

Minutes of the ASFS AGM held at Newcastle University, University House (Civic Precinct) NSW, 5:15-6:30pm (at the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASFS conference “French on the Move”) Thursday 10 December 2015

Present (members)

Executive: Alistair Rolls (President, in the chair), John West-Sooby (Vice-President), Véronique Duché (Treasurer), Amy Hubbell & Natalie Edwards (Webmasters & Membership Secretary), Tess Do (Secretary).

Graig Adams, Jean Anderson, Leslie Barnes, Alexis Bergantz, Peter Cowley, Kim Hajek, Barbara Hanna, Joe Hardwick, Chris Hogarth, Kerry Mullan, Julie Robert, Clara Sitbon, Marie-Laure Vuaille-Barcan.

Apologies

No apologies

Approval of minutes

- Barbara Hanna's apology was added to last year's minutes.
- Motion was subsequently made by Alistair Rolls and seconded by Peter Cowley to approve the minutes of the 5 December 2014 AGM meeting.

Thanks & Recognition

- Alistair Rolls thanked this year's ASFS conference committee for their work.

The President's report

1) Discussion of ASFS committee roles (following AGM 2014).

The executive recommends that:

- a) the Research and Postgraduate Officer's role be understood to be one of organising a postgraduate event at the annual ASFS conference.
  - It is easier not to change the Constitution but treat it as a historical artefact that informs what we do.
  - On the AFSF website we place an updated statement about the executive positions as we understand them.
  - Any member of AFSF can hold this position.
- b) the role of Editor of Publications be understood to be that of Web Development Officer;
- c) the above roles be known as Postgraduate Officer and Web Development Officer, respectively, on the Executive Committee page of the website;
- d) the Treasurer's duties be extended to include those performed in comparable societies by a Membership Secretary (held by Natalie Edwards in 2014).

The recommendations were moved by Alistair and seconded by Véronique Duché.

2) **“Marguerite Duras et les arts”** will be held by Michelle Royer, French Department at the University of Sydney, 29 June – 1 July 2016. This conference will receive some funding from the French Embassy. It was considered by the

Executive that the conference theme was too narrow to accommodate ASFS 2016. ASFS will badge this event and sponsor it via its website.

3) **FATFA** will hold its conference in September 2016 at Flinders. Colette Mrowa-Hopkins will convene. The conference will receive ASFS funding from the Embassy. ASFS will badge this event and sponsor it via its website. After lengthy discussions the Executive considered that the conference was not a suitable vehicle for ASFS 2016 (high registration fee, postgraduate students have to pay, which are against what AFSF has been trying not to do).

4) **ASFS 2016** will be organised by the University of South Australia and the University of Adelaide, 7-9 December. The committee: Chris Hogarth, Natalie Edwards, Ben McCann and Saige Walton. The theme is "Mobilities and Migrations/Les flux migratoires".

- Suggestion to separate AFSF from FATFA primarily due to financial reasons. Natalie emphasised money was the only reason.
- Véronique asked AFSF to badge a French event "Mentor and Mentorship in French Studies" she will organize in Melbourne in 8/2016. Request accepted by Alistair. Event to be announced on the AFSF website.

#### The Treasurer's Report (Véronique Duché)

(see separate report for detail)

- 19 members paid up end November 2014; 44 members paid up end October 2013
- Finances (Dec 2013-Nov 2014): Opening balance: \$32,267.98; Closing balance: \$29,118.48
- Véronique mentioned the difficulty to check the correct account balance as membership and conference inscription were paid together and she was not the only person receiving membership and conference inscription payments. Natalie's report would correct the figures.
- Alistair commented on how the Baudin grants were selected by two people; how he bought his own AFSF TShirt; how he thought that AFSF should cover the extra \$2000 expenses that Kerry spent for the 2014 AFSF Conference. Some people from the floor agreed that this expense related to Jospin's invitation was a good investment.
- One cheque for the Baudin grant (\$300) was lost due to student providing a temporary address in France. A new cheque had to be reissued.
- AFSF was still waiting for the \$400 cheque from Brian Nelson (AJFS) to make up for the \$500 prize for the best postgraduate's article. Alistair informed that he was chasing up this sum with Brian and Monash University, and it would be sent to AFSF soon.
- Véronique explained that the 19 members we had last year were those who had paid by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014. But many more had paid their memberships during and after the conference.

