we should develop our conferences to be a source of income
 - Despite the cost being \$600 without ASC membership, we attracted 230+ attendees (having planned for 200)
- Rob Morrison moved to accept both audited reports; Tim Thwaites seconded → motion carried

b. determination of annual membership fee

- Carolyn Herbert questioned why when she recently joined the cost was less?
 - David Ellyard explained this was a consequence of annual membership, which decreased as the date approached the September renewal date
- Heather Bray asked how long membership had been at its current rate?
 - David Ellyard answered five years and the aim was to keep the fee as low as possible
 - Rob Morrison added that a model the South Australian branch have been using is to discount workshop fees (e.g. \$50 for non-members, and free for members) for people to value membership – a common approach would be worthwhile
 - Jesse Shore noted that lower costs (or no cost) are allocated to ASC members across Australia, based on the past year's event information
- David Ellyard moved that the full membership fee remains unchanged at \$88 inc GST; Melanie Bagg seconded → motion carried

c. determination of capitation to be returned to branches

- David Ellyard noted that with the current system, 10% of membership fees goes automatically to branches; 10% is moved to a pool of funding branches can bid for
- Lisa Horsley asked about the process of bidding for the pool of funds and if it was an annual process
 - David Ellyard explained that the process was based on event funding, with events usually designed to increase profile and membership
- David Ellyard moved that capitation arrangements remain unchanged for the ASC financial year; Rob Morrison seconded → motion carried

d. determination of honoraria

- David Ellyard noted that the following honoraria are payable, in recognition of those who take on these roles:
 - Honoraria of \$1000 payable to the President, Secretary and Treasurer
 - Honoraria to \$1800 to Scope Editor, Laura Miles, for the publication of Scope
- Rob Morrison noted that the payment of honoraria allows related expenses to become tax deductible
- Regan Forrest asked if the website work attracted an honorarium
 - David Ellyard explained that James Hutson has received remuneration, rather than an honorarium, and other resources have been spent on the website
- Tim Thwaites moved that honoraria arrangements are continued; Richard Musgrove seconded → motion carried

e. appointment of auditor

- David Ellyard moved that John Gigis and Co are retained as auditors; Tim Thwaites seconded → motion carried

f. appointment of public officer

- David Ellyard noted that the Public Officer must be resident in the ACT, as the body is incorporated in ACT, and must sign the annual returns
 - This position is currently held by Claire Harris
 - If Claire Harris is unable to accept this position, someone else in the ACT must be sought to fill this position
- David Ellyard moved that Claire Harris be appointed as the Public Officer, with the National Council to determine a replacement should Claire be unable to accept; Judy Ford seconded → motion carried

g. tabling of 2011 budget

- David Ellyard presented the draft budget verbally to the meeting
 - It was noted that more money is available to be put towards employing an Executive Officer for a greater scope of duties

6. Election of 2011 ASC President

- One nomination received: Jesse Shore (nominated by Nancy Longnecker and seconded by Sarah Lau)
- All attendees voted in favour of returning Jesse Shore as ASC National President → motion carried
- (see attached report for details)

7. Motions to amend the Constitution

- (see attached report for details)
- **4.1.2.2 – Corporate membership costs**
- Jesse Shore noted that the first proposed amendment to the Constitution involved rewording section 4.1.2.2
 - The rate for corporate membership is set by the Constitution. Previous ASC officials altered the rate without seeking a change to the relevant clause in the Constitution. The amendment is needed to make the rate change official and to enable the National Council to change the rate once a year if needed.
- David Ellyard requested an explanation of corporate membership and benefits
 - Jesse Shore explained that corporate members come from an organisation that purchases up to 10 memberships, for the cost of eight (according to Constitution). The rate had been changed to 10 memberships for the cost of six.
 - Previously, corporate members did not have voting rights unless they joined the National Council
 - There are no representatives of corporate members on the National Council currently
- Simon Langsford asked how the 10 members were nominated
 - David Ellyard explained that the organisation purchasing the membership nominates the 10 members, and the names can change throughout the year

