

Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday 29 September 1999

Location: Dolphin Theatre, University of Western Australia, Perth

Time: 1.00pm to 1.55pm

Present: Dr Peter Grabosky (President)
Ms Heather Strang (Hon Treasurer)
Dr Russell Smith (Acting Hon Secretary)
(Members) Maeve Barry, David Biles, David Brereton, Rod Broadhurst, Janet Chan, Michael Dalton (for Inez Dussuyer), Kathy Daly, Benoit Dupont, Anna Ferrante, Arie Freiberg, David Indermaur, Frank Morgan, Paul Omaji, John Pratt, Jerry Ratcliffe, Rick Sarre, Bill Tyler, Kate Warner, Rob White, Richard Wortley, Joy Wundersitz.

Apologies: Gayre Christie, Brian Coe, Fiona Haines, Ross Homel, Mark Israel, Alison Morris, John Myrtle, Reece Walters.

Welcome:

1. The President declared the meeting open and welcomed those present.

Honorary Secretary:

2. Apologies were received which included an apology from the Honorary Secretary, Mr John Myrtle, who was unable to be present following the death of a close family member. The President invited Dr Smith to act in the capacity of Secretary for the purpose of taking minutes of the meeting.

Agenda Items:

3. The President read the Agenda which had previously been circulated and called for any additional items, of which there were none.

Agenda Item 1: President's Report

4. The President noted that there had been two resignations from the Executive Committee. Dr David Dixon as member for New South Wales and Dr Rob White as member for Victoria had both resigned. Dr Janet Chan, representing New South Wales and Dr Fiona Haines representing Victoria were then nominated and it was moved by Mr David Biles, seconded by Dr David Brereton that these nominations be approved. Carried unanimously.
5. The President reviewed the activities of the Society over the preceding year noting, in particular, the following:
 - A. The reduction in the membership fees from \$95 to \$85 a year following the change in the publisher of the journal;
 - B. The establishment of a reduced subscription rate for full-time students of \$68 a year;
 - C. The creation of the Young Scholar Prize Awarded for the best publication in criminology or a related area by an Australian or New Zealand citizen or resident under the age of thirty-five, and the Student Paper Prize awarded for the best paper in criminology or a related area written by an Australian or New Zealand (citizen or resident) student (undergraduate, honours, or MA

candidate, with eligibility limited to those upon whom the MA had yet to be conferred) at the time of writing; and

- D. The obtaining and sale of back issues of the journal and the payment of royalties on the sale of the journal both of which had increased the income of the Society.
6. The President then reported to the meeting the outcome of the Executive Committee meeting held yesterday and noted, in particular, items relating to the eligibility criteria for the Society's awards, the requirements for articles submitted for the award of prizes to be written by sole authors, the establishment of an Award for the best article published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology, and the nomination of Professor Kate Warner and Dr Don Weatherburn as judges of the Award.
7. The President then noted that in accordance with the resolution of the Executive Committee, he had sought the nomination on an additional judge for the best journal article award and that Dr Kathy Daly had agreed to be nominated. Dr David Brereton moved, seconded by Dr Rod Broadhurst that the nomination of Dr Kathy Daly be accepted. Carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 2: Previous AGM Minutes

8. 8. The President explained that the Minutes of the previous meeting had been lost following the theft of the computer which belonged to the previous Honorary Secretary which contained the only record of the meeting on its hard drive. As a result, the President indicated that he proposed to reconstruct the Minutes from the previous meeting and asked those present to contribute any items which they could recall. The following items were noted:
 - a. The election of Dr Peter Grabosky as President;
 - b. The election of Professor Ross Homel and Professor Alison Morris as Vice-Presidents;
 - c. The election of Ms Heather Strang as Honorary Treasurer with effect from 1 January 1999;
 - d. The election of Mr John Myrtle as Honorary Secretary with effect from 1 January 1999;
 - e. The election of Executive Committee members for:
ACT - Dr Russell Smith
NSW - Dr David Dixon
NT - Professor Bill Tyler
NZ - Mr Reece Walters
Qld - Mr Gayre Christie
SA - Mr Mark Israel
Tas - Professor Kate Warner
Vic - Dr Rob White
WA - Dr David Indermaur;
 - f. Discussion of the desirability of publishing a complete membership list (which was not proceeded with);

- g. Votes of thanks having been given to the outgoing President, Arie Freiberg, outgoing Honorary Secretary Ms Belinda Carpenter, and outgoing Honorary Treasurer, Mr Gayre Christie.

