

The Aspera logo consists of a rectangular box with a black border. Inside the box, the word "aspera." is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The background of the box is a colorful, abstract watercolor-style wash in shades of orange, red, green, and blue.

AGM MINUTES

Meeting	Annual General Meeting
Date	Friday 17 July 2015
Time	1.30pm – 3pm (ACST)
Location	Flinders University, Victoria Square, Adelaide

1. Attendance and Apologies

Richard Seale (Curtin), Kath Dooley (Curtin), Jill Holt (Swinburne), Helen Carter (Flinders), Kerreen Ely-Harper (Curtin), Steven Murdoch (Swinburne), Rachel Wilson (RMIT), Nicollette Freeman (VCA/UoM), Louise Sawtell (RMIT), Susan Kerrigan (Newcastle), Mark Ryan (QUT), Sarah Stollman (AFTRS), Michael Sergi (Bond), Alison Wotherspoon (Flinders), Craig Batty (RMIT), James Verdon (Swinburne), John Cumming (Deakin), Tim Thomas (Canberra), Bettina Frankham (UTS, minutes).

2. Previous Minutes

Ratified without amendment.

Moved: Alison Wotherspoon

Seconded: Susan Kerrigan

3. Business Arising

No business arising from the previous minutes.

4. Reports

4.1 President's Report

Tim noted that the AGM marks the end of the annual conference. He expressed his thanks to Alison and her team for putting the conference together and congratulate all the presenters. He pointed out that reconnecting with Western Australia has been on the agenda over the past year and it is great to see such a strong representation of delegates from Curtin University. He said that work is moving forward with the research sub-committee – that it's structure has changed from being a research advisory committee. He noted that many of the goals and aspirations set up by the research committee have actually materialised at the conference and that expanding the scope may involve internationalisation.

Tim noted changes that have occurred within the DDCA and stated that at this point, he is happy that ASPERA is an associate member.

Over the past year ASPERA has been approached by ATOM regarding hosting a joint conference. Sightlines, a partnership between ASPERA and RMIT, has been a very instructive and productive exercise in developing a model of how an online screen production journal might look.

He saw many challenges going on and one of the key questions of his presidency was to think about how you can lean on the future. One of the issues that is still being considered is how ASPERA can get best bang for its buck through the seed grant program.

Tim expressed a vote of thanks to Nick Oughton for all of his hard work as treasurer over the past years. He explained to the meeting that Nick is seeking to step down and that we are looking for someone to nominate as treasurer.

Tim also highlighted changes in the constitution being sought by the executive committee as a reflection of how the work of the committee has grown. He brought the meetings attention to the two special resolutions that have been proposed to add the positions of Online Communications Editor and Chair of the Research Sub-Committee as members of the Executive Committee.

Tim expressed a positive view of the future and said he was looking forward to the next few years of ASPERA growing bigger and better.

4.2 Treasurer's Report

Read out by James Verdon on Nick Oughton's behalf. See appendix 1.

4.3 Research Sub Committee report

Craig Batty referred to the handout distributed on day 2 of the conference (see appendix 2). The committee has corralled 22 papers with plans for publication extending into the future. Craig and Susan Kerrigan have submitted an application for an OLTC grant.

When the subcommittee was formed the thinking was that we would draw on the expertise of Professors but the scope of that was seen as somewhat arbitrary with uncertainty around what the group would actually do. A decision has been taken to park that idea for a bit and instead focus on building research capacity within the ASPERA community. The intention is that as a maturing organisation we need to trust ourselves rather than turning to people outside to give us guidance.

Denise Meredith presented an overview of the ARC funding situation to the Research Sub Committee. The committee is looking to help develop future ARC applications from members of the ASPERA community as well as advising on general research matters.

Craig noted the importance of encouraging HDR students to participate in the ASPERA conference and research opportunities.

In the longer term the Committee is looking at the possibilities of developing an ASPERA journal.

Michael Sergi asked if there was anywhere that the organisation can go to get funding to establish a journal.

Tim Thomas responded that we need to be able to demonstrate track record and show relevance beyond our immediate circle.

Craig Batty added that it was important that we ensure that we have content.

Tim also noted that the push to have peer reviewed conference proceedings was part of a spiralling toward a possible journal in the future.

John Cumming extended a vote of thanks to Craig Batty and the Research Sub Committee.

5. General Business

5.1 Seed Funding Research Grant: Discussion to seek clarification from representatives regarding eligibility to apply to the fund.

Tim Thomas initiated the discussion by asking the meeting who they thought should be able to apply to the fund.

James Verdon highlighted that as a small organisation there was a lot of cross over between the people who are making the seed grant possible with the people who might want to be applying for the fund. He noted that there were two potential applicants who had direct connections to the executive but the executive committee decided that executive members shouldn't be able to apply. The item was being put forward in order to seek clarity around that.

John Cumming noted the situation with regards to Australia Council funding where members of assessment panels who are also applicants are required to excuse themselves when their own applications are being considered.

Rachel Wilson suggested that the council of past ASPERA presidents could be called upon to make decisions on the seed grant.

Tim Thomas asked if that meant that ex-presidents couldn't apply to the fund.