- Rob Morrison noted that Melanie Bagg made the initial motion to change the corporate membership roles and wished to record formal acknowledgement of this in the minutes
- Jesse Shore moved that section 4.1.2.2 is changed as outlined in the attached report; Rob Morrison seconded → motion carried
- **4.2.2 – voting rights for corporate members**
- Melanie Bagg noted that a corporate membership was lost in South Australia as there are no voting rights associated with the membership
- Jesse Shore noted that the branches have the ability to agree on who joins the National Council and can monitor that the Council does not have an excessive number of representatives of one corporate member
- Regan Forrest enquired as to the figure of ‘five votes’ and how this was determined
 - Jesse Shore responded that if the corporate rate changed to the cost of five members, then this would be equivalent to the number of people a company is paying for
- Melanie Bagg noted that in other professional societies, it can become quite competitive and therefore her original proposal had only nominated one vote per corporate membership
- Rob Morrison raised Niall Byrne’s concerns regarding the representation of individual science communicators and suggested the Executive could undertake to review this at the next AGM
- Jesse Shore made a rule of order to note that the motion can be amended before votes are cast
- Adam Barclay suggested that if there is a risk that five votes are too many, then it may be better to start at a lower number and then consider reviewing this later on
- Tim Thwaites acknowledged Niall Byrne’s concerns and explained that in the past, this issue has been raised in the context of preventing a corporate takeover of ASC and in light of avoiding pressure from corporations and external organisations
 - Initially ASC had been proposed as an organisation for journalists only, but there is now the advantage of having science communicators from a range of disciplines
 - Perhaps instead of increased voting rights, corporate members could receive other benefits (e.g. at the National Conference)
- Cobi Smith had discussed corporate membership with Kali Madden when she began working at RiAus – there are now 9 individual memberships, as there were no obvious advantages. Cobi added that if an organisation wanted to wield greater voting influence it would purchase multiple individual memberships for its staff.
- Melanie Bagg suggesting taking a position now, then reviewing it in the future, as her experiences indicate that organisations are keen to take on corporate memberships, but are deterred by the lack of voting rights
 - These proposed changes would be a good way to spread the word and increase membership
- David Ellyard moved an amendment to the proposed constitutional change, so that the new wording reads ‘Representatives of Corporate Members who are not members of the National Council may participate in debates on matters of business at any General Meeting and one representative (or their proxy) nominated by the Corporate Member shall be entitled to vote.’; Rob Morrison seconded → motion carried
- The amended motion was put by David Ellyard; Rob Morrison seconded → motion carried

- **Correction of typographical errors**
- Jesse Shore moved that the Constitution be amended to correct typographical errors as outlined in the attached report; Rob Morrison seconded
- The motion was put by Tim Thwaites; Regan Forrest seconded → motion carried

8. Motion to ratify selection of Life member

- ASC National Council nominated Peter Pockley as ASC Life Member
- Rob Morrison moved that Peter Pockley be ratified as an ASC Life Member; David Ellyard seconded → motion carried

9. Any other business

- Jesse Shore announced the members of the 2012 National Conference Planning Committee, and announced the Chair of the Committee will be selected shortly.
- (see attached report for details)

7.14pm meeting closed

Australian Science Communicators
Annual General Meeting
Attendees

LAST	FIRST	MEMBER?
Bagg	Melanie	1
Bray	Heather	1
Byrne	James	1
DeRosa	Fiona	1
Ellyard	David	1
Fegan-Jeffries	Erinn	1
Ford	Judy	1
Forrest	Regan	1
Herbert	Carolyn	1
Horsley	Lisa	1
Hutton	Deane	1
Langsford	Simon	1
Langsford	Simon	1
Lau	Sarah	1
McDonell	Rodney	1
Miller	Tracy	1
Morrison	Rob	1
Musgrave	Ian	1
Musgrove	Richard	1
Patkin	Michael	1
Patkin	Margaret	1
Sakko	Rona	1
Shore	Jesse	1
Smith	Cobi	1
Thwaites	Tim	1
TOTALS:		25

Australian Science Communicators
Annual General Meeting
Apologies and Proxies

LAST	FIRST	MEMBER?	PROXY TO
Brooker	Sarah	1	Tim Thwaites
Byrne	Niall	1	Tim Thwaites
Coulter	Liese	1	Sarah Lau
Donnelly	Emma	1	Sarah Lau
Gascoigne	Toss	1	Sarah Lau
Harris	Claire	1	Sarah Lau
Hurley	Marina	1	Sarah Lau
Hutson	James	1	Sarah Lau
Longnecker	Nancy	1	Sarah Lau
Metcalf	Jenni	1	Sarah Lau
Mullen	Clare	1	Sarah Lau
Pockley	Peter	1	Jesse Shore
Rive	Meg	1	Sarah Lau
Searle	Suzette	1	Sarah Lau
Selinger	Adam	1	Sarah Lau
Trudinger	Melissa	1	Sarah Lau
TOTAL:		16	

Australian Science Communicators Annual General Meeting President's Report

The profile of science communication was raised in 2010 with the launch of the Inspiring Australia report. This is the first major federal government document to address the role of science communication in engaging Australian society with science. The report is timely as we are faced with an increasingly urgent need for effective communication of science and a greater integration of science with society.

