



Annual General Meeting 2019

MINUTES (CONFIRMED)

1.15PM Thursday 26 September 2019 Tyree Room, John Niland Scientia Building, UNSW, Sydney

1. Welcome

The Chair (Prof Mandy Thomas, QUT) opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

2. Confirmation of Members Attending

The Chair acknowledged that a quorum was in place.

3. Apologies

See attached list of apologies and proxies.

4. Minutes of 2018 Annual General Meeting

The Secretary (Prof Cathy Coleborne, Newcastle) motioned that the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held in Canberra on 13 September 2018, be accepted as a true and accurate record. The motion was seconded by Prof Robert Greenberg and accepted by the meeting.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

No further business arose from the minutes.

6. Election Outcomes

The Secretary (Prof Cathy Coleborne) announced the outcomes of the Board elections held in mid-2019.

Vice-President, Prof Robert Greenberg (Auckland), and general member, Prof Matthew Clarke (Deakin), were re-elected unopposed for their second two-year terms in line with the terms of the DASSH constitution.

Three new general members were elected unopposed for two-year terms: Prof Russell Goulbourne (Melbourne), Prof Annamarie Jagose (Sydney) and Prof Michael Ondaatje (ACU).

Prof Coleborne confirmed that Prof Jennie Shaw (Adelaide) would retire from the Board at the conclusion of the 2019 AGM, and thanked Prof Shaw for her contributions, particularly in her role as Associate Deans' Network Liaison Officer.

The President (Prof Mandy Thomas), Secretary (Prof Cathy Coleborne), Treasurer (Prof Theo Farrell, Wollongong) and New Zealand/Aotearoa Officer (Prof Allison Kirkman, Waikato) are to continue in their positions until the 2020 Annual General Meeting.

7. President's Report

Prof Mandy Thomas tabled the President's report and motioned that it be accepted. Prof Jennie Shaw seconded the motion and the report was accepted.

The report included a summary of the submissions prepared by DASSH in the previous year. Prof Joanne Cys (UniSA) asked whether there was a risk that DASSH and other organisations with similar priorities are duplicating workloads in



preparing separate submissions. Prof Cathy Coleborne agreed that this is a risk, and that DASSH is taking action to improve its relations with such organisations in order to better coordinate advocacy activities.

8. Secretary's Report

Prof Cathy Coleborne tabled the Secretary's report and motioned that it be accepted. Prof Allison Kirkman seconded the motion, and the report was accepted.

In response to the Secretary's report, A/Prof Carol Hayes (ANU) suggested that DASSH devise a system by which former deans (i.e. those that have retired or been promoted) can continue their relationships with DAASH. Such 'honorary' members could be drawn upon in advisory roles and contribute to advocacy activities. The Board Members present agreed to explore the suggestion further and update members as and when appropriate.

9. Treasurer's Report

Professor Theo Farrell tabled the Treasurer's report, including the Statement of Accounts and Auditor's report, and motioned that they be accepted. Prof Cathy Coleborne seconded the motion, and the reports were accepted.

It was suggested that funds from the budget surplus could be used to provide support to mid-career researchers, as academics at that stage of their careers face unique challenges and are often not well catered for by programs offered by universities and other organisations. Prof Farrell agreed that there is a need to increase the career development opportunities available to mid-career researchers but did not believe that DASSH possessed the funds required to implement an effective program. Instead, Prof Farrell suggested that DASSH could have a greater impact through its advocacy activities. Furthermore, it may be possible to involve mid-career researchers directly in relevant activities.

10. New Zealand/Aotearoa Member's Report

Prof Allison Kirkman tabled the New Zealand/Aotearoa Member's report and motioned that it be accepted. Prof Jennie Shaw seconded the motion, and the report was accepted.

11. Associate Deans' Network Liaison Officer's Report

Prof Jennie Shaw tabled the Associate Deans' Network Liaison Officer's report and motioned that it be accepted. Prof Joanne Cys seconded the motion, and the report was accepted.

Prof Shaw expressed her thanks to outgoing Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching) Network Convenor, Prof Jill Lawrence (USQ) and outgoing Associate Dean (Research) Network Convenor, Prof Alan McKee (UTS), noting that both were very active and effective during their tenures. Prof Lawrence is succeeded by Prof Gavin Sade (QUT), and Prof McKee by A/Prof Grayson Cooke (SCU). Prof Sade and A/Prof Cooke were elected unopposed in mid-2019 and assume their roles at the conclusion of the 2019 Annual General Meeting. Prof Susan Oguro continues as Associate Dean (International) Network Convenor until the 2020 Annual General Meeting.

The Associate Deans' Networks for Learning and Teaching and Research held meetings on the day prior to the formal commencement of the 2019 DASSH Conference, and Prof Shaw expressed gratitude to University of New South Wales Associate Deans, Prof Cath Ellis and Prof Lisa Ford for their assistance in coordinating those meetings. The Associate Dean (International) Network did not hold a meeting prior to the DASSH 2019 Conference due to a combination of extensive travel obligations of Associate Deans (International) and the unavailability of the Network Convenor.

Prof Theo Farrell indicated his thanks to the Associate Deans' (Research) Network for the assistance they provided in advance of his appearance at the Australian Financial Review Higher Education Summit in August and emphasised the value of the contributions all three networks could make to DASSH.



12. Mapping HASS Degrees – Interim Report

Prof Cathy Coleborne tabled the interim report on the Mapping HASS Degrees project. The project had been initiated by the executive members of a previous DASSH Board and had been allocated funding to employ research assistants for data collection and analysis. The report provides analysis of data accessed through the Australian Department of Education’s Higher Education Information Management System (HEIMS) and investigates trends in HASS degree enrolments and completions.

Prof Coleborne invited members to provide feedback on the interim report and to recommend further avenues for analysis of the HEIMS data, noting that these types of reports are important for communicating the value of HASS degrees and disciplines.

Prof Heather Zwicker (UQ) suggested that it would be interesting to examine the ways in which HASS enrolments in universities correlate to high school enrolments in HASS subjects at a national level. Other suggestions included an examination of the differences between online and on-campus student enrolments, and whether there were any differences in the enrolment or completion rates of international students studying at universities outside of Australia’s major cities.

13. DASSH 2020 Conference

Prof Robert Greenberg informed members that planning was underway for the DASSH 2020 Conference, which will be hosted by the University of Auckland. The event will take place from 9-11 September 2020, dates which were determined with consideration to national, state and religious holidays occurring in September. The theme of the DASSH 2020 Conference will be “Indigenous Knowledges and Global Perspectives,” and Prof Greenberg is hoping to attract representatives from universities in the Pacific Islands to attend and present at the event.

14. Any Other Business

No items of other business were raised.

15. Meeting Close

The next AGM is to be held in Auckland in September 2020 during the annual DASSH conference.

The meeting closed at 1.59pm.