Jill Holt pointed out that excluding executive members from applying for the grant was a deterrent to be on that committee.

Resolution: that we draw on members of the council of past presidents, who aren't intending to apply for the fund, to select and assess seed grant applications so that members of the executive committee can apply for seed grant funding.

Proposed: Rachel Wilson

Seconded: Jill Holt

Passed unanimously.

5.2 Proposal for dual treasurer position

This item was deferred until after the election of executive committee members as it may no longer be relevant.

5.3 Special Resolution to amend the constitution to add Online Communications Editor, as an Executive Committee office bearer with editorial responsibility for online communications, including ASPERA web-page content, reporting to the Executive Committee, at item 14.2.

5.4 Special resolution to amend the constitution to add Chair of the Research Sub Committee, as an office bearer, to the executive committee, at Item 14.2.

(items 5.3 and 5.4 were discussed en bloc)

Tim Thomas noted that this is actually a change to the make up of the executive.

Rachel Wilson requested that we talk to the Special Resolutions together.

Tim Thomas observed that one of the reservations about the proposed new positions was that as the executive committee grows larger it might become unwieldy. He pointed out that there is no requirement that all the positions be filled. He asked if there were any objections.

Michael Sergi asked if we needed to go back and look at the reason for the general members on the executive committee.

Tim responded that the idea was to train people and canvas the opinion of the broader ASPERA community. He said that it was a good thing to do if you want to explore being involved.

With 11 member institutions represented, no proxies received, items 5.3 and 5.4 were put to the meeting.

Motion: That the two special resolutions be accepted.

Proposed: Tim Thomas

Seconded: John Cumming

Passed unanimously.

5.5 Call for expression of interest members for the Research Sub-Committee

Craig Batty spoke of the intention to continue the efforts of the Research Committee and how the coming year is a year to bed down and do stuff. There is a need to have people involved who are passionate about research.

Rachel Wilson suggested that we send out a couple more reminders to the membership.

Michael Sergi suggested that we let them know what they will be getting in for and what will be expected.

Craig Batty said that there would be some meetings via Skype as well of a couple of face-to-face meetings. He said that the main work of the committee will be defining if there are research concerns that we want to push forward, supporting grant applications or just pushing publications.

Tim Thomas noted that the Research Sub-Committee is responsive to the ASPERA community.

John Cumming suggested that explaining to the ASPERA community how it will work and the thinking behind its formation be placed on the agenda for the Research Sub-Committee.

Craig Batty said they would be hoping to have 5 members of the committee.

Rachel Wilson suggested that they try to get Mick Broderick involved again.

Craig Batty concluded the discussion by emphasising the need to be doing more, that the debates need to be put into a public forum to get feedback and keep discussions going. He also noted that they are looking to a range of types of research including pedagogical and practice based.

5.6 Election of new Executive

The following people were elected unopposed to the ASPERA Executive Committee for the year 2015/16

President: John Cumming

Vice President: James Verdon

Treasurer: Alison Wotherspoon

Secretary: Bettina Frankham

Chair of the Research Sub-Committee: Craig Batty

Online Communications Editor: Richard Seale

Other Members: Sarah Stollman and Mark Ryan

6. Other Business

6.1 Next conference location - ATOM Screen Futures partnership proposal for ASPERA 2016

The University of Canberra was chosen as the conference location for next year.

Interest in hosting the conference in future years was also expressed by Michael Sergi (Bond University), Nicollette Freeman (VCA/University of Melbourne), Sarah Stollman (AFTRS), Richard Seale (Curtin University).

Rachel Wilson noted that given there are 4 potential hosts for the coming 4 years, the executive could work to come up with a series of themes.

Nicollette Freeman noted that its good for HDR students to have a structure to aim for and that if we're hoping to attract people from outside the community then a conference theme is helpful.

Michael Sergi suggested that we target somebody to give a keynote and make the theme based on their research.

Susan Kerrigan suggested John Caldwell as a possible keynote.

Tanya Chambers was also suggested.

Alison Wotherspoon suggested that a efforts be made to find a date in the calendar when we're all available.

Michael Sergi noted that it is possible to organise to not be teaching in the part of the week that the conference is held so that can still attend even if teaching.

Susan Kerrigan noted that the timing of the call for papers and acceptance needs to be earlier in order to allow time to apply for conference travel.

Tim Thomas expressed interest in bring the Sightlines conference together with the ASPERA conference in Canberra next year

6.2 Motion of congratulations to all recent PhD graduates.

Rachel Wilson proposed a motion congratulating all the recent PhD graduates including Tim Thomas and Jill Holt.

Seconded: John Cumming

6.3 Minutes on the website

Susan Kerrigan has prepared pdfs of executive minutes from 2011 and 2013 to be put up on the website.

6.4 Congratulations and thankyou.

The meeting thanks Alison Wotherspoon for her efforts as convenor of the 2014 conference.

The meeting closed at 3pm.

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Appendix 1

Treasurer's Report 2015

The balance of all accounts at 30th June 2015 is \$23,057.98. The ASPERA accounts are in a healthy condition, however, they do not include a forgone contribution to 'Seed Grant' funding amounting to approximately \$7500.

