

Japanese Studies Association of Australia
Annual General Meeting
Thursday 12 July 2012, 12:00-1:00 p.m.
EA G.26, Parramatta South Campus, University of Western Sydney
Unconfirmed minutes

Attendees:

Kent Anderson, Jeremy Breaden, Makiko Ishikawa, Purnendra Jain, David Kelly, Lawrence Marceau, Ellen Nakamura, Robyn Spence-Brown, Judith Snodgrass, Carolyn Stevens (Chair), Rebecca Suter, Chihiro Thomson, Philip White

1. Apologies

Michelle Hall, Sumiko Iida, Claire Maree, Tomoko Nakamatsu, Kirsti Rawstron

2. Minutes of previous General Meeting

The minutes of the December 2011 Extraordinary General Meeting were tabled.

Judith Snodgrass queried whether action had been taken to correct the financial statements regarding the journal finances, as requested at the July 2011 Annual General Meeting.

MOVED by Carolyn Stevens that the minutes be ratified on the understanding that the Treasurer will address the question of financial statements noted above and report to the Executive. SECONDED by Jeremy Breaden. The motion was PASSED.

4. Treasurer's report

Claire Maree's report (attached) was delivered in absentia by Carolyn Stevens.

3. President's report

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

As an addition to the President's report, Chihiro Thomson spoke briefly about the JSAA's role in the Japanese Global Articulation Project (J-GAP), organised by the Global Network of Japanese Language Education, of which JSAA is a member. J-GAP seeks to facilitate both vertical (through different educational levels) and horizontal (across different systems) mobility of Japanese language learners. The Japan Foundation is funding this project. One initiative proposed in Australia is to produce and make available online a series of video interviews, in Japanese with English subtitles, with those who have learned Japanese in the past and are currently active in various occupations. Japan Foundation funding is not currently available for this part of the project, so other funding sources are currently being explored. The JSAA will continue to coordinate with other J-GAP participants through forums such as ICJLE.

Several attendees expressed support for the idea of holding the 2015 JSAA conference in conjunction with NZASIA conference in Christchurch. Kent Anderson also commented that conference fees should be set as low as possible to encourage broader participation. Carolyn Stevens observed that one of the disadvantages of allowing the conference to be held overseas in association with other conferences is lack of control over fees and other aspects of conference organisation. Purnendra Jain suggested it would be vital to ensure that there was a Christchurch-based convenor for the conference.

MOVED by Carolyn Stevens that contingent on submission of an acceptable proposal, the JSAA will look favourably on the possibility of holding the 2015 JSAA conference in Christchurch.

SECONDED by Kent Anderson. The motion was PASSED.

Chihiro Thomson queried the current status of the ongoing discussion regarding the possibility of changing the Association's name to the Japanese Studies Association of *Australasia* to better reflect the Association's membership and reach. Carolyn Stevens suggested that this was a matter which could be discussed in more depth by the Executive and tabled at the next AGM.

4. Alteration of the Rules of the Japanese Studies Association of Australia Incorporated

The following proposed alteration to section 30, subsection 3 of the Rules was tabled:

CURRENT: (3) The Editor of such journal shall be appointed by the Executive Committee for a period of two years. The Editor may be reappointed for additional terms as Editor.

ALTERED: (3) The Editor of such journal shall be appointed by the Executive Committee for a period of *three years, including an overlap of one year. The chief editor shall assemble a team of area editors, then the Executive Committee shall appoint them.*

Several members commented that the final sentence of the current text, allowing the possibility of re-appointment, needed to be preserved, and that there was also a need to clarify the applicability of the overlap provision in the case of re-appointment.

MOVED by Vera Mackie that the provision instead be altered as follows:

(3) The Editor of such journal shall be appointed by the Executive Committee for a period of *two years. The Editor may be reappointed for additional terms as Editor. On the appointment of a new Editor, the incoming and outgoing Editors shall serve for an additional overlapping period to be determined by the Executive. The Editor shall assemble a team of area editors, then the Executive Committee shall appoint them.*

The motion was SECONDED by Carolyn Stevens and PASSED by a 3/4 majority.

5. Editor's report

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

In addition, Carolyn Stevens noted the importance of the Area Editors' role in preparing submitted manuscripts for publication. Area Editors tend to comment extensively on intellectual content, but should also keep in mind the need to address formal requirements, such as adherence to house style, before manuscripts are checked by the editorial assistant.

6. Other business

No other business was raised.

Attached:

- Treasurer's Report
- President's Report
- Editor's Report

Treasurer's Report

Claire Maree

Firstly my apologies for not being able to attend today, and thanks to JSAA President, Carolyn Stevens, for presenting this brief Treasurer's report in my absence. I'd also like to thank our previous Treasurer, Michelle Hall for her hard work in maintaining the accounts previously, and for all of her assistance in the change-over.

The major outgoing cost in the 2011-2012 financial year has been for a JSAA funded event. The \$5000 JSAA funding for this year, has been awarded to "Manga Studies: A symposium celebrating 10 years of the JSC Manga Library at Monash", which will be held in November, 2012 at Monash University's Japanese Studies Centre. I encourage all members to support this event.

Income is comprised mostly of membership fees. Current membership stands at just over 220 members (including those with joint ASAA/JSAA memberships). Whilst most members are up-to-date, we have been proactive in encouraging members with lapsed memberships to renew their commitment to the association. Working with the Secretary, Jeremy Breaden, has somewhat streamlined this process, and I would like to thank Jeremy for his ongoing help.

SEED funding provided for the JSAA conference in 2010 has been returned, and well as a conference balance of just over \$6400. I would like to thank the conference organisers for all of their work.

