

**Japanese Studies Association of Australia**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Thursday 10 July 2013, 5:30-6:30 p.m.**  
**Coombs Lecture Theatre, Australian National University, Canberra**  
**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Haruko Asakura, William Armour, Thomas Baudinette, Jeremy Breaden, Ching Sang Chang, Joshua Cole, Elise Foxworth, Barbara Hartley, Carol Hayes, Sumiko Iida, Shun Ikeda, Tets Kimura, Duck-Young Lee, Katrina Moore, Takeshi Moriyama, Ellen Nakamura, Li Narangoa, Ikuko Nakane, Tetsushi Ohara, Kaori Okano, Sae Okura, Emiko Otsuji, Swasti Rao, Jennifer Scott, Mayumi Shinozaki, Robyn Spence-Brown, Arthur Stockwin, Lidia Tanaka, Chihiro Thomson, Beatrice Trefalt, Kirsti Rawstron (proxy: Jeremy Breaden), Philip White, Shoko Yoneyama

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Purnendra Jain and Sandra Wilson

### **2. Minutes of July 2012 Annual General Meeting, October 2012 Extraordinary General Meeting**

Confirmation of the minutes of both minutes tabled was **MOVED** by Robyn Spence-Brown, **SECONDED** by Chihiro Thomson, and **PASSED** by consensus.

### **3. President's report**

Carolyn Stevens reported the following activities conducted in her capacity as President.

- 1) **Responses to *Australia in the Asian Century White Paper*:** The President attended the DFAT Melbourne briefing meeting in May and participated in both the larger assembly and the smaller focus group on Japan. She also some wording for the North East Section on language policy noting the need to protect upper levels of teaching at the tertiary level.
- 2) **Engagement with counterparts overseas:** In May the President also attended the UCLA Terasaki Centre Director's Forum and met with her BAJIS counterpart, Prof. Christopher Hughes of Warwick University.
- 3) **Support for university Japanese language programs under threat:** Over the year, the President has written to support colleagues at three universities that were threatening to close or downsize their Japanese programs. The President noted in particular the current situation at the University of Canberra, where several language programs including Japanese are under immediate threat, and urged members to contact the JSAA Executive Committee if they have any concerns for the future of programs at their own institutions.
- 4) **JSAA event funding:** Professor Vera Mackie was awarded \$5000 funding for a workshop on art and activism in Japan that will be held at the University of Wollongong in August.
- 5) **Membership system:** With the Secretary and the Treasurer, the President has discussed the problems of the waning membership, and the Executive Committee has drafted a new membership model which will help stabilize if not increase the Association's constituency (see the separate agenda item below).
- 6) **2013 Conference:** The President has also worked with the convenors of the 2013 conference on various planning issues and notes the Executive Committee's gratitude for the efforts of the convenors and all others involved in hosting the conference at the ANU.
- 7) **Executive changes:** The President thanked outgoing members of the Executive Committee: Sumiko Iida, Claire Maree (Treasurer), Kirsti Rawstron (postgraduate representative), and Jeremy Breaden (Secretary). She also endorsed the following nominations for new office-bearers: Carol Hayes as President, Duck-Young Lee as Secretary and Mark Gibeau as Treasurer. (See separate agenda item below)
- 8) **2015 JSAA conference:** The President proposed La Trobe University as principal host of the 2015 JSAA conference. La Trobe University will host the conference in collaboration with

colleagues at nearby institutions through the Japanese Studies Centre, Melbourne. This proposal was endorsed by consensus of the members in attendance.

#### 4. Treasurer's report

Treasurer Claire Maree reported that the financial position of the Association is very sound. A full set of financial statements for the 2012-13 financial year had not been finalised or audited at the time of the meeting, but will be tabled at an extraordinary general meeting later in 2013, as has been the practice in previous years. The major source of income for the Association is membership fees, but membership income has been declining recently: 259 members are recorded on the membership list, but only around 124 of these are currently fully 'paid up'. The major item of expenditure for the year was the JSAA event funding of \$5000 as noted in the President's report.

#### 5. Journal Editor's report

The Journal Editor's report was delivered by Carolyn Stevens as attached.

#### 6. Postgraduate representative's report

A report from postgraduate representative Kirsti Rawstron was delivered in absentia by Carolyn Stevens. Kirsti Rawstron reports that she has thoroughly enjoyed her time on the JSAA Executive Committee over the past two years, and feels privileged to have met so many postgraduate scholars within our community, from people who have recently completed their studies and moved into academic careers to those who are just beginning their postgraduate studies. Ms. Rawstron was able to attend both the 2011 JSAA conference and the 2012 and 2013 ANU Japanese Studies Graduate Summer School, and found the ANU School to be particularly useful in meeting a wide range of postgraduate students from around Australia. She suggests that some funding could be made available to help the JSAA postgrad rep attend this conference, as it is a key place where the JSAA can be advertised to nascent Japanese studies scholars. Funding could also be offered by JSAA to Japanese studies scholars based in New Zealand and Western Australia to attend the JSAA conferences, as the cost of flying from these locations is often considered prohibitive.

