

British Association for Irish Studies

Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the new Interim Executive Committee, held on **Saturday 15th May 1993**, in room E301, Birbeck College, Malet Street, London.

Agenda discussed.

- 1 Objectives
- 2 Composition of a fundraising group
- 3 Fundraising strategy
- 4 Education sub-committees reviews and developments

Present: J. McAuley, V. Smith, T. Dooley, B. Bell, J. Woodhurst, E. Burgess, G. Davis, S. Hutton, P. Stewart, K. Thompson, M. Hickman, G. Watson, T. Downey, M. Carter, N. Danaher

Apologies for absence were received from the following:
J. Moore, S. Richards, U. Kockel

The following documents were tabled

- (i) Constitutional sub-committee - extract of notes of meeting of 8 May 1993
- (ii) BAIS - G. Davis
- (iii) Draft report from Ann Schofield on BAIS
- (iv) Proposed structure for fund raising leadership 1988

Graham suggested that he wishes to vacate the chair to enable him to participate fully in the discussion. Tony Downey was elected to chair the meeting.

1. Objectives

There was a wide ranging and open discussion concerning the overall objectives of the BAIS and how these could be met. There was some discussion concerning the 'ethos' of the organisation - 'to inspire and to combat lack of knowledge of Ireland.' This led to further discussion concerning the financial costs of the various strategies. A consensus was reached that the major objectives of the BAIS were best expressed in model 2 (iii) in document (ii) above. Several members made the point that this expressed the 'spirit of the BAIS' but it needed to be linked to a clear set of aims and objectives. John Woodhurst formally proposed that we accept 2(iii) as policy and brainstorm aims and objectives. It was seconded by Sean Hutton. **This was agreed unanimously by the meeting.**

2. Composition of a fundraising group

3. Fundraising strategy

Both Sean and Graham outlined some of the background to previous fundraising efforts within the BAIS. There was general discussion concerning the relationship between the fundraising committee and the executive committee. There was a wide ranging discussion of the issue of fundraising. It was proposed by Mary Hickman that the fundraising group be comprised of the individuals as outlined in document (ii) above but that their responsibilities be amended to:

The Fundraising Group will report to and at all times be responsible to the Executive Committee for approval and ratification of its actions and decisions.

It was seconded by Jim McAuley. **This was agreed unanimously by the meeting.** Jim McAuley proposed that an additional place be made on the fundraising group with some to target possible non -corporate level funding sources. This was seconded by Eleanor Burgess and **agreed unanimously by the meeting.**

4. Education sub-committees reviews and developments

This item again raised a broad based series of issues. Graham spoke to item 6 on his document. There was some concern expressed that this structure may be unrealistic. Sean tried to put these issues in the context of the work being done by the Constitutional working party. There followed a debate on the relationship between the different sectors of education and whether these could all be catered for by one committee. Mary Hickman suggested that the major input of an education committee should be to provide a series of 'co-ordinated and mutually reinforcing activities'. Bob Bell argued for a series of local initiatives, more emphasis on open learning and the possibility of media input. There was general agreement that it was essential to the future of the BAIS that the organisation have an effective educational committee. Mary and John expressed some concern that there was too narrow a link between the educational committee as an advisory body and the council as being proposed by the constitutional Working Group. This point was supported by Tom Dooley and Bob Bell.

At this point the Chair guillotined the item.

Graham Davis proposed that the Constitutional Working Group take on board the discussion in formulating their proposals. This was seconded by George Watson and **agreed unanimously by the meeting.**

AOB

Tony Downey wished to discuss arrangements for the conference in Oxford. There were some objections as this was an extraordinary meeting therefore technically no other business should have been raised. Sean was concerned that the item had not been brought before an officers meeting where arrangements could be agreed. There followed a general discussion concerning the structure and content of the conference.

Minutes taken by Dr. Jim McAuley

Agreed as a true record.

Proposed:

Seconded: