

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE OPEN UNIVERSITY PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
HELD AT WARWICK UNIVERSITY  
ON SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017**

**1. Welcome**

The Chair addressed the meeting and thanked those attending.

**1.1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Lorna Rouse.

**1.2. Members present**

40 members were present at the meeting. All trustees were present at the meeting.

**2. Minutes of 2016 Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were circulated and accepted as a true record of proceedings.

**2.1. Matters arising**

None

**3. Chairperson's Report.**

The Chair reported that it had been another good year for OUPS, although challenging at times due to the recent changes in the Open University modules and assessment strategy.

The Chair pointed out this was his last report as Chair as he stood down after many years of running the society. He thanked the committee for all their hard work and declared he had confidence that the newly elected committee, chaired by David Byrne, will continue the good work. His full report is attached to these minutes. During the meeting, the Chair only gave a brief outline but copies of his full report were handed over to all those present.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer presented the draft accounts for the financial year 2016. The headline was a loss of £10,574. The big areas of change when compared to 2015 are that the July weekend is now no longer run and the September weekend halved in the number of attendees. In addition, the membership costs now no longer run from January to December but are distributed beyond one financial year and also we are giving free membership to DE100 students. The Treasurer explained that OUPS have been expecting a number of years of losses and have been preparing for this eventuality. These losses are expected as a result of the OU changing its course structure with many of the courses now no longer having exams – therefore OUPS also needs to change approach and need to understand where we fit in terms of supporting the students and amend our weekends accordingly.

In 2016 the Committee made the following financial decisions: to increase the number of free places given per weekend to a maximum of 10 per weekend and also to hold the price of attendance at the weekends static against an increase in costs from Warwick.

The Treasurer explained how the accounts break down in terms of a Bank balance of £170,003 at the end of 2016. In broad terms: £36k relates to payments for weekends being run in 2017 and £74k relates to contracted commitments to Warwick University. This leaves £60k in reserve which is £20k per weekend. It was explained that Warwick requires OUPS to commit to accommodation requirements 12 months before each weekend takes place. This commitment is split into “confirmed” and “provisional” bookings for bedrooms. Two months prior to any event we need to finalise our confirmed requirements and either commit to or release our provisional bedrooms. There is an element of risk here especially with the changing nature of and interest in the weekends – something the Committee are working at understanding to ensure the financial risk to the society is as low as possible.

An extract of the Balance sheet from the finalised accounts is attached to these minutes. The full set of accounts will be available on the OUPS website and the Charity Commission website.

**4.1. Adoption of Accounts:** It was proposed that the meeting should approve the 2016 Accounts.

Proposed: Alex Sandham      Seconded: Alan Pechey

**Accounts were approved unanimously**

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

This year, there were contested places for the ordinary committee places. OUPS commissioned the election process to a third party, the Electoral Reform Services, and voting was cast online prior to the AGM. 754 eligible members were invited to vote online, and 145 online votes were counted, of which 9 were found to be invalid, leaving a total of 136 counted valid votes.

7 members voted in person at the AGM, and these were added to the existing votes by the Business Administrator, Irene Baumgartl, who also announced the results to the meeting.

### i). Uncontested places

Officers

**Chair:** David Byrne

Proposed: Dr. Alan Pechey

Seconded: Denise Ward

**Vice Chair:** Dr. Alan Pechey

Proposed: Dave Clarke

Seconded: Amada Udres

**Treasurer:** Dr. Alex Sandham

Proposed: David Byrne

Seconded: Evelyn Slavid

**Secretary:** Amada Udres

Proposed: Prof. Frederick Toates

Seconded: David Byrne

### ii). Contested places

The following ordinary committee members were elected:

**1. Dr. Graham Edgar = 99 votes**

Proposed: Amada Udres

Seconded: Abi Robbins

**2. Abi Robbins = 91 votes**

Proposed: Prof. Frederick Toates

Seconded: Dr. Graham Edgar

**3. Faye Griggs = 78 votes**

Proposed: Abi Robbins

Seconded: Sally Feely

**4. Evelyn Slavid = 74 votes**

Proposed: Prof. Frederick Toates

Seconded: Dr. Graham Edgar

**5. Janet Simpson = 73 votes**

Proposed: Denise Ward

Seconded: Alex Sandham

**6. Lorna Rouse = 70 votes**

Proposed: Amada Udres

Seconded: Abi Robbins

The following candidates were not elected:

Dave Clarke = 63 votes

Barry Morgan = 45 votes

Lisa Wilson = 38 votes

Rachel Redford = 34 votes

## **6. Constitution changes**

The following motion was proposed:

***“6.7 All national and regional committee members shall abide by the OUPS Code of Conduct and by OUPS policies and practises”***

**Proposed: David Byrne**

**Seconded: Dr. Alex Sandham.**

745 eligible members were invited to vote online, and 124 valid votes were counted.

7 members voted in person at the AGM, and these votes were added to the online ones by the Business Administrator, Irene Baumgartl, who also announced the results to the meeting.

The motion was carried forward:

109 votes for

0 against

15 abstain

## **6. AOB**

A question from the floor was raised with regards to getting sponsorship for OUPS events. This query also arose on OUPS Facebook page and one of our members who had relevant experience offered to help with advice. David Byrne confirmed he was already in contact with her.

Alan Pechey wanted to add that he was very pleased with the interest in the committee places this year which resulted in the addition of two new members to the executive committee.

No other matters were raised.

The Chair thanked all those present and closed the meeting.

Close of meeting