The ASC is an active voice in this landscape but we acknowledge there is only so much that we can do as a volunteer run organisation. We are turning to the membership for skilled and energetic people to contribute time to various programs and initiatives. It takes time to seek willing hands and then to brief and coordinate them so sometimes we seem back at square one in trying to find time to make things happen. The same goes for seeking like-minded organisations to partner us in some of our projects.

Because time and resources are in short supply we need to be sure that our longer term programs are sustainable and work smoothly from the beginning. Sometimes this means that projects move along very slowly such as setting up an accreditation program for short courses.

The national and branch levels of the ASC tell similar stories. Branch committees work hard to run events and attract audiences in an ever increasingly competitive environment. The branches are always in need of people who not only have good ideas but will make them realities.

But I am happy to report we are making progress on various fronts including our financial position. I don't expect to us to be able to support a full time secretariat in the near future but this must be one of our strategic aims.

Now to some of the many highlights of this year:

1. **ASC conference:**
 - 1.1 The conference in February was a great success with 3 days of stimulating, relevant and varied sessions attended by over 275 people.
 - 1.2 My thanks go to Immediate past-president Tim Thwaites and Membership officer Kali Madden who did wonderfully well in the huge job of organising the conference.
 - 1.3 The conference raised the profile of the ASC and the role of science communication and was financially successful.
2. **Inspiring Australia Report launch at the ASC conference:**
 - 2.1 It was a coup for the ASC to have Minister for Science Kim Carr launch the Inspiring Australia Report as well as open the conference.
 - 2.2 While initial concerns were raised that the ASC was barely mentioned in the report it was to set the scene for much subsequent action involving the ASC.
3. **ASC response to the Inspiring Australia report:**
 - 3.1 It was clear that the ASC had much to gain by aligning its focus with Inspiring Australia.

- 3.2 Our members' comments combined with Rob Morrison's analysis of the report helped the National Council and Executive to set priorities for the year.
- 3.3 I had preliminary meetings with the people in charge of carrying out the report's recommendations. They acknowledged our interest and support with our official representation and participation of several of our members on steering committees.
- 3.4 I have met several of the state representatives responsible for implementing aspects of the report in their state and have corresponded with a few newly appointed state coordinators.
- 3.5 We have continued to seek information from our members regarding various aspects of the report. This helps to raise our profile, demonstrates our effectiveness and prepares us for further report related activity.
- 3.6 Our response to the report was specifically mentioned in the recent Inspiring Australia newsletter.
- 3.7 Members have responded to our proposed strategic actions regarding each recommendation of the report.
- 4. **ASC branches:**
 - 4.1 The rejuvenated SA branch had its first meeting in February and has been busy with running activities throughout the year with several hosted at RiAus.
 - 4.2 The WA branch co-ran a well attended training workshop in evaluation and has also been consistently active.
 - 4.3 VIC ran a very successful networking event.
 - 4.4 ACT put on numerous events, notably an enjoyable and innovative Pies @ the pub for Pi Day
 - 4.5 SE QLD had a popular visit to the XXXX Brewery
 - 4.6 NSW ran an insightful 'Freelancing for science communicators' event among a busy program.
 - 4.7 All branches ran a total of around 30 events and activities.
- 5. **Hot Air Tips and Highlights report:**
 - 5.1 Past ASC national president Jenni Metcalfe, of the Queensland branch, compiled the report of tips and highlights from three Hot Air symposia and posted it on the ASC website. Jenni organised the symposia to explore how to communicate the science of climate change.
 - 5.2 The symposia were an ASC initiative with support from NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water and Econnect communication.
- 6. **Travel:**
 - 6.1 I met with WA, SA and NSW branch committees
 - 6.2 Met with the coordinators of the VIC and ACT branches
 - 6.3 Participated in one ACT event
 - 6.4 Inspiring Australia meetings - met twice with the Inspiring Australia team at Questacon (ACT); participated in the Science and Community Evaluation Tools meeting (VIC) and the Steering Committee for Developing an Evidence Base (ACT); presented to the COAG Inspiring Australia officers meeting in Melbourne.
- 7. **Networking:**
 - 7.1 I collaborated with the Sydney Environmental Educators Network (SEEN) and International Association for Public Participation Australasia (IAPP) to run 3 workshops at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney on communicating aspects of climate change.
 - 7.2 Worked with Australian Environmental Educators (AAEE) to develop outline of professional development workshops. This project may need additional partners to be realised.

