

Annual General Meeting minutes

Thursday 12 September 2019 16.15–16.45 GMT

Venue: The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1PL, UK

Present:

Judy Armitage (President, in the Chair)

Maggie Smith (General Secretary)

Ian Roberts (Treasurer)

60 members of the Society

In attendance:

Peter Cotgreave (Chief Executive)

1. Introduction by the Chair

The President from the Chair welcomed attendees to the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

She declared the meeting quorate and open after a show of hands of Full, Full Concessionary, Post Graduate Student and Honorary Members of the Society.

She observed that the papers had been posted to all eligible members on request and made available on the Society's website. She further confirmed to the meeting that all motions presented at the AGM had been endorsed by Council and any motion submitted by any other person would need to have a proposer and a seconder.

She reminded members who were in attendance that anyone addressing the AGM would be asked to clearly state their name and affiliation and that those eligible to vote at the AGM were Full, Full Concessionary, Post Graduate or Honorary Members of the Society.

The Chief Executive also gave a brief summary of the achievements of the Society over the reporting period. He highlighted the main areas below; 2018 was the first year of the Society's new strategic plan and he reported under the Society's three objectives:

1.1 We will enable our members to strengthen their existing relationships and gain access to new communities, unlocking the potential for knowledge exchange.

The events programme offered members many networking opportunities across the year:

- The Annual Conference 2018 in Birmingham had been excellent, a highlight being Kevin O'Connor's inspiring and informative talk on the application of microbiology to plastic pollution.

- The Focused Meeting programme had gone from strength to strength with members submitting a high number of proposals; the Chief Executive asked the members to continue to submit proposals.

1.2 We will advance understanding of microbiology and champion the contribution made by microbiology, our members and their work in addressing global challenges.

Significant progress had been made on supporting members in their attempts to communicate the importance of their discipline. For example, Tina Joshi from the University of Plymouth, whose work on antimicrobial resistance and voice had been amplified through the Society's support and membership. All members were encouraged to inform the Society when they see or would like to take advantage of such opportunities.

1.3 We will reinforce the Society's long-term sustainability and resilience by diversifying income streams, increasing efficiency and ensuring robust governance.

Although financial sustainability is crucial, supporting and maintaining the next generation of microbiologists was an equally vital part of ensuring sustainability. Four main activities that occurred in 2019 were highlighted as examples of progress in implementing the new strategy:

- A Sustainable Future project, which will demonstrate the value and raise the profile of microbiology in addressing the UN's sustainable development goals.
- The launch of an innovative new journal, Access Microbiology.
- The Society's move to new offices as a statement of its ambition and values.
- 75th Anniversary activities, which would celebrate the contribution of microbiologists' past, present and future, including:
 - a. Why Microbiology Matters – which celebrates microbiology with rich digital content generated by the members.
 - b. Fleming Showcase at Annual Conference 2020.
 - c. Redigitisation of the Society's complete journal archive.

2. Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

The minutes were approved *nem con*.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Financial report

4.1 Receiving of the annual accounts

On the recommendation of the Treasurer, the annual accounts for 2018 were received by the membership by a show of hands. The Chair invited comment from the room. There were no comments.

4.2 Appointment of auditor

The Chair proposed the reappointment of Kingston Smith as the Society's auditors for another 12 months and to delegate authority for their remuneration to Council. The proposal was accepted by a show of hands, subject to the observation from Professor Nigel Brown that it was good practice to re-tender audit services periodically.

4.3 Approval of membership subscription rates

The Chair presented a paper detailing the membership subscription rates from September 2019. The subscription rates were approved *nem con* by a show of hands.

5. New Members of Council, Committees and Divisions

The Chair announced the incoming members of Council for 2020:

- Mark Harris would become General Secretary.
- Chloe James would become Chair of Communications Committee.
- Steve Smith would become Chair of Scientific Conferences Committee.

The Chair further confirmed that the names of all other incoming Committee and Division members were available on the Society's website and in the papers for the meeting.

The Chair thanked the outgoing members of Council who would step down at the end of 2019: Maggie Smith as General Secretary, Nicola Stonehouse as Chair of the Communications Committee, and Mick Tuite as Chair of the Scientific Conferences Committee.

6. AOB

The President thanked the Chief Executive and Society staff for all their hard work over the course of the year.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 4:42pm.