For the first time this year, following consultation with the executive, it was decided to make use of a fixed-term deposit for funds that are not necessary for day-to-day operations. This fixed term deposit has matured once, and is due to mature again in August. A decision regarding further investment of the funds will be made closer to the maturation date.

President's Report

Carolyn Stevens

In the tradition of the past few years, the incoming JSAA president is usually the recent JSAA conference convenor, so I might take this moment to report on the 2011 wrap up. As noted in the treasurer's report, the conference not only broke even but returned a small profit which was put into the JSAA coffers earlier this year after all accounts were settled. I would like to minute the 2011 conference convenors' appreciation of the support offered by the Asian Law Centre. This conference (280 delegates) was managed 'in house' which certainly contributed to the savings we could return to the association, and the generosity of the ALC resulted not only in a tightly run conference but also economic benefits for the Association. Stacey and I have been in touch with Professor Veronica Taylor, Dr. Carol Hayes and Dr. Shun Ikeda regarding the 2013 JSAA conference which is to be held at ANU next year, and I encourage you all to support the conference. The JSAA executive has been approached by Naimah Talib of the University of Canterbury Christchurch NZ to host the 2015 JSAA conference in tandem with the planned NZASIA conference. JSAA members might

remember this suggestion was made by JSAA member Vanessa Ward of Otago, to a positive reception, and the executive is amenable to a more formal proposal by the NZASIA convenors soon.

One of the first tasks the 2011-2013 executive was to redesign and relaunch the JSAA website, and again we thank Michelle Hall in absentia for spearheading this project. Our second project was the formalisation of the JSAA research symposium grant which the association had been awarding in an informal manner for the last few years. This grant was to support non conference symposia and create research publication opportunities for its members; several publications such as special issues and edited volumes have resulted from these special symposium. This year the Manga Studies Symposium Committee submitted an application convened by Sarah Pasfield at Monash University entitled Manga Studies: A symposium celebrating 10 years of the JSC Manga Library at Monash in conjunction with Shojo Manga Exhibition: Genga' (Dash) , to be held as a three-day event (November 23-25, 2012). We look forward to this event and ask JSAA members to support the project as well.

I'd like to draw the membership's attention to the special stream held yesterday afternoon. Professor Chihiro Thomson and Dr. Robyn Spence Brown organised a 2 hour session entitled Providing Continuing Learning pathways for learners of Japanese, which was funded by a JSAA application to the Sakura Scheme of the Japan Foundation. This was well attended by both JSAA delegates and local and interstate school teachers at the primary and secondary level, and consisted of an invited speaker from the United States, Prof Kataoka of California State University and then a presentation by Robyn Spence Brown and Chihiro Thomson on issues of continuation at school and tertiary levels, which was followed by lively debate.

Another JSAA professional activity has been the JGAP project. I might as CKT to speak about this as she has been representing the JSAA in this respect.

The other tasks of the executive have primarily involved correspondance; as president I submitted a response to the Henry report 'Australia in the Asian Century' in January of this year. In January, I also wrote in support of the Japanese program at the University of Canberra which was under threat of closure and amalgamation with other language programs. I understand that this threat has now passed as Kinoshita Yuko wrote to us in May: the dean has to decided to keep the Japanese Program open, on two conditions:

- 1) they receive financial support from the Japan Foundation for the next three years and,
- 2) they increase student numbers enough for to be "financially viable".

Last month we wrote on behalf of the Japanese and Asian Studies staff at Latrobe University. As you probably know the cutting of the Indonesian Studies Program has been publicised but there is a proposed cut across all staff in the faculty, including Japanese. It is sad that letter writing has become one of the associations main activities but we are happy to do it and hope that there is a turnaround soon for the University of Canberra and Latrobe.

Editor's Report

Carolyn Stevens

I took over the Editor in Chief Role from Judith Snodgrass in July 2011, and would like to minute my appreciation of the hard work of the area editors and the referees who have given their time and expertise willingly and without much recompense!

In the last year have published the following issues:

1. Special Issue: Special Feature: After the Trials – Repatriation and Release of Japanese War Criminals, 1946–1958
2. Special Issue: Special Issue: The Cultural Politics of the City in Modern Japan
3. General Papers

The next issue is the Japan Africa Issue. As you can see there have been quite a few special issues. The increase in this kind of activity means that we have identified a need to formalise the procedure a bit to clarify the roles of the guest editors vis a vis the area editors. I've had discussions with Alex Lazzari, our managing editor at Taylor and Francis, and it turns out that T&F has a contract template that it encourages its editors to use when commissioning special issues. To date we have not used this kind of agreement but considering the increase in this kind of activity, I have asked Alex to send me the T&F template and will consult with the AEs and the editorial advisory board if there are any alterations we would like to make in adapting it for Japanese Studies use.

Other news in the journal: The managing editors have asked me if JS is interested in going to a straight to online publication system with print to follow. This means a cascade publication system where articles are published on line as soon as they are accepted, and a hard copy publication follows with the requisite number of papers are completed. At this point in time I have asked T&F to hold out on this for our journal and the reason for this is partly related to some of the issues mentioned above. This cascade system is excellent for general papers that stand individually but is risky for special issues. I think if we have a more formalised process for special issues we would be able to use cascading publication with more confidence.

Lastly, as the constitution states limits on the editorial role, I'd also like to thank the efforts of the AEs. I don't think we need a constitutional amendment for this but I'd like to note that we have some long serving AEs who may feel the need to focus on other tasks and thus I'm happy to take expressions of interest from the membership.