- 7.3 Met the International Year of Biodiversity coordinators in WA and NSW.
- 7.4 Worked with training provider to develop training program in improvisational theatre skills for early career scientists to improve communication skills. Sought input from the director of the Tall Poppy Campaign and science communication course providers.
- 7.5 Liaised with various environmental organisations regarding training in science communication.
- 7.6 Liaised with Skeptics Society and other groups about effectively communicating what is and isn't science.
- 8. **Web site:**
 - 8.1 Continues to be developed and improved by James Hutson of the Victorian branch
 - 8.2 Expect new look early in 2011
 - 8.3 Laura Miles and Kali Madden continue to support James' work.
- 9. **Automation of membership:**
 - 9.1 all members now on automated database (thanks to Kali Madden for her efforts)
 - 9.2 enables Kali to quickly tabulate and report on vital member information

To finish I would like thank the membership for their constructive responses to my various requests for information and advice. I have special thanks for the many people who contribute to ASC at a national level — and some of you are in this room

1. All those on the National Council
2. Kali Madden, from her role as Membership Officer to her new enhanced position as Executive Officer, for all her hard work in managing the membership.
3. Laura Miles and James Hutson for their contribution to ensuring the ASC has an active voice to our members and the world via newsletters and the website.
4. Also thanks to Rob Morrison, Lisa Bailey and the rest of the ASC SA team who organised this AGM.
5. Finally to the members of the national executive, who all put in many hours on ASC-related business—David Ellyard, Tim Thwaites, Rob Morrison, Sarah Lau and Phil Dooley.

Jesse Shore
13 December 2010

Australian Science Communicators Annual General Meeting Accounts

Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 August 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Income		
Full Memberships	18,898.95	25,253.80
WCSJ Income		83,706.85
Projects Income	13,309.28	
Interest received	183.78	75.31
Total income	32,392.01	109,035.96
Expenses		
Administration Charges	1,534.82	2,184.51
Annual Report	493.00	
Bookkeeping/ Audit Fees		590.91
Bank Charges	7.50	5.00
Credit Card Merchant Fees	323.80	132.00
Capitation	9,246.00	1,698.20
Elists	236.00	941.64
Honoraria		
Honoraria	2,000.00	
Honoraria: Scope		1,300.00
Honoraria: Treasurer		1,000.00
Secretariat Management	1,278.73	3,011.65
Membership Officer		2,500.00
Projects	22,437.64	
Training	8,390.19	
Telephone, Fax teleconferences	1,499.45	578.13
Conference Call Costs	118.56	
WCSJ		23,903.62
Website	5,567.00	2,770.00
Travel, accom & conference	1,488.07	1,353.04
Total expenses	54,620.76	41,968.70
Profit (loss) from ordinary activities before income tax	(22,228.75)	67,067.26
Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities		
Net profit (loss) attributable to the association	(22,228.75)	67,067.26
Total changes in equity of the association	(22,228.75)	67,067.26
Opening retained profits	68,262.22	1,194.96
Net profit (loss) attributable to the association	(22,228.75)	67,067.26
Closing retained profits	46,033.47	68,262.22

Australian Science Communicators Annual General Meeting Accounts

Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 August 2010

Australian Science Communicators Inc ABN 88 745 029 974 Income and Expenditure Statement For the year ended 31 August 2010

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
Income		
Full Memberships	16,438.38	18,898.95
Projects Income		13,309.28
Conference registration	52,920.13	
Conference Sponsorship	6,500.00	
Interest received	18.47	183.78
Total income	75,876.98	32,392.01
Expenses		
Fees	1,689.19	493.00
Bank Charges and Fees	192.33	331.30
Conference costs	52,179.24	
Capitation	3,332.00	9,246.00
Honoraria	3,300.00	2,000.00
Projects	2,414.00	22,437.64
Secretariat	18,127.78	11,203.74
Communications	72.93	1,618.01
Website and Elists	2,728.00	5,803.00
Travel	1,749.86	1,488.07
Total expenses	85,785.33	54,620.76
Profit (loss) from ordinary activities before income tax	(9,908.35)	(22,228.75)
Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities		
Net profit (loss) attributable to the association	(9,908.35)	(22,228.75)
Total changes in equity of the association	(9,908.35)	(22,228.75)
Opening retained profits	46,033.47	68,262.22
Net profit (loss) attributable to the association	(9,908.35)	(22,228.75)
Closing retained profits	36,125.12	46,033.47

