

Scottish Economic Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

17th April 2024, 12.30pm

1. President's Welcome

Professor Brown welcomed members to the AGM and took the opportunity to thank her predecessor Professor Nolan for his important contributions to the Society over the last three years.

2. Minutes of the 2022 AGM

The 2023 minutes were approved and there were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

3. President's Report

Professor Brown reported that the Society was continuing to engage in a range of activities. She thanked Justine Wood and Jeanette Findlay for their hard work on the schools and teachers' event for 2023. The event had been moved online and whilst a review will be undertaken it is envisaged that it will continue to be online next year. The 2024 Annual Conference was going well and Professor Brown thanked David Jaeger, Celia Lloyd, Anthoulla Phella and Justine Wood for their hard work in putting together an excellent programme. There were over 300 submissions, and the general perception was that the quality of papers is improving. Formal feedback on the conference would be gathered via a post conference survey.

The Society has also produced a Code of Practice and a Complaints Policy both of which are available on the SES webpages. A formal process for considering nominations for the fellowship of the Academy of Social Sciences (AcSS) has been produced and through that process one nomination will be submitted to the AcSS for consideration. Council was also engaging with the International Economic Association (IEA) with the IEA inviting the SES to join their World Congress Council meeting with the IEA footing part of the costs. Both L. Macmillan and G. Wyness attended the World Congress and one theme that emerged was the IEA push on issues surrounding diversity including the tracking of conference submissions by key characteristics. A GES/SES policy event was being planned on the theme of energy and the environment with this being led by Conrad Copeland, Kathy Johnson and Ashley Lait. The process of refreshing the SES webpages was ongoing with volunteers to manage the process being sought. Planning for the 2025 annual conference was already under way with the key dates being the 7th to the 9th of April 2025.

4. Secretary's Report and Council Membership

The Secretary reported that there had been four Council meetings since the last AGM at which the matters discussed included the events referred to by the President. No constitutional issues had arisen during the year and the Society was in good standing with the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

On Council membership, four members of Council would leave Council including Jaap Bos, Chris Lalley, Daniel Schnitzlein and Heiko Stueber. All were thanked for their contributions to the Society. SES members were informed of the vacancies on Council and nominations were sought. One nomination was received for John Struthers and his nomination was approved by the AGM. The AGM was also asked to formally approval the co-option of Anthoulla Phella as local conference organiser and this was agreed. On Society membership the latest update from Wiley indicates 278 members of the SES and this is down from 379 as of Dec 23 which included the boost from the joint SES/RES conference.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer summarised the accounts for 2023 and stated that the Society is in good financial standing. The financial surplus for 2023 stood at around £33,000 compared to just over £8,000 in 2022. Royalties form Wiley publishers had also increased by around 20,000 to just under £95,000.

6. SJPE Editor's Report

D. Jaeger provided an update and stated that submissions have risen with around 15% of papers accepted. He also updated on special issues including one planned on Ukraine. The editorial team has been updated with Emma Tominey and Gary Koop departing and Nikki Shure joining.

7. Any other business

G. Wyness informed the AGM that the Society is looking to make the annual conference more environmentally sustainable and is examining various options to better achieve this.

8. Date of next meeting

The precise date of the 2025AGM was still to be decided but would in any case take place around the week of the 2025 Annual Conference.