

AHS 13TH March 2016 AGM Minutes

Minutes taken and compiled by Caitlin Greenwood, Secretary

Order of Business

- Apologies
- Election of returning officers
- Vote to ratify standing orders
- Vote to ratify minutes of previous AGM
- Presidents' report
- Financial Report
- Officers' reports
- Motions
- Informal discussion of AHS Code of Conduct
- Executive elections
- Any other business

Apologies

None

Caucus in Attendance

Society	Representative 1	Representative 2
University of Central Lancashire Atheist, Humanist, and Secularist Society	Catherine Bevan (<i>AHS Rep</i>)	N/A
Queen's University Belfast Humanist Society	Bradley Allsop (<i>President</i>)	N/A
University of York Atheist, Secularist and Humanist Society	Jake Weir (<i>President</i>)	N/A
Imperial College Atheists, Secularists and Humanists	Jonathan Sutton (<i>President</i>)	Callum Leighton (<i>AHS Rep</i>)
Hull University Secularist, Atheist, and Humanist Society	Becky Lavelle (<i>President</i>)	N/A
University of Northampton A Humanist Society	Samantha Morgan (<i>President</i>)	N/A
University of Surrey Atheist, Humanist and Secularist Society	Roshni Mothvadia (<i>AHS Rep</i>)	N/A
University of Leicester Atheist, Humanist and Secular Student Society	Ryan Smith (<i>President</i>)	N/A
University of Sheffield Secular and Atheist Society	Jack Dowling (<i>AHS Rep</i>)	N/A
University of Exeter Atheist, Humanist and Secular Society	Stephen Hawkins (<i>President</i>)	Hannah Timson (<i>AHS Rep</i>)
Loughborough University Atheist, Humanist & Secularist Society	Umbar Zareen (<i>President</i>)	N/A

Durham University Atheist, Secularist and Humanist Society	Helen Chamberlain (<i>President</i>)	Ginny Marshall (<i>AHS Rep</i>)
Late Arrivals		
University of Nottingham Agnostics, Secularists and Humanists Society	Dale Claridge (<i>AHS Rep</i>)	Hannah Bensoussance (<i>AHS Rep</i>)

Board

Jenny Bartle, Andrew Copson, Rory Fenton, Ruth Haydock, Michael Paynter.

AHS Exec

Caitlin Greenwood, Luke Dabin, Richard Acton (Chair, casting vote only)

Total Voting Members: 24

Election of Returning Officers

Felix Roberts and Julian Webb ran as joint Returning Officers. Elected by a majority raising hands.

Vote to Ratify Standing Orders

(Total number of voting members: 22)

The Following edits were proposed by the Chair:

5.a "All votes, including" remove, replace with "all votes"

Insert "Votes on motions shall be conducted by show of hands and decided by simple majority" between 5.b and 5.c

16 in favour

0 opposed

0 abstentions

Standing orders were ratified with changes, by show of hands

Vote to Ratify Minutes from Previous AGM

17 in favour

0 opposed

2 abstentions

Minutes from 2015 AGM were ratified, by show of hands.

Reports to Caucus

The President's Report was presented to the Caucus by President Richard Acton. This included an update on the rebranding/ renaming progress (AGM Minutes 2014). This has been referred to a

professional company and is not yet complete. It will be presented at the AHS Training Day in July at an EGM.

The Financial Report was presented by Treasurer Luke Dabin

The Communications Report was delivered by Treasurer Luke Dabin

The Campaigns Report was delivered by Campaigns Officer Alexa Robertson

The Membership Report was delivered by the Membership Officers Julian Webb and Hari Parekh.

Motions

(Minuted by Michael Paynter) **Total number of voting members: 24**

1. Procedural motion to accept new motions and amendments proposed on the day

17 in favour

0 against

1 abstention

Motion passed: new motions and amendments could be proposed on the day.

2. Caitlin Greenwood, seconded by Richard Acton, proposing:

“Motion to make “Head of Membership” an Executive Officer position”

“MOTION STATES

AHS Member societies are the reason the AHS exists and the source of almost all of our future officers and exec.

The AHS exec’s work covers not only their roles as designated in the constitution but also decision making, events planning and general AHS admin (form making, etc.)

Currently there are three exec officers: President, Treasurer and Secretary.

MOTION BELIEVES

Bringing membership onto the exec helps situate AHS members more centrally to the organisational structure of the AHS. This is vital to make sure that events and initiatives reflect our members interests and concerns.

It will help ease work-pressure on the existing exec members.

MOTION RESOLVES

To add “5.1.4 The Head of Membership who shall be the chief officer for administration of member societies of the AHS and be responsible for making sure exec actions reflect AHS member needs and interests.” To the constitution

To add “5.5 In the event of a tied vote between exec officers, the President shall have the deciding vote” “

Procedural motion to “split the motion”- make the two resolutions of the motion into two separate motions.

18 in favour

0 against

2 abstain

Motion passed, original motion split into two.

3. Motion to add Head of Membership to AHS Exec

Jenny Bartle spoke against

Luke Dabin spoke for

Hari Parekh spoke against

Andrew Copson spoke for

Helen Chamberlain spoke for

Vote:

18 in favour

2 against

2 abstain

Motion passed by show of hands (secret vote requested). Head of Membership position to be added to the Exec.

3. Motion to give President a casting vote in event of a tied vote among the exec

Amendment proposed by Ginny Marshall: Exec to refer tied decisions to the board

2 in favour

13 against

7 abstentions

Amendment failed by show of hands, secret vote requested.

Motion to give President a casting vote in the event of a tie

7 in favour

8 against

7 abstentions

Motion failed by show of hands, secret vote requested. No formal guidance exists for a tied vote among the exec.

Informal Discussion of AHS Code of Conduct

Secretary Caitlin Greenwood explained all AHS events are governed by [BHA Events policy](#). An argument was made by the exec for having a separate AHS policy with the same powers but alternative text.

Questions, comments and discussion points were taken from all AGM attendees.

An informal vote of all AGM attendees agreed that the AHS should have a separate Code of Conduct.

4. Motion for AHS exec to hold a period of consultation with all AHS members by email re: wording and contents of the current Code of Conduct. Exec to redraft the Code, discuss with board at AHS meeting and present the updated Code at the EGM in July.

Motion passed by simple majority of show of hands

Consequence: AHS exec to consult on the Code of Conduct and re-present it at the EGM. At this moment, we are not committed to having *any* Code except that of the BHA.

Elections

5. Motion to not elect a Head of Membership at this AGM and instead do so at EGM in July.

11 in favour

10 against

5 abstentions

Note: this vote was retaken in AOB as 25 votes were cast, while only 24 voting members were present.

President

Candidates: Hari Parekh, RON

Procedural motion to vote by secret show of hands passed

Votes: Hari Parekh: 23

RON: 1

Hari Parekh is elected president.

Secretary

Candidates: Alexa Robertson, RON

Procedural motion to vote by secret show of hands passed

Votes: Alexa Robertson: 24

RON: 0

Alexa Robertson is elected secretary

(Note: Rory Fenton left the AGM. **23** voting delegates remaining)

Treasurer

Candidates: Stephen Hawkins, Dale Claridge, Felix Roberts

Voting by secret alternative vote. Returning officer was Julian Webb.

Votes: Stephen Hawkins: 17

Dale Claridge: 1

Felix Roberts: 5

Stephen Hawkins is elected treasurer by overall majority.

6. Motion to elect a head of membership now (redo of motion 5. but rephrased)

11 in favour

11 against

1 abstention

Motion tied by show of hands, secret vote requested.

President casts deciding vote for no. No head of membership to be elected today.