Australian Science Communicators Annual General Meeting Returning President's Acceptance Speech

I'm very pleased to be re-elected to serve in 2011 as President of the ASC. We have had a busy 2010 and we will have even more to do in the coming year as inspiring Australia gets under full steam. Our committee to plan our next conference in 2012 will soon get under way. Improvements to our website will soon be implemented and we will continue to upgrade the site to serve changing needs.

The National Council and Executive can do only so much so the need will grow to involve more members to help deliver national and branch programs. This provides an opportunity for people to establish or raise their profile in science communication.

While speaking about people I'm pleased to announce that Tim Thwaites has agreed to continue in the role as 'Immediate Past President' and that with the approval of the National Council Rob Morrison will continue as Vice-president, David Ellyard as National Treasurer and Sarah Lau as National Secretary. It is a great benefit to the organisation to retain corporate knowledge and experience even as we welcome new people to committees and programs.

I thank members of the 2010 National Council for their efforts and I look forward to working with the new National Council starting with its first meeting this week.

I also thank the continued efforts of our Executive officer, Kali Madden, Scope editor, Laura Miles and web manager, James Hutson. The ASC is fortunate to have such enthusiastic and effective people in these roles.

My final thank you goes to the membership for re-electing me as President. I'm confident that ASC will increase its ability to serve the needs and interest of its members and its involvement in helping to make communication of science in Australia more effective. May we all have good fortune in 2011.

Jesse Shore
13 December 2010

Australian Science Communicators

Annual General Meeting

Motions to change the ASC Constitution

1. Motion to change the Constitution – Motion made by Jesse Shore and seconded by Rob Morrison. We propose the constitution is amended as follows (proposed changes to wording in the current and revised clauses are underlined):

Section 4 of the constitution - 'MEMBERSHIP'

Current wording:

4.1.2.2 The membership fee for Corporate Members shall be at a rate of 800% of the standard Annual Membership Fee.

Proposed new wording

4.1.2.2 The membership fee for Corporate Members shall be at the rate as determined by the National Council but not less than 500% of the standard Annual Membership Fee. The rate may be changed once each year to come into effect at the annual membership renewal date or at the beginning of the ASC financial year.

Reason for proposed amendment:

The ASC currently has only two corporate members. This low number may be because the membership fee is not sufficiently enticing and/or that representatives of corporate members have no voting rights unless they are members of the National Council. The proposed change in wording addresses the cost factor.

A few years ago, to make corporate membership more attractive, ASC officials changed the rate for corporate membership from 800% to 600% of the standard annual member's fee although this is not in accord with the current wording of Clause 4.1.2.2.

I advocate that the National Council, as the policy making body of ASC, have the authority to set the rate with the constraint of the stated minimum 500%. The proposed wording will enable the National Council to make such adjustments without having to hold a special meeting and changes are limited to one per year.

This change does not affect Clause 5.2.4.2 which states that standard annual membership and joining fee is determined at each Annual General Meeting.

2. Motion to change the Constitution – Motion made by Jesse Shore and seconded by Rob Morrison. We propose the constitution is amended as follows (proposed changes to wording in the current and revised clauses are underlined):

Section 4 of the constitution - 'MEMBERSHIP'

Current wording:

4.2.2 Representatives of Corporate Members who are not members of the National Council may participate in debates on matters of business at any General Meeting, but shall not be entitled to vote.

Proposed new wording

4.2.2 Representatives of Corporate Members who are not members of the National Council may participate in debates on matters of business at any General

Meeting and up to five (5) representatives nominated by the Corporate Member shall be entitled to vote. As some representatives may be members of National Council with full voting rights according to Clause 4.2.1, the maximum number of votes for each Corporate Member will be five (5).

Reason for proposed amendment:

The ASC currently has two corporate members. This may be because representatives of corporate members have no voting rights unless they are on the National Council. The proposed amendment provides voting rights.

The existing Clause 4.1.2.2 of the constitution states that Corporate Members can have ten members for the cost of eight and a few years ago ASC officials decided the rate should be ten for the cost of six (please see the proposed amendment of clause 4.1.2.2 for more background). This proposed amendment is meant to acknowledge and encourage the active participation of Corporate Members in the organisation while limiting undue influence from force of numbers.

