

IGA Advisory Committee Meeting (Wednesday 27 June, 2007)

Université de Provence, Aix-en-Provence

MINUTES

Present

Executive Committee: Avril Horner (Chair); Sue Zlosnik (Chair); William Hughes; Andrew Smith; David Punter.

Advisory Committee:

Ben Brabon

Steven Bruhm

Ken Gelder

Jerrold Hogle

Allan Lloyd-Smith

Gilles Menegaldo

Robert Miles

Marie Mulvey-Roberts

Victor Sage

Fred Botting

Catherine Spooner (left meeting after proposing 2009 conference)

Sue Chaplin (entered meeting for item 7)

Apologies

Franz Potter; Anne Williams; Angela Wright.

ITEM 1: Approval of Previous Minutes for AGM 2006

Minutes approved (JH/AS)

ITEM 2: Matters Arising

Matters arising (see items 3, 7 and 8)

ITEM 3 – Chairs’ Report (AH and SZ)

AH updated everyone on the progress of the possible move of *Gothic Studies* from MUP to Taylor and Francis. AH mentioned ongoing problems with Marston and the issue of credit card payment. AH confirmed that it was not possible to get a list of members from Marston due to the data protection act.

AH and SZ reported that they had met Jane Thurgood from Taylor and Francis. They received a positive response about *Gothic Studies* and the move. However, following Jane Thurgood’s departure from Taylor and Francis, her replacement (Kathy Burton) was not so enthusiastic. AH and SZ did not hear further from Kathy Burton and so MMR approached her. Kathy Burton told MMR that *Gothic Studies* was a niche market and at the moment she could not proceed. MMR suggested a more direct approach to Kathy Burton. KG mentioned that T&F publish a number of texts on the gothic. MMR agreed that this link needs to be promoted. SB mentioned the possibility of digital publishing.

SZ reported on the relationship with MUP. She mentioned that no membership list was available from MUP and that 3 years of money had still not been received from MUP. SZ reported that she had been sent a claims form by MUP, which she filled in on behalf of the IGA and has returned to MUP. However, no money has been received yet.

SZ also identified problems with distribution and receipt of the journal by members. SZ reported that she had had a meeting with Matthew Frost and persuaded him to decouple the journal from IGA membership.

AH thanked the Aix conference organizers, calling it a 'landmark conference'. She remarked that there were 36 delegates from France which was a considerable increase on previous years. This represents a notable expansion of the European dimension of the IGA.

The Chairs announced that postgraduate bursaries for the conference had been awarded to Patrycja Antoszek and Carmen Serrano.

SZ went on to note a number of new publications on the Gothic and highlighted the need to promote the IGA.

ITEM 4 – Treasurer's Report (AW)

A formal note of thanks was expressed by all for AW's hard work. AH and SZ suggested sending some flowers to AW as a token of gratitude. This was agreed by the Committee.

ACTION: Send flowers to AW.

ITEM 5 – Report on *Gothic Studies* (WH)

WH delivered his report on *Gothic Studies*. The journal is productive and the quality of work being produced is very good. WH reported that if 100 individual subscriptions can be achieved then the journal can return to 3 issues a year.

FB raised the issue of cost (£35 personal/£100 institutional membership).

WH noted that there are currently between 50 to 60 institutional subscriptions.

At this point, AH handed out a report from MUP on *Gothic Studies*.

SZ raised the issue that the position of Editor in Chief of *Gothic Studies* should not be occupied by the IGA President(s). SZ and AH proposed that WH should be Editor in Chief.

The appointment of WH as Editor in Chief was unanimously agreed by the Committee.

In response to the report, JH noted ongoing issues with MUP. WH said that there was a need to promote IGA/*Gothic Studies* subscription. RM said that difficulties in subscribing to the journal and hence to the IGA through MUP need to be addressed.

ITEM 6 – Web Report (JH)

JH noted that lists of members need to be on the IGA Website. SB alerted the committee to the hazards of disclosing members' details on the website and suggested either a PDF list or a directory of members. RB and GM supported the idea of a directory.

AH raised the issue of information available on the IGA Website. RM and WH suggested that there should be a link to members' University homepages and each member's interests.

GM asked whether it would be possible to publish articles on the website. WH responded by saying that all articles are available online but only to institutional subscriptions.

AH noted that a more elaborate website is needed.

ACTION: It was agreed that SB would liaise with Jason Haslam with regard to enhancing the IGA website.

ITEM 7 – Appointment of new Membership Secretary/Treasurer

SZ and AH proposed Sue Chaplin (Leeds Met.) as the new Treasurer. It was noted that SC's background in the legal profession would prove very useful. FB supported SC's appointment, but raised the issue of institutional support by Leeds Metropolitan University. FB also raised the issue of sustainability of the role of Treasurer/Membership Secretary. AH responded that funds might be available to support SC.

RM and FB proposed Dale Townsend (Stirling) as a possible alternative candidate for the role of Treasurer.

SB noted that the role of Treasurer/Membership Secretary had been addressed in Montreal through the appointment of Franz Potter as Membership Secretary for North America. SZ responded that AW had mentioned that the roles of Treasurer and Membership Secretary should not be split.

ALS raised issues of auditing of accounts if the roles are decoupled. ALS also raised the possibility of charitable status for the IGA. SZ and AH suggested that these questions should be put to SC.