Mr Sarre then moved, seconded by Professor Freiberg, that the above reconstructed Minutes be approved as a true record of the previous Annual General Meeting. Carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 3: Honorary Secretary's Report

9. In the absence of the Honorary Secretary, Mr John Myrtle, the President read the written report which the Honorary Secretary had prepared. This showed changes in the subscription rates, numbers of members from various regions, changes in the composition of the Executive Committee, and the establishment of the Society's Awards. The President moved, and The Honorary Treasurer seconded the motion that the Report be accepted. Carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 4: Honorary Treasurer's Report

10. The Honorary Treasurer tendered her report and noted the pleasing financial position in which the Society stood, particularly in view of the large amount received by the Society in respect of royalties on the sale of the journal (\$7,500) and the proceeds of the sale of back issues of the journal. She noted that production of the journal cost between \$6,000 and \$7,000 per issue and that the auditor's fees were in the vicinity of \$800 a year.
11. Mr David Biles asked the Honorary Treasurer if copies of the Auditor's Reports and other financial papers could be circulated to members prior to annual general meetings. The Honorary Treasurer agreed for this to be done and the President indicated that by placing the relevant documents on the Society's Website, they would be more easily accessible.
12. Dr Kathy Daly then asked if any profits derived from previous conferences had been passed on to the Society. The President replied that the previous practice had been for the institution which hosted the conference each year to bear any financial risks associated with holding the conference and to retain any profits. Arie Freiberg questioned if this was a desirable practice and suggested that both profits and losses be passed on to the Society. Mr David Biles suggested, instead, that any profits be shared equally between the Society and the host Institution. Further discussion of this issue took place with the President also noting that the host institution also derived certain reputational capital out of conferences which could not be quantified but which was nonetheless important to consider in deciding if profits should be shared with the Society. Dr Rob White then moved that this matter be referred to the Executive Committee for further discussion. Mr David Biles, however, requested that the present discussion of this question be fully minuted, which was agreed to by all. Professor Kate Warner seconded Dr Rob White's motion which was carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 5: Journal Editor's Report

14. Associate Professor John Pratt then spoke to his Report as Editor of the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology and indicated how successful the appointment of the new publisher, Australian Academic Press, had been. He also thanked each member of the Editorial Board for the work during the year, and, in particular, the work of Mr Reece Walters as Book Review Editor and Dr Frank Morgan as statistical consultant from the University of Western Australia. He also

noted the completion of the special issue of the journal prepared by Dr Rod Broadhurst on "Crime, Justice and Indigenous Peoples" and that a Millennium Issue would be prepared by Professor Bill Tyler. The editor also referred to the time taken in having articles published in the journal which he considered to be in accordance with that which occurred with other refereed journals of a similar kind. At present the time taken for an article to appear was approximately one year from the time submitted.

15. Mr Jerry Ratcliffe asked the Editor to indicate the time taken to obtain referees' reports which the editor said was approximately six to ten weeks. Mr David Biles asked the Editor about the overall acceptance rate of articles which the Editor said was approximately 50 per cent of those sent to referees or 25 per cent of those received. Dr Rod Broadhurst asked the Editor to indicate the print run for each issue which the Editor said was approximately 3,000.
16. Mr Rick Sarre moved and David Biles seconded the motion that the Editor's Report be accepted, which was carried unanimously. The President thanked the Editor for his efforts over the year.

