

**STUDENT PUBLICATION ASSOCIATION CIO  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020  
SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER  
MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

**Members present at the beginning:**

Forge Press  
Glasgow Guardian  
Concrete  
The Demon  
The Courier  
Economic Tribune  
Exepose  
Incite  
Career Camel  
Wessex Scene  
Gair Rhydd  
Palatinate  
Individual Member - Veronica

**SPA Exec members present:**

Chair - Owain Evans (OE)  
Conference and Events Officer - Chay Quin (CQ)  
Communications Officer - Ben Warner (BW)  
Training and Opportunities Officer - Edd Church (EC)

**Trustees present:**

Jem Collins (JC)  
Sian Elvin (SE)  
Geri Scott (GS)  
Elliot Davies (ED)  
Aubrey Allegretti (AA)

**2. Reports to the Membership**

a. Chair's Report

OE provided, fleshed out progress on making SPANC cheaper, and setting the SPA up as a charity. Responding to questions, he said we'd carefully worked with sponsors to maintain good relations even though the conference was held online to ensure the Association remains solvent into the future.

b. [Trustees' Annual Report](#) and [Financial Statement](#)

OE provided, stressing the financial situation has changed since it was submitted as most of the money collected from sponsors for SPANC had not been spent.

c. Training and Opportunities Officer Report

EC provided, explaining it was a new role. He promoted the mentoring scheme but said this had lost momentum as he took on additional SPA responsibilities. He pointed to help with the charity incorporation and training sessions during lockdown and suggested the latter continues.

- d. Conference and Events Officer Report  
CQ provided, pointing to success of most regional conferences running on time - apart from London and NI/ ROI. He pointed to the success of the SPANC bursary, which he said should continue. And he said he helped organise both the in-person and virtual SPANCs. He said at some points in his post he had less time to focus on his duties than he would have liked and thanked former Executive Officer Mila for supporting him.
- e. Communications Officer Report  
BW provided, saying he had only been in post a few months but helped to organise SPANC and that there had been an increase in membership since he was elected. He added next year's Executive should rebuild relations with ROI/ NI publications.

### 3. Business

- a. [Motion 1 - Elections](#)  
Question: Is there a quoracy for voting?  
OE: No, but voting must be open between 0700-2200 so that's the safeguard rather than a minimum quoracy  
13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain - PASSED
- b. [Motion 2 - Reserves Policy](#)  
Question: Unhappiness from one attendee about a specific amount as it puts restraints on the Executive, should the policy instead be a proportion of expected income?  
OE: It's a safeguard and charity commission requirement to make sure you're not hoarding it.  
13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain - PASSED
- c. [Motion 3a - Regional Officers](#)
- d. [Motion 3b - Regional Officers](#)  
Motions are incompatible so members' decided which should be voted on. A received 12 votes, B received 0 votes with 1 abstention. So Motion 3a was put forward and received 11 yes, 0 no and 2 abstain - PASSED
- e. [Motion 4 - Accountability and Transparency](#)  
Question: Concern raised about inclusion of "monthly" update, given time constraints on Exec members so should it instead be every two months/ quarterly?  
Jack Harvey, proposer, says this doesn't need to take the form of a "written" communication  
11 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain - PASSED
- f. [Motion 5 - Working with our Irish Membership](#)  
Amended to reflect the fact that this specific Regional Conference should only go ahead if others do too due to the uncertain nature of the global pandemic.  
11 yes, 0 against, 3 against - PASSED
- g. [Motion 6 - Members' Contributions to AGMs](#)  
5 abstain, 1 yes, 3 noes - NOT PASSED
- h. [Motion 7 - Continuing the Magazine](#)  
1 yes, 10 against, 0 abstentions - NOT PASSED
- i. [Motion 8 - Maintaining the Website](#)  
9 yes, 0 against, 0 abstentions - PASSED

### 4. Elections

- a. Election of the Chair  
Only one candidate stood, BW.  
BW received 9 votes, RON received none so BW is duly elected

- b. Election of the Training and Opportunities Officer  
Two candidates stood, Bethany Dawson (BD) and Charlotte Colombo (CC).  
BD received 3 votes, CC received 5, so CC is duly elected
- c. Election of the Conference and Events Officer  
Only one candidate stood, CQ  
CQ received 7 votes, RON received 0 so CQ is duly elected - but said he would stand down later in the term if another suitable candidate could be found
- d. Election of the Communications Officer  
No candidates stood so RON automatically won - OE said the process for filling this role will be set out shortly
- e. Election of the Sponsorship Officer  
No candidates stood so RON automatically won - OE said the process for filling this role will be set out shortly
- f. Election of the Charity Trustees (x4)  
Five candidates stood - JC, SE, GS, BA and Conor Matchett (former SPA chair). Voting was conducted by STV so results are still being calculated and have not yet been announced.

## **5. Any Other Business**

OE led thanks to ED, who is stepping down as a Trustee after serving on the SPA since 2014 in various roles and assisting the Association through challenging times. These comments were echoed by all the other Trustees.

## **6. Adjournment**