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BAJS AGM

Woodbrooke, Birmingham, 12pm Monday 11 July 2005

1. Apologies: Jim Aitken (treasurer), Piet van Boxel, Geoffrey Khan, Dan Levene, Alison Salvesen, Willem Smelik, Joanna Weinberg

2. Minutes of the previous meeting: confirmed.

3. Matters arising:

7. New Members. It was pointed out that Deborah Khan-Harris and Deborah Myers-Weinstein (PhD student) were the same person.

4. President's report:

4.1 Isabel Wollaston reported that the conference preparations had gone smoothly and that thanks were due to the staff of Woodbrooke for their help. She also noted that the publishers' fees for inserts and displays would help ensure that the conference would break even.

4.2 Isabel Wollaston also reported on the AUT's proposed boycott of Israeli Institutions earlier in the year, commenting that only after some trouble had she and Daniel Langton been able to establish a line of action agreed by a majority of the Committee. This had been to write a letter to the AUT arguing the case on the lines of academic freedom [summary attached to minutes]. She noted with satisfaction that the situation appeared to have resolved itself within the AUT. Bernard Jackson expressed some concern that after the merger of AUT and NATFE, the issue was bound to reoccur and that BAJS should be ready to make the case for the potential impact on Jewish Studies within the UK. Martin Goodman agreed, suggesting that an emergency meeting of the membership might also need to be called for in order to issue a public statement. Robert Hayward agreed, having already resigned from the AUT in protest. Daniel Langton noted that the letter sent by BAJS represented a default position. Tony Kushner stressed the complexity of the issue, arguing that no blanket policy should be adopted until the specifics of union motions were known. It was agreed that there was time before the next round of union conferences to discuss the issue at the next Committee meeting.

4.3 Isabel Wollaston reported that action was being planned for ensuring that during the next Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), Jewish Studies would be represented on the appropriate panels, or at least to have experts ready to advise the panels. While this was the case for Religions & Theology, she reported that the day before the committee had agreed that she should write on behalf of BAJS to the chairs of the History and Philosophy panels, once she had taken appropriate advice. She also wanted to warn the BAJS membership to be aware of the potential problem of under-representation, and to do what they could as individuals within their own departments. Martin Goodman was very concerned that something more concrete should be done, and criticised BAJS at the time of the last round for not having ensured proper representation. He pointed out that those responsible for conducting the RAE had issued several invitations for representative bodies such as BAJS to advise or make comments. Tony Kushner was not concerned about the History panel, in that he felt that modern Jewish history would be treated as fairly as modern

Dutch or German history. After some discussion, Daniel Langton **agreed** to write to the membership requesting feedback as to which subject area / panel they expected to be returned to. The information would then be sent on, either with Isabel's letters or soon after.

5. Treasurer's Report: Daniel Langton read out Jim Aitken's summary: "The balance in the current account has decreased in the course of 2004 by £176.37. However, some expenses for the year 2003 appear on the 2004 accounts (e.g. Web maintenance, conference), as well as the deposit for the 2005 conference. With this taken into account, the balance in real terms has increased moderately, and our accounts remain stable. The accounts for 2005 reflect the payments for the conference, but the costs are still to be deducted. The interest on the Deposit Account has increased significantly." Daniel Langton added that Jim Aitken would be consulted as to whether the income for the Kessler Student Prize had been received.

6. Secretary's Report: Daniel Langton reported that the website continued to function well, and included an increasingly number of student prizes and bursaries, including the Cecil Roth studentship. The next issue of BAJIS Bulletin would be November 2005, and the call for information relating to the survey of Jewish Studies teaching in the UK (for the sixth year) would go out in the next few weeks. He asked members to contact him proactively if their institution was not represented on the website, or if they were aware of courses not included.

7. New members: The following were approved:

Full members: Dr Lutz Doering (KCL), Dr Natan Meir (Southampton), Dr Ruth Rosenfelder (SOAS).

Student members: Simon Adnams (Manchester), Benjamin Elton (Birkbeck, London), Suzanne Knol (Manchester), Sandra Jacobs (KCL), Mrs Shirley A. Lucass (Manchester), Rosa Reicher (Trinity College Dublin), Lisa Silverman (Sussex), Joel Willits (Cambridge).

Bernard Jackson pointed out that Natan Meir had been approved as a member the previous year.

8. Committee Elections: Daniel Langton read out the current list of committee members and received approval of the membership. Committee members include: Jim Aitken, Michael Berkowitz, Piet van Boxel, Robert Hayward, Geoffrey Khan, Daniel Langton, Dan Levene, Alison Salvesen, Willem Smelik, Joanna Weinberg, Isabel Wollaston.

9. Confirmation of Election for President for 2006. Daniel Langton requested and received confirmation that the president for 2006 was Geoffrey Khan (Cambridge).

10. Election of President for 2007. Daniel Langton announced that the committee wished to nominate Michael Berkowitz as president for 2007 and asked whether we had the approval of the membership. This was given.

11. BAJIS Conference 2006: On behalf of Geoffrey Khan, Daniel Langton reported that the conference theme would be 'Primary Sources in Jewish Studies', to be widely interpreted. It was expected that the conference would take place at Wolfson College, Cambridge, 11-13 July 2006. There would almost certainly be a plenary session on the Cairo *Genizah* Fragments.

12. BAJIS Annual Lecture 2006: Daniel Langton announced that information regarding the speaker and topic of the lecture would be made available on the website shortly.

