

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR IRISH STUDIES

Minutes of the meeting of the Interim Executive Committee held in Room MB302, Birbeck College, Malet Street, London on Saturday, 24 April 1993 at 1.00 pm.

- Agenda
- 1 Apologies
 - 2 Minutes of last Meeting
 - 3 Matters arising from above
 - 4 Chair's business: current financial situation
 - 5 Secretary's Report
 - 6 Report on current situation of BAIS office
 - 7 AGM arrangements
 - 8 BAIS conference - Oxford
 - 9 Report of Soar Valley Conference
 - 10 BAIS newsletter/ISR
 - 11 Proposed one-day conference in Irish Studies and possible establishment of new Education sub-committee
 - 12 Working party on constitution - report
 - 13 Working party on electoral procedures - report
 - 14 Any other Business

Present: B Bell, M Carter, G Davis, T Dooley, T Downey, M Hickman, S Hutton, U Kockel, J McCauley, S Richards, V Smith, J Woodhurst.

Apologies for absence received from E Burgess, E Hughes, N Sammells, K Thompson and G Watson.

Mary Hickman noted that item 11 on the agenda had been thought to be the main item for this meeting and it was agreed that this item would move up the agenda to item 5.

It was also agreed that whenever possible as much notice for future meetings and their agenda would be given.

Action: Hon Secs

2 Minutes of last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 1993 were agreed unanimously, Proposed by Val Smith and seconded by Mary Hickman.

3 Matters Arising

The following action has been taken as a result of the meeting on 13 March 1993.

- i All members of the executive have now been circulated with a copy of the Irish Embassy Agreement.
- ii Graham Davis has written a low-key report about the election to be circulated to the membership. The document was approved by the meeting after the wording "between the two sides" on line 5 had been removed. Sean Hutton made the point that Bob Purdie had initially been asked to write a short report about the election for the members and it was agreed that Graham Davis' report would not be circulated until Bob Purdie had been contacted. Graham Davis stated that he had prepared his report because of having to meet the deadline for the next

BAIS newsletter. This led to discussion about action being taken by individuals which differed from that agreed by the executive. Graham Davis made the point that sometimes action and decisions had to be taken to meet externally imposed deadlines and that quick responses were sometimes required because of changing circumstances. John Woodhurst stated that he felt extreme disquiet at executive decisions being altered and further discussion ensued. It was suggested that where possible time scales for actions resulting from executive meetings would be agreed at the meeting. This was accepted in principle but the matter will require further discussion.

4 Chair's Business

Graham Davis reported that BAIS has now received a small grant from the European Commission of 5000 ECUS (£3900 sterling). This leaves a balance of approximately £6000 in BAIS bank accounts. Graham predicts that if no new substantial funding is found, there could be a deficit of £10000 by the end of the year, if all planned activity takes place. It was agreed that a coordinated fund raising strategy was necessary. In order to develop this strategy as soon as possible, it was agreed to call an Extraordinary Interim Executive Meeting on 15 May 1993 to discuss this matter.

5 Proposed One-day Conference on Irish Studies and possible establishment of New Education Sub-committee (formerly item 11 on agenda)

It was agreed that this item required more in-depth analysis and would be discussed at the Extraordinary Interim Executive Meeting on 15 May 1993. Approximately ninety minutes will be allocated to a fund raising activity and 90 minutes to education.

6 (5) Secretary's Report

Jim McAuley has submitted the re-application for charitable status to the Charity Commission and has not yet received a reply. Jim has completed the forms for the registration of the BAIS under the Data Protection Act. He now requires a cheque for £75 for the fee in order that he can send it for processing.

Action Graham Davis and Jim McAuley.

Jim McAuley and Val Smith have agreed to rotate the writing of the minutes of all executive meetings taking into account each of their work loads.

7 (6) Report on current situation of BAIS Office

Sean Hutton reported that the BAIS office has been relocated (Docklands Enterprise Centre, Room 3/15) a copy of his report is attached for all who did not attend. The new rent is £125 per month. Jim McAuley and Val Smith suggested that their telephone numbers be given on BAIS office ansaphone as other contacts.

Maureen Carter commented that there were vacant offices in the building in which she works in W1 which she thought were being let at a lower rent than is currently being paid. She agreed to seek further information.

8 (7) AGM Arrangements

It had been suggested at the last meeting that the AGM should take place at the Biennial Conference in Oxford in September. It was agreed that this was the most opportune time and that members will be given at least 6 weeks' notice.

9 (8) BAIS Conference - Oxford

Tony Downey reported that he had circulated the membership with a call for papers. He has now received 18 titles mainly focusing on History or Literature. There was discussion around

the format of the conference, the main theme and cultural activities/entertainment. The possibility of the next conference (1995) being focused on Social Science was discussed and thought to be viable.

Maureen Carter offered to help schedule the conference as she is employed in this field. It was agreed that the officers, Tony Downey and Maureen Carter should meet to help firm up arrangements and time scales.

10 (9) Report on Soar Valley Conference

Once again, this conference has been a great success. Unfortunately, Nesson Danaher was unable to attend this meeting. In his absence the officers and Executive give him a vote of thanks in appreciation of his sterling work in making the conference such a success over the last 10 years. It was agreed that the Soar Valley Conference represented excellent value for money for the BAIS.

11 (10) BAIS Newsletter/ISR

Graham reported that the editors of Irish Studies Review were considering publishing 3 issues a year in 1993 and 4 issues in 1994. The BAIS newsletter is currently distributed with Irish Studies Review to the membership at a total cost of £2 a copy. £3.50 is the price paid by non-members. There was discussion about the relationship between the BAIS and Irish Studies Review and the implications of ISR producing more issues. Graham agreed to illicit more information from the editors of ISR for the meeting on 19 June 1993 and this will be an agenda item.

12 (13) Working Party on the Constitution - Report Working Party on Electoral Procedures - Report

Sean Hutton submitted a written report on the work of the sub-committee. A copy is attached for all who were absent. The sub-committee is looking at both these issues in tandem and will have completed its work in time for discussion at the meeting on 19 June 1993. Enquiries were made about the report produced by Ann Schofield, Ruskin College in August 1992. A copy of this report has not yet been received. Sean Hutton agreed to try once again to obtain a copy. The sub-committee also agreed to discuss further the possibilities of a regional structure. The sub-committee will meet on at least 3 more occasions before their report is finalised.

14 Any other Business

Help for Tony Downey in organising the Oxford Conference was discussed further.

The possibility of hosting the BAIS lecture series was discussed. Mary Hickman suggested using her Institution and a number of other possible venues in the regions were identified. This matter requires further research and discussion.

Ulli Kockel reported that the European Society for Irish Studies were holding a conference on 1-4 July 1993. Mary Hickman offered to circulate the membership with the details.

The meeting concluded at 4.10 pm. The next meeting is scheduled to be held in Room E313, Birbeck College on 15 May 1993.

Val Smith
Jim McAuley