

**PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**MINUTES**  
**Saturday 28th March 2020, 3 pm**  
**Online**

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Doret de Ruyter and David Bridges

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting (held on 30 March 2019)**

The minutes were approved.

**3. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Update from the Chair**

Paul Standish welcomed everyone to the virtual AGM in the virtual Christopher Cox Room! He spoke of the large amount of work done on cancelling the conference and various events due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many events are now being set up virtually including the first PESGB webinar which has been set up very quickly. PS concluded by thanking David Aldridge, Richard Davies and David Lewin for setting up and working on presenting the Branch Meeting webinars, which have given a great psychological boost to Society members.

**5. Secretary's Report**

David Lewin issued a report on Branch activity and membership numbers. There are 22 regional branches and around 560 members. The first Branch webinar took place on 25<sup>th</sup> March and had 17 viewers. This was recorded and will appear on the website. The session had a presenter and a chair which proved a useful combination. DL will email all Branch Secretaries with information on online presenting and ideas for events.

DL thanked Doret de Ruyter, Jack Bicker and Amanda Fulford for their work as members of the Executive Committee. These members are now standing down and the Society received 7 nominations for their replacements. DL thanked members for participating in the online voting and the successful candidates are: Alison Brady, Laura D'Olimpio and Joris Vlieghe.

**6. Treasurer's Report**

Naomi Hodgson offered the Trustees Report, which summarises the structure, work and finances of the Society for the Charities Commission.

The draft annual accounts were presented to the membership. There is a healthy surplus of £70K and £20K of this is from the bonus paid to us by Wiley on the signing of our new contract. PS reported that we will receive just under £250,000 from Wiley over the next five years. NH thanked PS and the Editorial Board for negotiating this new contract for the Society. The accounts were approved by the membership.

The Society's accounts are sent to the Charity Commission and are reviewed first by our accountants, Slaters. NH proposed continuing to use Slaters as our independent reviewer and this was agreed. There were no dissenters. Proposed by NH and seconded by Amanda Fulford.

## **7. JOPE**

Bob Davis reported that despite being affected by the current pandemic, the view from Wiley is still very positive. There has been an increase in submissions to the Journal and a very positive response to the new structure plans for a six issue volume, which is being managed by BD, Emma Williams and Paul Standish. All issues will be produced digitally for the time being but will also be printed when this becomes possible again. BD was keen to thank all contributors for their support including authors, referees and supporters. PS outlined the issues for this year. The second issue will be available in April, edited by David Bakhurst, the third issue will be a regular issue, the fourth is commissioned for August, the fifth a regular issue in October and the sixth issue will be a Special Issue on policy. The sixth issue, from Adrian Skilbeck and Jeff Stickney, will be a slightly different style and format and made available to policy makers. A successor for BD as JOPE editor has been elected. David Bakhurst will formally take over next year but will spend this year shadowing BD, supported by two co-editors - EW on regular issues and PS on Special Issues. DB and the committee will search for new co-editors to take over and support DB. The new structure is designed to support future strategic development for the Journal which will make a big difference but BD stressed this still relies on the continued support from the readership and Society members.

## **8. Annual Conference**

After the annual conference was cancelled due to the current pandemic, New College offered alternative dates in September but the Conference Committee felt that this would be too early for people to feel comfortable in committing to take part. New College is keen to have our custom going forward and the Society is also keen to get back to New College in 2021. A virtual conference was considered but most people were too busy trying to keep up with work and changes at home to consider this. The Conference Committee does not want to lose the papers and hard work carried out by this year's submitters and is therefore offering a choice to present in three ways:

1. Carry the paper forward to 2021 and present at an extended programme. There will be automatic acceptance and it is hoped we may run the conference over an extra day if this is possible.
2. Papers can be presented at virtual Branch seminars. These can be recorded and saved to the PESGB website with author approval.
3. Papers can be uploaded to the PESGB website and available for online comment and discussion.

All submitters will be contacted by the Conference Committee to ask how they wish to go forward.

Amanda Fulford thanked all submitters, reviewers and keynote speakers for their understanding and said that none of the hard work carried out would be wasted. She thanked Ruth Wareham and SAS for their help in organising the cancellation and forward planning. It is hoped that the keynote speakers will be available to return in 2021. Ruth Wareham stressed that the committee is not imposing any of the above options on submitters, they are just options. Janet Orchard showed her support for the suggestions.

## **9. Committee on Race and Ethnicity**

Richard Davies voiced his support for the suggested mentoring scheme put forward by the committee. Money will be made available for this to enable people to meet up going forward and not just virtually. An initial event is being organised to pair up mentors and mentees and a budget will be available to cover some travel costs.

## **10. Large and Small Grants**

Due to the pandemic some of the funded activities will need to be reorganised, rescheduled, or otherwise adapted. The Large Grants chair, Emma Williams and Small Grants chair Carrie Winstanley will write to recent recipients.

## **11. Development Committee**

A Development Grant has been set up to allow members to pursue new ideas. A link is available on the website for applicants. The pre-conference workshop planned for 2020 will go forward to 2021, subject to Conference Committee approval.

## **12. Newsletter**

There will be no further hard copies of the Newsletter produced and this will be replaced with rolling news on the website. The Chair thanked Ruth Wareham for her excellent work on production of the Newsletter over the past few years. 2019 will be the final hard copy Newsletter. Jane Gatley will be taking over the new role as News Editor, working closely with the Website Committee, producing up to date news and blogs online. Ruth Heilbronn was also thanked for her contribution to producing the final hard copy Newsletter.

## **13. Website**

Mary Richardson told the meeting that it is six years since the website was last updated and steps were being taken to refresh it in 2020. The Society is working with Wiley to tender to an outside supplier to change the platform and design and deliver a refreshed look and more manageable system. Oli Belas will commission pieces for a blog, which will attract more readers to the site and to JOPE. It is hoped some blogs will grow into articles for JOPE. There are two members working on social media posts for the Society – Sarah Smith and Scott Gilbert. These are already showing improvement to online discussions and interest. MR asked members to email her with any photographs they may like to share on the new website. A launch of the new website will be publicised later in the year.

## **14. IMPACT**

Michael Hand reported on four upcoming issues of the IMPACT series. He asked members to get in touch with him if they had any suggestions for future issues. There is an IMPACT media team, which will work with the website social media team and it is hoped to expand this further. Anyone interested in joining the media team should contact MH.

## **15. BERA**

A report on BERA is contained within the Development Committee report. The next conference was due in Cambridge in May and this will most likely be postponed until 2021. The meeting thanked Richard Davies for all his work with BERA and representing PESGB. His role will be taken over by Janet Orchard and Kate O'Shaughnessy.

## **16. Date and time of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at New College, Oxford.

## **20. Any other business**

David Lewin announced that going forward, the November Executive and JOPE meetings will be held virtually to cut time and travel costs for all committee members. They will still meet face to face at the annual conference.

Michael Hand asked the meeting to thank Paul Standish for the tremendous job he has done presiding over the Society. During his time as President he has secured an excellent new financial contract with Wiley, helped to restructure the JOPE Board and secured our financial future despite the current set back of COVID-19. A bottle of port will be finding its way to him soon. The meeting showed its appreciation of his excellent work.