

AGM Meeting Minutes: 17th October 2024

Present: Evelyn Slavid, Neil Frude, David Clarke, Alan Pechey, Irene Baumgartl, Graham Edgar, Gemma Gow, Sarah Harwood, Abi McLanachan, Sarah Mortimer, and Catherine Agnihotri

Apologies: Fred Toates

1. Evelyn welcomes everyone, reflects on her time as chair and the past year, thanks outgoing committee members, welcomes incoming committee members, and thanks OUPS members generally. OUPS events receives great feedback, our main problem is getting the word out there about them so that more people can benefit. Reintroduced free places at module related events. This costs us. Announced membership fee increase for both annual and lifetime membership effective as of today. OUPS has not changed its prices for over a decade so it is timely. Happy with Warwick as a venue and will continue there.
2. Alan provides a financial update for members. OUPS continues to make a loss. Income has increased but so has expenditure. At present, the loss is helping to bring our holdings down to the level that is acceptable by the charities commission. We expect to achieve this next year but we need to start balancing the accounts from there on. We expect to lose £14,000 this year. Shared COUPS and LOUPS accounts too. COUPS remains consistent. LOUPS have a lot of fixed assets at present and also need to reduce their holdings.
3. Irene, as returning officer, announces the new committee roles, with nominators and seconders named as follows:
 - Sarah Harwood - Chair: 1st Abi / 2nd Denise
 - Cathy Agnihotri - Treasurer: 1st Alan / 2nd Denise
 - Sarah Mortimer - Secretary: 1st Sarah H / 2nd Evelyn
 - Evelyn Slavid - Committee: 1st Irene / 2nd Denise
 - Irene Baumgartl - to remain Student Support: 1st Clara Clein Wolfe (member) / 2nd Neil
4. Sarah H says a brief hello as new Chair. She shares a little about how she came to OUPS and her time on the committee to date. She is looking forward to working with the new committee members and tutors. Discussed the upcoming events - Welcome to the Open University - Psychology Day Event at Milton Keynes Campus, the Neurodiversity Symposium and the Forensic Psychology Conference. She thanks Evelyn as outgoing chair, Alan who will be supporting the new treasurer for the next year, and Denise and Janet who recently left the committee.
5. Graham presents his talk (please see recording for further details)