#### The Membership Secretary's Report (Natalie Edwards)

(see separate report for detail)

- HOS of French Departments in Australia were contacted as a means to recruit new members.

- 65 paid members (membership lasts for 1 year until 31/12; those who paid for the registration this year will have their memberships for 2016 – already have 48 members for 2016); members can check their membership on the AFSF website
- Pay online by credit or PayPal – small fee (about \$1) to use these practical options, but worthwhile; Kim Hajek suggested to add this extra small fee to the membership fee (whoever uses PayPal will pay \$31 instead of \$30/year).
- Julie Robert commented that AFSF should be able to issue a tax receipt for the AFSF membership fee as she had some difficulty to have the automatic payment slip be accepted for reimbursement by her university (UTS); Natalie thought that payment receipt issued by the Society and emailed to the member would be sufficiently official; there was a suggestion that AFSF apply for an ABN in the future.
- Alistair mentioned that members could retain their membership without going to the AFSF conference.
- Both reports were moved by John West-Sooby and approved by Alistair.

#### AFSF Website Report (Amy Hubbell)

(see separate report for detail)

- The website AustralianSocietyforFrenchStudies.com, hosted through Wordpress.com, has been active since January 2014. In 2015 alone, we have had 15,012 views and 6,848 visitors to the site.
- In 2015 we added an ASFS store which allows us to manage membership subscriptions and conference payments relatively easily. This store is operated through Ecwid. Since Dec 15, 2014, we have received 66 orders through the site. The Wordpress Business plan costs \$399 annually and this includes hosting fees.

#### AFSF & FATFA: Motion to dissociate AFSF from FATFA

- Alistair explained the rationale for this dissociation: Legally, ASFS cannot be funded directly by the Embassy while it sits under FATFA. Currently, ASFS pays capitation fees to FATFA to receive money from the Embassy. The sum ASFS receives is less than the sum that the Embassy wishes to fund us (usually \$2000 per annum).
- John West-Sooby added that the people from the Embassy (Catherine Hodeir, Soulier) also would like AFSF to be free from FATFA so that they could directly fund our activities.
- Barbara Hanna saw the financial rationale but thought it regrettable that ASFS would dissociate from FATFA, giving the impression that our relationship with the Embassy was more important than that with other French-teaching associations, or that we were driven purely by financial concerns. She reminded the meeting that our association with FATFA was more than just about money, that it was our connection with others in French teaching in Australia.
- Alistair suggested that for those interested in the causes promoted by FATFA, they take out individual memberships, just as he had for LCNAU. Barbara explained that since FATFA was an umbrella organisation, no individual was directly a member of it. To belong to FATFA, you needed to

be a member of one of its constituent associations, such as ASFS or the French Teachers Branch of the Modern Language Teachers Association of Queensland.

- Alistair thanked Barbara for her comments and stressed that the reason of the dissociation was entirely financial; he hoped that the president of FATFA, Colette Mrowa-Hopkins would understand his rationale. He would apologize to her if she did not.
- Amy asked what FATFA did for us as an umbrella organization. Barbara gave the example of how the French Teachers Branch of the Modern Language Teachers Association of Queensland put in requests for financial support for its activities to FATFA.
- Motion was put up by Alistair to dissociate AFSF from FATFA; 17/19 members voted for and 2/19 (Barbara, Kim Hajek) voted against the dissociation. Alistair to report this outcome to FATFA.
- John West-Sooby mentioned the need continue to maintain a link with FATFA in the form of a representation (through Barbara who is the AFSF representative at FATFA).
- Amy asked about the changes to be made on the AFSF website; Alistair suggested that she emailed him for instructions.