Agenda Item 6: Appointment of Auditor

16. The Honorary Treasurer moved that the firm of Adriaanse and Associates be re-appointed as Auditors of the Society for the ensuing year. Seconded by Dr Rod Broadhurst, and carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 7: Election of Office Bearers

17. Professor Arie Freiberg moved and Mr Rick Sarre seconded the motion that the following office bearers be appointed for the ensuing year:
 - a. Dr Peter Grabosky as President;
 - b. Professor Ross Homel and Professor Alison Morris as Vice-Presidents;
 - c. Ms Heather Strang as Honorary Treasurer; and
 - d. Mr John Myrtle as Honorary Secretary.

Agenda Item 8: Other Business

18. The President then opened the floor for the discussion of any other business.
19. The President began by reminding those present of the need to have a venue selected for the Society's conference in 2002 and that the holding of the conference attracted considerable reputational capital for those concerned.
20. The President then indicated that he had received a letter from Mr Brian Coe, a member who was unable to be present at the Annual General Meeting today, suggesting as a theme for the next conference "Crimes Against Humanity". Professor Frieberg indicated that a theme had already been agreed upon for the conference in 2001. Mr David Biles suggested that Mr Coe be thanked for his suggestion and advised that the theme for the next conference had already been fixed.
21. The President also told those present of the efforts which the Executive Committee would be taking to review the legal status of the Society, principally in order to minimise any legal liability which might attach to members. He indicated that the Executive Committee would report their findings to members.

22. The President also indicated that he would be delighted to receive any new ideas from members as to ways in which the Society could be improved and he encouraged members to contact him if they had any such ideas. He indicated, as an example, of such an idea, the initiative proposed by Professor Richard Harding of conducting a study tour of China which was being examined by the Executive Committee and which Dr Rod Broadhurst had agreed to discuss with the President.
23. Dr Rod Broadhurst then raised for discussion the idea of the Society establishing its own Code of Ethics, similar to the Codes which have been created by the American and British Societies of Criminology. He suggested that this idea be considered further by the Executive Committee. Professor Arie Frieberg agreed in principle with the idea and indicated that such a Code could be of great benefit in dealing with other institutions' Ethics Committees. He warned that such a code should not be merely tokenistic. Mr David Biles moved and Mr Rick Sarre seconded the motion that the idea of establishing a Code of Ethics for the Society should be referred to the Executive Committee for further consideration.
24. Mr David Biles then raised the question of the distribution of a membership list. Although he realised the potential privacy concerns associated with the idea, he nonetheless believed that it would be beneficial to distributed a membership list, even if only amongst members themselves. He suggested that members be asked whether they would consent for their names, affiliations, addresses, telephone numbers, and or e:mail addresses to be included on such a list and publicised.
25. Dr Russell Smith raised the possibility of such a listing being placed on the Society's Website, but noted that if this occurred members would have to consent beforehand and also any personal details such as private addresses and telephone numbers would need to be suppressed in order to avoid the possibility of such information being abused by advertisers and others.
26. Mr Jerry Ratcliffe suggested that access to a Web site listing could be protected through the use of a secure Internet site with access protected by a password.
27. Professor Bill Tyler noted that the Australian and New Zealand Sociological Society has such a listing of members which includes their institutional affiliations and specialised fields of interest. It was moved by Mr David Biles, seconded by Dr Russell Smith that the question of publicising a list of members be referred to the Executive for further consideration.
28. Dr Frank Morgan then raised the question of the provision of a commemorative scroll for those who receive Awards of the Society and the value of such Awards. The President replied that at present the recipients of Awards received a waiver of conference registration fees, conference dinner fees, and they would receive a commemorative scroll. The total value of such benefits was in the vicinity of \$600. It was suggested that these benefits be given retrospectively to those who had already received Awards. The President also noted the reputational benefits which were derived from receipts of a prestigious award by the Society.
29. There being no further business, it was moved by Mr David Biles and seconded by Dr Rod Broadhurst that the meeting be adjourned. Carried unanimously.

The meeting thereupon concluded at 1.55pm.

Russell Smith
1 October 1999