Over the years, ASPERA has build strong reserve of funds that the executive plans to invest this reserve in 'Seed Grants' to encourage research by ASPERA members. This is a worthwhile investment, but it should be remembered that with an income of approximately \$9,000.00 per year, and general expenses running to approximately the same amount (excluding Seed Funding), this war chest will be dissipated.

At 30th June there were 12 paid up members of ASPERA. Those institutions who have yet to pay their membership fees for this period are: AFTRS (now paid), Flinders University, University of South Australia, Macquarie University, Curtin University, University of Canberra, University of NSW and UWS.

The following should also be noted:

- The accounts for the period 2014-15 (not including interest accrued from investment account) show a loss of \$1661.01.
- Preparation costs for publishing papers from the 2014 Conference were \$2887.
- Income from membership fees have dropped over the last 3-years. During this period membership income for fees were: 2013, \$11,100; 2014, \$10,800; 2015, \$8750
- Seed Grant contributions for the year were \$1375
- Interest from the business web savings account amounted to \$219.75 for 2014-15.

Nick Oughton

2015

Appendix 2

ASPERA Research Sub-Committee output 2014/2015

ASPERA Annual Conference Proceedings 2014, online

<http://aspera.org.au/research/conference-proceedings/annual-conference-refereed-proceedings-2014/>

Edited by Dr Susan Kerrigan, University of Newcastle & Associate Professor Craig Batty, RMIT University

Diane Charleston - Walking on the Dark Side: Images, Techniques and Themes in Student Short Films

Samuel Hutchinson - Creative Screen Labour: Capital Reciprocity in Micro-Budget Corporate Documentary

Dean Keep - Database Documentaries: New Documentary Practices in Emergent Narrative Spaces and the Classroom

Kristi Street - Researching 'The Shoot Out Filmmaking Festival' by Targeting Creativity

Tom Young - Development of a University Feature Film Production Model

2015

8 articles currently in revision mode, for publication in 2015.

Studies in Australasian Cinema - Edition 8.2, November 2014

Phillip McIntyre, & Susan Kerrigan, (2014) 'Pursuing extreme romance: change and continuity in the creative screen industries in the Hunter Valley' Pub: Vol 2-3 20 October 2014

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17503175.2014.960680#abstract>

Editor of SiAC Anthony Lambert writes '*This article maps the screen industries in the Hunter Valley of New South Wales through a range of projects, relationships to agencies such as Screen Hunter, a reliance to patronage, to industries, institutions and digital technologies.*'

Kath Dooley (2014) 'A promise of change: 52 Tuesdays (2013) – a case study of collaborative, low-budget feature-filmmaking practice' Pub: Vol 2-3 (17 November 2014).

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/17503175.2014.976446#.VaXBKHsWfR>

Editor of SiAC Anthony Lambert writes '*Dooley explores 'staggered' screenwriting and production practices at the heart of Sophie Hyde's 52 Tuesdays (2013). An analysis of the documentary elements of this 'trans'*

film is underscored by revealing interviews with the director and writer, speaking to the effects of the working methods that shaped the film.'

Natalie Lewandowski (2014) 'Sounding out an education different pathways, one industry?' Pub: Vol 2-3 (27 November 2014). <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17503175.2014.976447#abstract>

Editor of SiAC Anthony Lambert writes Lewandowski '*deploys a 'production cultures' approach to explore educational pathways available to film sound personnel in Australia and New Zealand, foregrounding the relationship between 'the industry' and education/education institutions. Industrial changes and shifts in educational priorities are filtered through interviews and structured responses, in a movement toward the identification of productive outcomes for future programs.'*

Special Edition 9.2 - Title: Looking Back in Order to Look Forward: Re-scripting and Re-framing Screen Production Research, August 2015

Edited by Dr Susan Kerrigan, University of Newcastle & Associate Professor Craig Batty, RMIT University

FitzSimons, Trish, (2015) 'I've got to STOP writing this (adjective of choice) article and get onto my filmmaking': Documentary Filmmaking as University Research – some history and case studies, ASPERA 2013 Conference

Delmotte, Isabelle (2015) Freeing the imagination: 'the best movie is the one in my head' – from ASPERA 2013 conference presentation

Kerrigan, Susan; Berkeley, Leo; Maher, Sean; Sergi, Michael; Wotherspoon, Alison (2015) Screen Production Enquiry: a study of five Australian doctorates, ASPEAR 2013 Conference

Batty, Craig (2015) A screenwriter's journey into theme, and how creative writing research might help us to define screen production research, ASPERA 2014 Conference

Aquila, Pieter (2015) The Value of Film School in the Success of Female Filmmakers in Australia, ASPERA 2014 Conference

Maher, Sean & Elkington, Ruari (2015) Re-thinking ancillary: Australian screen content in Education, ASPERA 2014 Conference

Special Edition 10.1 – Title: Show, Don't Tell: Contemporary Screen Production Research, February 2016

4 articles have been accepted for publication through the blind-peer review process. 2 more articles are currently in peer-review.

Special issue on *Writing with/on/for the Screen* just agreed, to be published in 2016.

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