Ms. Rawstron also commented on her work on the postgrad profiles on the JSAA website, thanking everyone who nominated one (or more) of their students to be featured. The profile page demonstrates the range and breadth of students undertaking postgraduate study in Japanese studies in Australia and New Zealand. She suggests that more engagement with postgraduates would be possible if a separate list of paid JSAA postgraduate members was available for easy access. She also suggests that the Executive Committee consider a different webhosting service when the current contract expires, as the current system has limited functionality.

#### 7. Report on Japanese language-related activities (Chihiro Thomson)

Chihiro Thomson reported on Japanese language-related activities conducted by the Executive Committee. The report is attached to these minutes.

Chihiro Thomson MOVED that a new position of Japanese Language Education Global Network Liaison Officer be added to the Executive Committee, requiring the following changes to the paragraphs (1) and (2) of Rule 13 of the Rules of the Japanese Studies Association of Australia, Inc.

| <b>Current provisions</b>   | <b>Amended provisions (amendments underlined)</b>  |
|---|--|
| <b>13 THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b><br>(1) The Executive Committee shall comprise eight members, of whom seven shall be ordinary members and one shall be a student member of the JSAA Inc. | <b>13 THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b><br>(1) The Executive Committee shall comprise <b>nine</b> members, of whom <b>eight</b> shall be ordinary members and one shall be a student member of the JSAA Inc.<br>(2) The Executive Committee shall consist of the |

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| <p>(2) The Executive Committee shall consist of the following positions:</p> <p>(a) one President of the JSAA Inc., elected by the ordinary members of the JSAA Inc.;</p> <p>(b) one Secretary-Treasurer of the JSAA Inc., elected by the ordinary members of the JSAA Inc.;</p> <p>(c) one student Executive Committee member, elected by the student members of the JSAA Inc.;</p> <p>(d) four ordinary Executive Committee members, elected by the ordinary members of the JSAA Inc, of which one shall be, if available, the immediate Past-President of the JSAA Inc. and</p> <p>(e) the Editor of the Journal, referred to in Rule 29.</p> | <p>following positions:</p> <p>(a) one President of the JSAA Inc., elected by the ordinary members of the JSAA Inc.;</p> <p>(b) one Secretary-Treasurer of the JSAA Inc., elected by the ordinary members of the JSAA Inc.;</p> <p>(c) one student Executive Committee member, elected by the student members of the JSAA Inc.;</p> <p><b><u>(d) one Japanese Language Education Global Network Liaison Officer, elected by the ordinary members of the JSAA Inc.;</u></b></p> <p><b><u>(e) four ordinary Executive Committee members, elected by the ordinary members of the JSAA Inc, of which one shall be, if available, the immediate Past-President of the JSAA Inc. and</u></b></p> <p><b><u>(f) the Editor of the Journal, referred to in Rule 29.</u></b></p> |
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The motion was SECONDED by Carol Hayes and PASSED by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority of members in attendance.

## 8. Changes to the JSAA membership system

A proposal regarding changes to the JSAA membership system was tabled as attached. Members were in general agreement with the proposal but suggested that operational details be discussed by the Executive Committee in consultation with counterparts in the ASAA, to ensure the continued smooth operation of the joint JSAA/ASAA membership option.

Beatrice Trefalt MOVED that the JSAA adopt a standard membership year running from 1 July to 30 June and to institute a two-year membership renewal option, as proposed. SECONDED by Robyn Spence-Brown, PASSED by consensus.

## 9. Election of executive committee members

The following nominees were elected to the Executive Committee uncontested.

President: Carol Hayes

Treasurer: Mark Gibeau

Secretary: Duck-Young Lee

Postgraduate representative: Thomas Baudinette

Ordinary members: Shunichi Ishihara, Robyn Spence-Brown, Chihiro Thomson (to be appointed as Liaison Officer for the Global Network of Japanese Language Education when this position is formalised)

## 10. Other business

- **Suggestion that the name of the Association be changed to Japanese Studies Association of Australasia:** William Armour sought feedback on this suggestion, which had been minuted at the previous AGM. Carolyn Stevens responded that there had been no active support for the suggestion in the Executive Committee to date. She suggested that the idea be discussed by the incoming Executive Committee in consultation with New Zealand colleagues and a proposal made if/when appropriate.
- **New Voices:** Carol Hayes reported that the Japan Foundation has canvassed the possibility of operating an official panel(s) comprising contributors to the Japan Foundation's postgraduate research journal *New Voices* at the next JSAA conference. Several members, including the incoming postgraduate representative, expressed their support for this idea. The meeting reached consensus that the idea be pursued by the incoming Executive Committee in consultation with the Japan Foundation.

- **International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS):** Shoko Yoneyama announced that ICAS 2015 will be held in Adelaide, 5-9 July 2015. She noted the need to coordinate dates with the 2015 JSAA conference convenors and to maximise the potential to attract overseas visitors to attend both ICAS and JSAA in succession.
- **Special Interest Groups:** William Armour suggested that the Association consider developing Special Interest Groups as exist in many other scholarly associations. Carolyn Stevens noted the value of this suggestion but proposed that in the immediate future, priority should be given to raising membership numbers, with Special Interest Groups to be considered when the membership base has grown to a level to support such groups.

