

Australian Science Communicators Special General Meeting Minutes

Date: 18 December 2015 **Start time:** 6.30pm (ADST)

Venue: Teatro Vivaldi Restaurant, ANU Arts Centre, University Avenue, Canberra

Meeting opened at 1.10pm

Meeting chaired by Joan Leach as President.

1. Motion: that the updated ASC Constitution be adopted

Joan Leach moved that the updated ASC Constitution be adopted and Will Grant seconded.

Joan Leach then moved the meeting into Committee to allow discussion and questions.

2. Discussion

Toss Gascoigne outlined the following matters to do with ASC's legal status and operation:

- ASC is incorporated in the ACT
- ASC's rules must conform with the Registrar-General's model rules and ASC's rules must be lodged with the Registrar General
- The updated Constitution updates and includes key clauses needed to comply with the model rules
- Other aspects of the previous Constitution have been moved to the by-laws
- By-laws interpret the way the Constitution should be implemented
- By-laws can be amended at a standard meeting and ASC does not have to call an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting to amend the by-laws, helping to improve the operation and flexibility of ASC in meeting the needs of its members

People seeking further information on the structure and content of the Constitution can refer to:

- Associations Incorporations Practice Manual – available online
- *Associations Incorporations Act (ACT) 1991*
- Associations Incorporations Regulations (ACT) 1991

Other matters discussed by attendees included:

Disciplining

- Many association rules make reference to disciplining members, although this may not be established as a formal process
- For example, the Public Communication of Science and Technology group resolved that it would not have a formal disciplining process for members
- Some clubs and associations have a code of conduct to assess member actions
- Attendees agreed a formal process for disciplining members was not necessary for ASC at this time but should remain a consideration for the Executive and National Council in the future

S23 – delegation by the committee to subcommittee

- In the proposed by-laws, if there are more than 10 members in a state or territory, these members can establish a branch
 - The branch may have its own rules but these rules cannot conflict with the national rules Constitution)
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- Branches are not considered subcommittees
 - Branches should hold elections to ensure that the branch committees represent members and reflect member interests
- Subcommittees and special interest groups are growing areas within ASC and the Constitution should allow for these to continue to grow

Objectives

- Attendees considered the objectives as stated in the Constitution still stand due to the nature of the business of our members and the types of activities they will engage in, even if not directly coordinated by ASC

Forms

- The proxy form is consistent with the current forms
- The member form requires amendment to match or incorporate the online membership forms

By-laws

- Any changes to the by-laws will be formally noted in the ASC's monthly newsletter, Scope, and published on the website

Lodging the Constitution

- Once this Constitution is approved, it needs to be lodged with the Registrar General

Joan Leach moved that the formal meeting be resumed.

3. Amendments and voting

The following amendments were proposed and voted on:

Amendment A: 11.1 - The words 'then the committee may' are added between (b) and (c)
Phil Dooley moved amendment A, Michael Mills seconded; approved by the majority → motion carried

Amendment B: 9.2 Delete 'within one month at the beginning of each financial year'
Phil Dooley moved amendment A, Michael Mills seconded; approved by the majority → motion carried

Amendment C: Appendix 1, Membership Form, add at the bottom of the form: 'Or by any other form approved by the committee'
Phil Dooley moved amendment A, Michael Mills seconded; approved by the majority → motion carried

Joan Leach moved Constitution with three approved amendments be accepted, Dustin Welbourne seconded; approved by the majority → motion carried

Phil Dooley moved a motion to thank Toss Gascoigne for his work and guidance in helping reform the ASC Constitution, and Michael Mills seconded; approved by the majority → motion carried

Meeting closed at 2.43pm

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Attendees

LAST	FIRST	MEMBER?
Ceccato	Emma	1
Cleghorn	Julia	1
Dooley	Phil	1
Gascoigne	Toss	1
Grant	Will	1
Lau	Sarah	1
Leach	Joan	1
Lourie	Paula	1
Madden*	Kali	0
Mills	Michael	1
Neale	Ruth	1
Pinkerton	Tamara	1
Roberson	Tara	1
Searle	Suzette	1
Welbourne	Dustin	1
Wheeler	Pete	1
Yardley	Chris	1
TOTAL:		15

*observer – non-voting

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Proxies

LAST	FIRST	MEMBER?	PROXY TO
Aranda	George	1	Sarah Lau
Elliott	Jo	1	Sarah Lau
Ellyard	David	1	Sarah Lau
Harris	Claire	1	Sarah Lau
Hutson	James	1	Sarah Lau
Lamberts	Rod	1	Will Grant
McKinnon	Merryn	1	Will Grant
Nisselle	Amy	1	Sarah Lau
Paxman	Cassie	1	Sarah Lau
Shore	Jesse	1	Sarah Lau
TOTAL:		10	