#### Global France Global French (Leslie Barnes)

- Leslie started with an apology for not contacting the Embassy or the AFSF; her conference was funded and run by the Humanity Research Centre at ANU and when she organized her conference Global France Global French, she did not know that if she had contacted the French Embassy earlier she could have received funding from them and had their logo on the conference brochure.
- Alistair explained to Leslie that the procedure was to go through the AFSF, who would then contact the Embassy to request funding for her conference.
- Leslie reported that her conference was a real success, attracting 28 national and international participants including keynote speakers. The research theme for 2015 was Global Languages.
- Each year the Research Centre announces its research theme (in March/April for the conference to held in the following year) that is directly related to its Visiting Scholar scheme. The Centre offers annual funding for 20 visiting scholars to come to ANU for a one to six month period.
- 2016: the research them is "Evolution" and the event will be held in July.
- John West-Sooby added that the Research Centre no longer advertised its themes/conferences as it used to before, that was why the information about these events dropped off the radar.
- Leslie suggested that the Visiting Scholar scheme could be very interesting for any of us who would want to spend his/her sabbatical at ANU to collaborate with the people there.
- Any further information related to the ANU research schemes and conferences can be obtained by contacting Leslie. Amy: to put this information on the AFSF website.

### AFSF 2016 (Chris Hogarth)

- XXIV AFSF Conference, 7-9 December 2016, University of South Australia/University of Adelaide
- Conference theme: Mobilities and Migrations/ Les flux migratoires
- Conference proceedings: publication in AJFS, Vol. 3, 2017
- Alistair: the conference organisers should check to see approximately how many people would be coming to the Conference.

### Malcolm Bowie Prize (Alistair)

(see separate report for detail)

- Awarded for the best article published in the preceding year by an early-career researcher in the broader discipline of French Studies.
- The award included: A cash prize of £1000; expenses-paid travel to the next annual conference of the Society of French Studies; mention in the French Studies Bulletin and on the Society of French Studies website.
- Nominations should be submitted by email to Prof Margaret Topping ([m.topping@qub.ac.uk](mailto:m.topping@qub.ac.uk)), together with a statement and a PDF file of the article as it appears in print.
- Deadline for 2015 Prize: 20 January 2016.

### French Cultural Studies (Alistair)

- Email from Nick Hewitt 30/11/2015 to Alistair: "I'm very keen to keep up a flow of special numbers in *French Cultural Studies* and I would like some of them to be edited by early-ish career researchers and based on workshops/conferences. I'm also very keen that in this we should reflect our broader constituency in North America and Australasia. To this end, I'm happy to contribute around £1000 towards the costs of such a workshop, which should act as pump-priming for bids at institutional or wider levels. If you could spread the word, I'd be very grateful."
- Alistair encouraged us to take up this generous offer.

### AOB:

#### 1) Major Exhibition, Adelaide (John West-Sooby)

- End of June 2016: major exhibition showcasing a large number of drawings and artworks by the naturalist Charles-Alexandre Lesueur, who was a member of the Baudin expedition, at the South Australian Maritime Museum.
- Guided tour of the Museum can be organized as part of the AFSF 2016.
- Exhibition to tour Australia for 2 years to various locations: Hobart, Launceston, Canberra, Sydney, etc.

#### 2) Mambo Exhibition, Newcastle Art Gallery (Alistair)

### Election of Office Bearers for 2016

Chair passed to John West-Sooby, Vice President, who declared all positions vacant and called for nominations.

Result of the election:

- President: Alistair Rolls (written nomination by Marie-Laure Vuaille-Barcan, seconded by Clara Sitbon)
- Vice-President: Véronique Duché (proposed by Alistair Rolls, seconded by Tess Do). Because he would be away in 2016 John West-Sooby wished to resign from his position. Alistair thanked him for his duty and mentorship during his office.
- Secretary: Tess Do (proposed by Véronique Duché, seconded by Natalie Edwards)
- Treasurer: Natalie Edwards (written nominations by Amy Hubbell and Véronique Duché, seconded by Chris Hogarth and Kerry Mullan)
- Web Development Officer/Webmaster: Amy Hubbell (proposed by Barbara Hanna, seconded by Alistair)
- Postgraduate Officer: Julie Robert (written nomination by Clara Sitbon, seconded by Tess Do).

### Conclusion

- Thanks from Alistair to the ASFS committee, members and audience.
- On behalf of the Society John West-Sooby thanked Alistair, Marie-Laure, Julie, the organizers of this year AFSF conference; he also thanked Alistair for the organization of the conference "Detective Fiction on the Move" that was held one day before the AFSF Conference (Tuesday 8/12/2015).
- As Vice-President, Véronique Duché suggested that the Society explored the possibilities of collaboration between its members, by identifying the common research interests, in view of future joint ARC applications. John West-Sooby suggested forming a pilot committee to carry out this investigation.

As there was no other business the meeting was closed at 6:25pm.