The wording for this amendment does not restrict the means the ASC management (the President and National Council) use to prevent the unlikely situation of more than 5 representatives of one Corporate Member joining the National Council.

3. Motion to change the Constitution to correct typographical errors – Motion made by Jesse Shore and seconded by Rob Morrison. We propose the constitution is amended as follows (proposed changes to wording in the current and revised clauses are underlined):
Section 4 of the constitution – ‘MEMBERSHIP’

Current wording:

4.1.2.1 Corporate Members are entitled to nominate up to ten (10) representatives to enjoy the privileges of Ordinary Membership, including attendance at Meetings at the Ordinary Members' rate of entrance fee according to Clause 5.2.1, but subject to the operation of Clause 4.2.2.

Proposed new wording

4.1.2.1 Corporate Members are entitled to nominate up to ten (10) representatives to enjoy the privileges of Ordinary Membership, including attendance at Meetings at the Ordinary Members' rate of entrance fee according to Clause 5.1.2, but subject to the operation of Clause 4.2.2.

Reason for proposed amendment:

This corrects a confusing typographical error in Clause 4.1.2.1. The stated Clause 5.2.1 refers to when the AGM is to be called. Clause 5.1.2 refers to fees to attend meetings as follows:

5.1.2 The National Council or Committee shall discriminate in favour of members when charging admission to cover meeting costs.

Section 5 of the constitution – ‘MEETINGS’

Current wording:

5.1 **GENENERAL MEETINGS**

Proposed new wording

5.1 **GENERAL MEETINGS**

Reason for proposed amendment:
This corrects a typographical error.

Section 6 of the constitution – ‘MANAGEMENT’

Current wording:

- 6.1.7 Should a casual vacancy occur in the representational of any Branch, the Branch shall nominate a replacement, with such nomination being confirmed by the Branch at its next General Meeting.

Proposed new wording

- 6.1.7 Should a casual vacancy occur in the representation of any Branch, the Branch shall nominate a replacement, with such nomination being confirmed by the Branch at its next General Meeting.

Reason for proposed amendment:
This corrects a typographical error.

Section 7 of the constitution – ‘DISCIPLINING OF MEMBERS’

Current wording:

- 7.1 Where the National Council is of the opinion that a member has persistently and wilfully acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the Association or has s persistently refused or neglected to comply with a provision of this Constitution, the Committee may act to discipline the member.

Proposed new wording

- 7.1 Where the National Council is of the opinion that a member has persistently and wilfully acted in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the Association or has persistently refused or neglected to comply with a provision of this Constitution, the Committee may act to discipline the member.

Reason for proposed amendment:
This corrects a typographical error.

Australian Science Communicators Annual General Meeting Announcement: 2012 National Conference Planning Committee

I am pleased to announce the names of the twelve members who will comprise the ASC 2012 national conference planning committee.

Below is the list of committee members with the briefest of mentions about each person. The comment 'New member' basically means an early career person with energy to offer and a willingness to gain experience.

We will soon appoint a member to serve as the conference chair for the entire committee. The position will require someone with experience and a bit of time. I will recommend to the National Council to co-opt the conference chair to the ASC Executive and National Council to ensure regular updates on the progress of the committee.

The committee is responsible for or will advise the Executive in the appointment of a Professional Conference Organiser; selecting the date, city and venue for the next conference; develop the program; and look after other conference related tasks.

Committee meetings will be held by Skype teleconference as much as possible. The first group Skype teleconference will be in January.

ASC members will be kept informed of significant progress. I hope we all will contribute ideas and support for the conference development process ahead.

Names grouped by state or territory

Name	Branch	Special mentions
Lisa Bailey	SA	RiAus - Senior Programs Co-ordinator
Amanda Tyndall	SA	RiAus - Head of Programs
Ann Pocock	SA	New member
Toss Gascoigne	ACT	ASC Past president, President PCST Network
Rod Lamberts	ACT	Organised research presentations for 2010 conference
Laurence Goux	NSW	Uni researcher
Stuart Lewis	NSW	Experienced with fundraising, logistics, outreach programs
Anneliese Gillard	VIC	New member
Ian Muchamore	VIC	Very experienced in event management
Paula Taylor	VIC	Newly rejoined member
Nancy Longnecker	WA	Coordinator, Sci-comm faculty UWA
Phillip Arena	WA	Active with WA ASC activities

13 December 2010
Jesse Shore
National President