**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR JAPANESE STUDIES**

held at SOAS, University of London

**08 September 2017**

**PERSONS PRESENT:**

Chair: Dr Christopher Hood

Council Members**:**

Dr Erica Baffelli (Honorary Secretary)

Dr Peter Matanle (Honorary Treasurer)  
Dr Gitte Hansen

Dr Thomas McAuley (Communications Officer)

Dr Helen Macnaughtan (Japan Forum)

Mrs Lynn Baird (Secretariat)

32 members in attendance

**APOLOGIES:**

Dr Peter Cave, Dr Andrew Cobbing, Dr Penny Francks, Dr Angus Lockyer

1. **MINUTES OF 2016 AGM:**

Minutes from the previous AGM held at SOAS, University of London, 09 Sept 2016 were accepted as a true record.

1. **MATTERS ARISING:**

There were no matters arising which were not covered within the agenda items.

**3. PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

* The President thanked Dr Macnaughtan and the organizing team in the Japan Research Centre, SOAS for a highly successful day
* Council will be undertaking a review of the constituency and roles and responsibilities of the BAJS council, with proposals being fed back to the membership at the next AGM.
* The President thanked Dr McAuley for his excellent support as Communications Officer with responsibility for the website.

***BAJS scholarships and funded projects***

* BAJS had awarded five BAJS studentships and 11 John Crump scholarships (smaller than usual awards) so far in 2017. Both funding schemes had seen a pleasing increase in applications this year, with applicants from Japanese Studies departments as well as discipline-based departments. This suggests that BAJS is becoming more well-known as a potential source of funding for students across UK institutions, including non-traditional applications. Some amendments would shortly be taking place to the application forms and guidelines, so supervisors/referees were asked to take note of this.
* BAJS had also funded a number of students to attend various events under the Conference Support scheme.
* In response to its 2016 Project Initiative, BAJS had only awarded one Japanese Studies in the UK Project to Christopher Perkins from Edinburgh. No award was confirmed for the general Japanese Studies category.
* Discussion is underway with JFEC about the possibility of some collaborative funding opportunities. At present the proposal is that BAJS will continue to support events / receptions / travel / PhD writing up. JFEC would cover fieldwork requests.

**4. HONORARY SECRETARY’S REPORT:**

Dr Baffelli advised that BAJS currently has 415 members on its database, in various categories:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Tier 1 | 74 |
| Tier 2 | 26 |
| Tier 3 | 45 |
| Honorary | 33 |
| Student / unwaged | 237 |

Dr Baffelli has been representing BAJS on UKCASA, and advised that there would be a nomination put forward to represent BAJS on the REF panel.

**5. HONORARY TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Dr Matanle had circulated the most recent 2014 and 2015 audited accounts to the AGM. 2016 Accounts are in draft stage at the moment, and will be confirmed by the accountants very shortly, and he indicated that the most up to date totals for BAJS were currently standing at almost the same as in December 2015.

The Association finances are considered to be in a very healthy position, and this status has allowed BAJS to support worthy projects, and scholarships. Our current financial assets are £ 123,122.00 with some studentships still to be processed, but some Royalty income is also still to be received.

**6. JAPAN FORUM:**

Dr Macnaughtan reported on the continuing progress of the journal with the SOAS Editorial team and thanked two members who were now stepping down from the team for their valuable contribution: Dr Steve Dodd, and Dr Griseldis Kirsch – although they will still be involved in the International Editorial Board.

Membership were advised that some special issues are in the pipeline to celebrate the upcoming 30th anniversary of the journal in 2018. There will also be a special journal cover for the 30th anniversary volume.

The finances of the journal are currently showing a net annual income of around £60,000, although revenue has dipped slightly by 2% related to the exchange rates linked to overseas subscribers. The team are aiming to target more US & Japanese subscribers.

Members were advised that there were spaces available in the 2020 volume which would meet the timeline for REF, there is a tick box on the online form if contributors are hoping to take advantage of that.

Taylor and Francis, publishers of Japan Forum, had kindly agreed to sponsor a panel at BAJS 2018 in Sheffield, potentially leading to a special issue in 2020/2021.

Dr Macnaughtan was pleased to announce the winner of the 2016 Ian Nish Prize was Dr Thomas Baudinette, Lecturer in Japanese Studies at Macquarie University, Australia. His article ‘[Ethnosexual frontiers in queer Tokyo: the production of racialised desire in Japan](http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09555803.2016.1165723" \t "_blank)’ was published by *Japan Forum* in May 2016 (28:4).

**8. BAJS JAPAN CHAPTER:**

The President advised that unfortunately there was no representative to report on the Japan Chapter, but he was aware that the events held over the last year had been very successful. BAJS is happy to continue its financial support of this Japan based group. Going forward Dr Seaton had indicated that there are now several colleagues assisting in coordinating local events.

**9. BAJS REGISTERED ADDRESS AND SECRETARIAT ARRANGEMENTS:**

As members are aware Mrs Baird will be retiring as BAJS Secretariat with effect from this AGM and the President was pleased to announce that following a rigorous selection process Dr Mara Patessio has accepted the offer of Executive Secretary to BAJS, she will take up the role from 15 September 2017 and hopefully provide the stability for BAJS going forward. SOAS will become the new registered address for BAJS, with the Chair of the JRC acting as line manager for Dr Patessio, and they will also become a member of Council. Thanks were expressed to Mrs Baird for the support and contribution she has provided to BAJS during her time as BAJS Secretariat.

**10. IVAN MORRIS PRIZE:**

11 submissions had been received for the 2015-16 Ivan Morris Prize.

These were now being assessed the guest judge, and the winner will be notified in due course, and an official announcement made via the BAJS website.

**11. CONFERENCES:**

1. 2017 European Association of Japanese Studies will take place in Lisbon, Portugal.

Several members of council had attended the EAJS and had provided positive feedback.

1. 2018 BAJS Conference : 5 – 7 September, University of Sheffield

Dr McAuley advised that some individual and panel proposals had already been received, with a reminder that the deadline is 30 September 2017 if there are still members who might wish to participate. It is hoped that decisions can be communicated by the end of January to allow sufficient planning time for presenters.

Further details are on the BAJS website.

1. 2019 Conference :

This is planned as a Joint East Asian Studies event, BAJS will be liaising with BACS and BAKS. Further details to follow.

**AOB:**

1. In connection with the REF nominee (covered in Agenda item 4):  
    Prof Neary advised that he had previously been on the REF panel and offered to assist if the nominee had any questions about what might be involved with this role.
2. In connection with BAJS Japan Chapter (Agenda item 8):  
    Prof Dodd suggested that they be invited to present a panel at future conferences which might encourage deeper integration with BAJS and raise their profile – or perhaps submit a Poster presentation.

LB