BAJS Annual General Meeting – 29 June 2012
UCL

Present: Lars Fischer (Secretary), François Guesnet, Daniel Langton, Zuleika Rodgers (President elect 2014), Sacha Stern (President), George Brooke and ca. 15 others.

Apologies: Nathan Abrams, Maria Diemling (Treasurer), Lutz Doering, Hannah Holtschneider (web officer), Larry Ray (President elect 2013), James Renton, Alison Salvesen, Helen Spurling.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting
The minutes were confirmed as an accurate record of the previous AGM in Oxford.

2. New BAJS members
Lars Fischer reported that 43 new applications had been received since the AGM in Oxford to 43. This meant that the recruitment drive begun last year had now generated more than 100 new members. He circulated the list of applicants recommended by the committee for election, all of whom were duly elected.

Lars Fischer reminded the AGM that Helen Spurling’s election to the committee in Oxford took effect with this year’s AGM.

3. President’s report
Sacha Stern reported that the conference was going well. The decision to run two conferences – the IJS conference connected to Sacha Stern’s AHRC grant and the BAJS conference – back to back had created useful synergies. Sacha Stern thanked the IJS colleagues involved in the organisation, especially Sara Benisaac, the three student volunteers, and the committee and his fellow officers. The AGM expressed its gratitude to Sacha Stern for his excellent work.

4. Treasurer’s report
Lars Fischer circulated the accounts and reported on Maria Diemling’s behalf, noting that the association’s finances continued to be stable, that no further withdrawals from the deposit account had been necessary, and that payment via PayPal was working well.

5. Secretary’s report
Lars Fischer reported that the committee had contacted the relevant sub panel heads earlier in the year to clarify the difficulties Jewish Studies faces in the REF and that the response had generally been encouraging. The committee was exploring ways in which it could assist the membership in the run up to the REF.
6. Web officer’s report
Lars Fischer reported on Hannah Holtschneider’s behalf. The website was running well and continuing to draw increasing interest. If colleagues had any suggestion for improvements, they would be most welcome.

7. Bulletin editor’s report
Lars Fischer reported that the new issue had come out in time for the conference. Production costs were ca. £1200 but this would be offset by income of £500 for inserts. He expressed his deep gratitude to his co-editor, Emma Harris, without whom it would have been quite impossible to get the Bulletin out in time.

8. Essay Prizes
Lars Fischer reported that due to the slightly earlier conference date it had not been possible to process this year’s submissions prior to the conference, not least because a number of departments still adhered to the time-honoured practice of making submission after their Board of Examiners meeting. The necessary arrangements to process the submissions would be made after the conference.

9. Conference 2013
Lars Fischer confirmed that the 2013 conference would take place from 7 to 9 July in Canterbury. The theme is: Memory, Identity, and Boundaries of Jewishness.

10. Date of next meeting
The next AGM will take place during the 2013 conference in Canterbury.

provisional minutes, lf 17/09/12