At this point, SC entered the meeting and was asked about the role of Treasurer/Membership Secretary. ALS posed the question to SC regarding the auditing of accounts and the possibility of charitable status for the IGA. SC responded by saying that she is Secretary of BARS and at BARS the auditing of accounts is covered by the membership fee. SC continued to say that the auditing costs should not be a problem. AH proposed that the IGA should use BARS as a model. RM noted the differences between BARS and IGA. In particular, he mentioned the issue of internal subscription and the costs involved in the conversion of currency. SC responded by saying that BARS have some members from overseas who pay by PayPal, which offered a solution to this problem of converting currency. SC also highlighted that PayPal can be set up to automatically renew membership each year. JH asked SC about the support structure at Leeds Met. SC responded by saying that the Membership Secretary of BARS had support. SC said that she would look into the possibility of institutional support. JH asked SC if the roles of Treasure and Membership Secretary should be decoupled. SC responded by saying that dividing these roles would free up time. AH asked SC whether she would continue as Secretary of BARS. SC responded that she will continue as Secretary of BARS for another 6 months. AH asked about the legal situation regarding the auditing of accounts. SC responded by saying that BARS does not have charitable status and accounts need to be audited. SC confirmed that accounting/auditing process is straightforward.

A vote was taken and SC was appointed Treasurer/Membership Secretary. At the suggestion of DP, her title will be that of Executive Officer.

ITEM 8 – Separating IGA Membership fee and subscription to *Gothic Studies*

SZ proposed that the membership fee be separated from subscription to *Gothic Studies*, so that the IGA can take control of membership. DP raised the issue of the

ongoing problems with Marston and asked whether MUP were considering changing their distributor. WH agreed that there are problems with the distribution of the journal.

AH noted that the current position is that subscription monies are taken by MUP for the journal and IGA membership. RM reiterated that PayPal was a good idea and could be used to solve some of the subscription problems, helping with decoupling. WH observed that the IGA would be in a stronger position once they are in control of their membership list.

SB raised concerns about using PayPal. In particular SB highlighted the dangers of PayPal and the costs involved. RM responded by saying that it would still be easier than sending subscription monies to the UK. JH added that Marston would not be involved in this process, which is a positive.

RM suggested that there could be a sub-treasurer in each country. AH responded that she did not think this should be a problem.

DP raised concerns that the situation was being over complicated and noted that he is not an advocate of PayPal.

FB said in order to move things forward, support for the proposed changes was needed. RM added that the success of BARS' format should be enough to confirm the benefits for the IGA.

ALS proposed a motion to decouple IGA membership from journal subscription and JH moved to formally accept the decoupling (subject to SC's scrutiny of the MUP report). SB seconded motion.

The motion to decouple IGA membership from journal subscription was passed.

ITEM 9 – Affiliations with other conferences and associations

GM said that links with French associations need to be finalized. VS suggested Victorian Studies as a possible link. ALS suggested Romanticism Studies. GM mentioned that he runs a Film Studies group with approximately 80 members which would be a good link. SZ asked whether links can be made. GM said that he would work on a list of associations.

ACTION: GM to draw up a list of associations and talk with Franz Potter.

ITEM 10 – IGA 2009 Conference (Catherine Spooner and Fred Botting to attend)

FB and CS proposed to host the 2009 conference (from 24-26 July 2009) at Lancaster University. The new George Fox building, along with accommodation for 120 people have already been booked provisionally. The title/theme of the conference is ‘Monstrous Media/Spectral Subjects’, which reflects research interests at Lancaster. A CFP has already been produced. A domain name for the conference website has already been purchased. In addition, FB and CS promoted Lancaster’s location as a ‘gothic site’ and its proximity to the Lake District. It was noted that the conference fees were relatively high at Lancaster – hire of the lecture theatre complex being £1000/day. The cost per person is estimated at just over £70, based upon 120-150 delegates. The conference fee is estimated at about £100.

ACTION: CS and FB to provide AH with sample costings. It was agreed that FB and CS would host the 2009 conference at Lancaster (subject to the cost not being prohibitory).

RM stressed the need to hold the 2011 conference in the USA. JH asked where it should be held, as Arizona would prove too hot! ALS mentioned the possibility of rescheduling to Easter. FB mentioned speaking to US delegates at Aix.

ACTION: It was agreed that JH would approach Kelly Hurley with regard to holding the 2011 conference at Boulder, Colorado.

ITEM 11 – Re-election of Advisory Committee (any changes, members withdrawing etc.)

SZ asked whether anyone wanted to step down from the Committee– no members wished to step down.

SB asked why past Presidents are still on the Executive. ALS raised the issue of term of office and the nomination of new members to the Advisory Committee. SZ proposed to allow 2 members to be nominated to the Advisory Committee at the AGM.

SB added that the current constitution needs to be looked over. ALS suggested that SC take a look at the constitution.

ACTION: SC to examine constitution.

GM raised the issue of new French members joining the IGA and the publication of papers from the conference. It was agreed that SC would help French members to join the IGA. AH said that she would be happy to discuss publication of papers.

It was agreed that SZ and AH would remain as Presidents of the IGA. AH said that she would like to stay to see through the membership changes.

The meeting was brought to a close by SZ and AH.

Date of next Advisory Committee Meeting: tbc