13. Student Essay Prizes: Isabel Wollaston thanked Tony Kushner and Judith Lieu for helping her judge this year's entries. She reported that there had been 7 entries (4 from UCL, 1 each from Southampton, Birmingham and Reading). First prize went to Helene Bartos (UCL) for an essay entitled 'Compare and Contrast the Experiences of Jewish Immigrants in the US, England and One Other English-Speaking Land Around 1900'; second prize went to Hannah Eivans (Southampton) for an essay entitled 'How Can national Socialist Attitudes Toward Motherhood Be Interpreted?'; third prize went to Hannah Judd (Birmingham) for an essay entitled 'With Reference to the Work of Melissa Raphael, Discuss Whether there Is a Need for a Jewish Feminist Response to the Holocaust' Tony Kushner suggested that the word length be restricted to 4000 words and that the essay be written by a registered undergraduate. Bernard

Jackson enquired as to whether a prize for MA essays could be organised, although Martin Goodman suggested that the length and specialist nature of such submissions would make judging these impractical. A request that submissions from Ireland be included was made, and seconded by Martin Goodman. It was **agreed** that all these issues would be discussed at the next committee meeting.

14. Any other business:

14.1 Martin Goodman asked whether the BAJS website could be linked to/from the EAJS website. Daniel Langton **agreed** to arrange this.

14.2 Bernard Jackson suggested that the membership send their congratulations to Philip Alexander (Manchester) on his being honoured as a FBA. Tony Kushner suggested the same for Edward Timms (Sussex) on the award of his OBE. Isabel Wollaston **agreed** to write these letters.

15. Date of next meeting: Annual Conference 2006, precise date to be confirmed.

BAJS and the recent AUT motions on Israel

I have been asked in recent weeks whether BAJS is taking any action in this matter. Constitutionally, I could not act on behalf of the Association without a mandate from the majority of the committee and/or from the membership at large; there are a variety of possible courses of action. I consulted the Committee in early May but no clear mandate was received; there were differences of opinion. I consulted the Committee a second time, on the 12th May, and this time received a majority opinion that a letter should be sent out immediately to the Executive of the AUT, i.e. before the Special Council Meeting scheduled for the 26th May. I have accordingly written today to the President of the AUT, expressing the concern of BAJS, principally with regard to the interference with academic freedom that the proposed boycott represents.

Individual BAJS members may like to discuss the matter further at this year's AGM , which will take place during the annual conference on Tuesday 12th July.

At the time of writing, the precise status of the AUT boycott motions is unclear. Advice as to what form the boycott will take has not yet been issued by the AUT national executive to AUT members, but it is likely that the situation will have moved on by the time of the AGM in July. BAJS members who would like to submit a motion on this matter to the AGM are therefore advised to follow the matter closely and submit the motion to the Secretary of BAJS, Dr Daniel Langton (Centre for Jewish Studies, Religions and Theology, University of Manchester , Oxford Road , Manchester M13 9PL, daniel.langton@man.ac.uk). Motions for the AGM should be proposed by a member, seconded by another member , and should reach the Secretary at least 15 working days before the AGM , i.e. by Tuesday 21st June.

From my experience of the reactions of the BAJS Committee to this issue, it would appear that there is a wide range of opinion as to would constitute a suitable course of action if the boycott is approved on the 26th May. As President of BAJS, I believe that discussion amongst members as appropriate should be facilitated on any subject of concern to BAJS members, and the AGM is clearly an appropriate forum for this. If a clear mandate from members can be agreed upon there, I will then be able to continue to represent a BAJS position on this matter to the world at large.

Isabel Wollaston,
20 May 2005

British Association for Jewish Studies

Treasurer's annual report, AGM July 2005

Summary

The balance in the current account has decreased in the course of 2004 by £176.37. However, some expenses for the year 2003 appear on the 2004 accounts (e.g. Web maintenance, conference), as well as the deposit for the 2005 conference. With this taken into account, the balance in real terms has increased moderately, and our accounts remain stable.

The accounts for 2005 reflect the payments for the conference, but the costs are still to be deducted. The interest on the **Deposit Account** has increased significantly.

A. Accounting year Jan-Dec 2004

1. Current Account

<i>Opening Balance</i>	£2307.25
INCOME	
Subscriptions:	£1251
Labels	£158.75
Conference 04, Oxford	£5802.45
BA conference grant	£1086
Conference Publishers	£180
<i>Total Income:</i>	£8478.20
EXPENDITURE	
Conference 05 deposit	£520
Conference expense	£6972.19
Travel	£329.91 + 13.30
Web hosting	£250
Catering	£31.25
Bulletin	£114.25 + 75.07 + 124.60
Essay Prize 03	£175
Bank charges and foreign exchange	£49
<i>Total Expenditure:</i>	£8654.57
Closing Balance	£2130.88

2. Deposit Account

<i>Opening balance</i>	£5063.48
Annual interest	£55.11
<i>Closing balance</i>	£5118.59

B. Accounts Jan-June 2005

1. Current Account

<i>Opening Balance</i>	£2130.88
1533	
INCOME	
Subscriptions:	£1101
Labels	£50
Conference 05	£4162
 <i>Total Income:</i>	 £5113
 EXPENDITURE	
Travel	£266.48
Web hosting	£95.51
Catering	£12.75
Bulletin	£83.67
Essay Prize 04	£225
 <i>Total Expenditure:</i>	 £683.41
 Closing Balance	 £6560.47

2. Deposit Account

<i>Opening balance</i>	£5118.59
Annual interest	£102.86
<i>Closing balance</i>	£5221.45

J.K. Aitken
30th June 2005