The meeting closed at 6:30 p.m.

## **Japanese Studies Editor's Report: July 2013, Carolyn Stevens**

As of September 2012:

- 23,732 articles were downloaded in 2011, an increase of 33% from 2010.
- Full-rate subscriptions have weathered the current economic climate well with 109 full-rate subscriptions.
- The Journal is available in full-text in more than 8,300 institutions worldwide, with facility for access via EBSCOHost Collections in more than 12,000 libraries globally; and further access through our participation in an extensive range of philanthropic programs in developing countries.
- The Journal boasts a quick turnaround time for first decisions on submitted manuscripts, with half of authors being informed of an initial decision within 30 days.
- The journal began using *iFirst*, our proprietary online-early publication facility, in 2011.

In the 2012-13 fiscal year, Japanese Studies received the following m/s

| Manuscript Type             | Original | Revised | Total |
|-----------------------------|----------|---------|-------|
| Research Article            | 42       | 14      | 56    |
| Submission to Special Issue | 9        | 4       | 13    |
| Total                       | 51       | 18      | 69    |

In terms of turnaround, the journal on average takes 46 days to get a first decision and 52 days for a final decision (the proximity of these two numbers refers to the rejection rate – in that case, the first decision is a final decision).

Since the handover from Judith Snodgrass, Japanese Studies has published 6 issues: these are

- 2011 31-2 Special Issue: After the Trials – Repatriation and Release of Japanese War Criminals, 1946-1958 (S. Wilson, Guest Editor)
- 2011 31-3 Special Issue The Cultural Politics of the City in Modern Japan (V. Mackie, Guest Editor)
- 2012 32-1 General Papers
- 2012 32-2 Special Issue: The Evolving Relations between Japan and Africa: The Discourse of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (K. Ampiah, Guest Editor)
- 2012 32-3 Japanese Linguistics and Language Education (C. Thomson and R. Spence Brown, Guest Editors)
- 2013 33-1 General Papers

The journal continues to generate a profit for the JSAA; in April 2013 the journal contributed \$1358 to the Association in royalties.

**Report to JSAA AGM 2013**  
**By Chihiro Thomson, UNSW**

(1) JF Sakura Projects

Background:

JSAA is a JF Sakura Core member organization, which is entitled to apply for JF Sakura grants. Sakura grants are for language and language education related projects.

2012 Sakura JSAA project

Upon request from Carolyn, I proposed a language related workshop at ASAA (July 2012) to discuss issues on language teaching in Australia among tertiary and high school teachers of Japanese. With the grant, Robyn Spence-Brown and I presented a workshop with a guest speaker, Prof Hiroko Kataoka of Cal. State Long Beach to 30 plus members of audience.

2013 Sakura JSAA project

ANU JSAA Conference

2014 Sakura JSAA project

International Conference of Japanese Language Education (ICJLE) in Sydney at UTS is being planned for 10-12 July 2014. (10 July for pre-conference programs, as ASAA runs for July 8-10 in Perth.)

It will run in conjunction with National Symposium of Japanese Language Education (main target: school teachers).

Convening committee

Chihiro Thomson (UNSW)

Emi Otsuji (UTS)

Robyn Spence-Brown (Monash)

Anne De Kretser (MCJLE)

(2) General Meeting of Global Network of Japanese Language Education

Background:

JSAA is a member of Global Network of Japanese Language Education, an alliance of Japanese language related organisations in the world (current members are Japan, US, Canada, China, Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Australia and Europe). Global Network runs ICJLEs and hosts projects.

ICJLE2012 in Nagoya

Robyn Spence-Brown, Claire Maree and I attended the General Meeting of Global Network for JSAA.

- Each region presented brief updates.
- A possibility of new member organisations discussed (Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Indonesia).
- Next location of ICJLE: no resolution.

### (3) J-GAP, a project for Global Network of Japanese Language Education

#### Background:

Global Network hosts J-GAP (Japanese Global Articulation Project), which aims to provide both vertical articulation (e.g., from primary to secondary to tertiary) and horizontal articulation (e.g., from Sydney to Melbourne to Tokyo) in Japanese language education to ensure quality and efficiency. J-GAP is supported by the Japan Foundation.

JSAA runs J-GAP Australia. J-GAP Australia aims to provide visible learning pathways and career pathways to learners, so that we can improve quality of Japanese language education and raise the continuation rate of learners.

#### J-GAP team:

Chihiro Thomson (UNSW)

Sally Mizoshiri (North Sydney Girls High School)

Robyn Spence-Brown (Monash)

Anne De Kretser (MCJLE)

#### 2012 J-GAP Australia

Information dissemination and discussion forums.

NSW teacher's conference

ASSA workshop

National Symposium discussion

#### 2013 J-GAP Australia

Collaborating with Asia Education Foundation, it aims to upload video contents of Australians who studied Japanese in schools and universities and are currently enjoying some benefit from the learning.

A grant proposal has been submitted to JF.

#### 2014 J-GAP Australia

Ideally, the video site will be up and running and it will be launched at the Sydney ICJLE.