

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE OPEN UNIVERSITY PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
HELD ONLINE  
ON SATURDAY 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

**1. Welcome**

The Chair addressed the meeting and thanked those attending OUPS online AGM. This year, OUPS were unable to organise a face-to-face AGM due to the Covid-19 restrictions currently in place.

**1.1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Prof. Frederick Toates (President).

**1.2. Members present**

10 members were present at the meeting.

All trustees were present.

**2. Treasurer's Report**

The full set of accounts will be available on the OUPS website and the Charity Commission website.

The Treasurer gave an overview of the society's financial state.

2018

The meeting was reminded that the society made a loss of £18,406 in 2018.

This led to a series of measures designed to reduce the overheads costs, such as:

- Move from fully funded places to partially subsidised places at events;
- No printed Newsletter;
- Paperless Weekend packs;
- No tutoring pay for the committee tutors;
- Minimal number of volunteers at the events;
- ECM held in private home, no venue cost;
- Very sad redundancy of Business Administrator.

2019

All these measures paid off and we registered a profit of £3,833 in 2019. The committee decided to continue with the previous measures to keep the costs down. Moreover, it was decided to cancel the Barclaycard machine and cancel the regional event grants (£80 per event).

2020

The society made a profit of £3,804. Three fully funded places were awarded at the cost of £678. All details of income, expenditure etc can be found in the 'OUPS 2020 Accounts – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2021' attached to these Minutes.

Financial decisions 2020:

- Reinstate committee Tutor fees
- Continue running weekends with reduced committee
- Explore more hybrid events

All existing contracts with Warwick were cancelled (through to 2023). Currently, there are no forward commitments to Warwick

### **3. Adoption of Accounts**

It was proposed that the meeting should approve the 2020 Accounts.

Proposed by: Dr Alex Sandham      Seconded by: David Byrne

*Accounts were approved by the members present.*

### **4. Chairperson's Report**

The Chair reported it was a quiet year for OUPS due to the pandemic. The committee had to cancel some of the planned weekend events due to lockdowns and events restrictions. OUPS are currently planning two residential weekend events: January and May 2022.

This was the first year OUPS were able to offer online events. Due to the global pandemic, the online facilities were developed further and events made available at reasonable costs.

The Chair observed that we have discussed the challenge of sustaining face-to-face events for five years or so, during which time we struggled to attract more than 50-60 attendees to any residential event and typically had events with 10-20 attendees. He suggested that we need to examine ways to make our events more accessible and more available to the students we support while ensuring that we remain financially viable, and that the LOUPS experience over the previous 18-months showed that having both online and face-to-face components in our events enables far more students to attend at much lower cost and in addition generates profits that can then be used to reduce the cost of face-to-face attendance.

For instance, London OUPS offered online day events for: DE100 Methods; DE100 Content; DE200 Revision; DE200 springboard day; DE300 springboard day and DE300 Projects as alternatives to the main January and September's Weekend in Warwick. These LOUPS events had a total of 600 students from around the world, at an average price of £15/head and made £8,500 profit. As a result, we were able to offer additional funding to support the OUPS September weekend. This is a model that we need to develop in the future.

The Chair closed by thanking all of the committee and volunteers who helped us to keep OUPS active during these difficult times and hoped that we would see an even better and more exciting programme of events in the year to come.

## **5. Election of Officers and Executive Committee**

There were no other applications for any committee roles therefore no elections were needed and the current committee will continue as it is. There will be a trustees meeting organised soon.

## **6. Submitted motions**

There were no submitted motions.

## **7. AOB**

No AOB was raised.

The Chair thanked all those present and closed the meeting.

*Close of meeting*