

Minutes of the meeting of the outgoing Executive Committee of BAIS which took place at the Irish Club, Eaton Square, London, on Saturday, 10 November 1990, beginning at 12.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Ruth Dudley Edwards (chair), Paul Bew, George Boyce, Graham Davis, Eamonn Hughes, Mary Hickman (observer), Anne Laurence, Jim McAuley, Samus Mac Mathúna, Jonathan Moore, Jim O'Hara, Bob Purdie, Shaun Richards, Seán Hutton.

APOLOGIES: Patrick Buckland, David Cairns, Nesson Danaher, Patrick Duffy, Emrys Evans, Oliver McLarnon, Siobhán Uí Níll, Kate Thompson, George Watson.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (SPECIAL MEETING): The Chair clarified her use of the term "Brits" in paragraph 3, page 6. In the light of this clarification, it was agreed that "British" should be substituted.

With this modification, the minutes were agreed as a correct record, and signed.

MATTERS ARISING: The question of whether votes should be recorded in minutes was raised. While it was recognised that the Executive usually operated on the basis of consensus, it was also recognised that there were occasions on which votes did need to be recorded in terms of the numbers voting for, against, etc. It was also recognised that the informal manner in which meetings were often conducted were not always conducive to the outcome of discussions being clear. This matter overlapped with a brief discussion on whether minutes needed to be detailed, or whether a record of the decisions taken would be sufficient. It was agreed that, when an item of business had been concluded, a summary statement of what had been decided should be provided by the Chair or the Executive Director.

It was agreed that the Officers should consider the question of the amount of detail required in the minutes.

REPORTS: While the majority of reports tabled were annual reports to be received by the AGM, the Hon Sec had also submitted a report to the Executive. The reports were tabled and members had the opportunity of asking questions or raising points on matters covered by the reports.

Honorary Secretary's report: It was recognised as being important that BAIS should be able to provide evidence of ongoing activity in the field of Irish Studies, which it could then use for publicity purposes. Suggestions included the issuing of an annual report/press statement after the AGM. The urgency of the financial situation was recognised and the need for early consideration by BAIS.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer reported on the briefing meeting he had had with the incoming Treasurer. He explained why he was unable to table audited accounts at the AGM. This was due

to the failure of the Auditors to meet the deadline agreed for the completion of the audit. This was not due to any deficiency in the accounts.

There was some 20,000 in the Association's accounts. At one level this was satisfactory. However, since activities were carried out with money on the margins and since the roll over of 8,000-9,000 from year to year was no longer available, the situation could become difficult.

RATE OF MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION: A discussion followed the Treasurer's report as to whether the subscription should be increased. It was pointed out that neither the student/unemployed or waged rate actually covered the cost of maintaining services to members in terms of the materials distributed. Increased postage costs and continuing inflation were mentioned as reasons for increasing the subscription. However, it was agreed that the student/unemployed rate should remain unchanged. With regard to the waged rate there was some discussion of reasons for membership of BAIS and an attempt, in the light of this, to calculate what the market would bear. It was decided to raise the corporate subscription. It was also decided that members should be asked to encourage their institutions to take out corporate membership in order to assist the finances of BAIS. The number of corporate subscriptions was very low at the moment.

As a result of this discussion, and on the proposition of the Treasurer, seconded by Jim McAuley, it was decided nem. con. to set subscription rates as follows, to take effect from July 1991 (i.e. the beginning of membership year 1991-2):

<u>7.50</u>	student/unwaged
<u>18.00</u>	waged
<u>40.00</u>	corporate

The meeting concluded at 2.00 p.m.

RECEPTION OF REPORTS

Chair/John Smith: The acceptance of the reports of the Chairpersons was moved by David Cairns and seconded by Paul Bay. In moving the acceptance of the reports, David Cairns paid tribute to the work of David Cairns and Shaun Richards who had, respectively, served as Past and Treasurer since the foundation of BAIS.

Acceptance agreed.

Executive Director: In response to a question, commented on the small number of applications for the Gold Pillar award and the early submission. He pointed out that the

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of BAIS which took place at The Irish Club, Eaton Square, London, on Saturday, 10 November 1990, at 2.15 p.m.

PRESENT: Ruth Dudley Edwards (chair), Bob Bell, Paul Bew, George Boyce, Graham Davis, Eamonn Hughes, Mary Hickman (observer), Anne Laurence, Jim McAuley, Samus Mac Mathúna, Jonathan Moore, Austen Morgan, Winifred Murphy, Jim O'Hara, Bob Purdie, Jean Rathbone, Shaun Richards, Seán Hutton.

APOLOGIES: Patrick Buckland, David Cairns, Nessian Danaher, Patrick Duffy, Emrys Evans, Oliver McLarnon, Siobhán Uí Níill, Kate Thompson, George Watson.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Anne Laurence and seconded by Samus Mac Mathúna. This was agreed and the minutes were signed.

MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS OF EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS: There had been only one nomination for each of the Officers' positions, and the following had been elected unopposed:

Chair: Ruth Dudley Edwards
Vice-Chair: Jim O'Hara
Hon Sec: Jim McAuley
Treasurer: Graham Davis
Conference Secretary: Jonathan Moore

The following members had been elected to sit on the Executive:

R E Bell
Paul Bew
David Cairns
Mary Hickman
Samus Mac Mathúna
Bob Purdie
Shaun Richards
George Watson

RECEPTION OF REPORTS

Chair/Vice-Chair: The acceptance of the reports of the Chairpersons was moved by Samus Mac Mathúna and seconded by Paul Bew. In moving the acceptance of the report, Samus Mac Mathúna paid tribute to the work of David Cairns and Shaun Richards who had, respectively, served as Hon Sec and Treasurer since the foundation of BAIS.

Acceptance agreed.

Executive Director: The Ex Dir, in response to a question, commented on the small number of entries for the Bord Fáilte undergraduate essay competition. He pointed out that the

prize was an attractive one, a place at the UCD Irish Studies Summer School. The outcome had been a disappointing one, and he would welcome comments from members at third level as to why participation had not been higher.

The acceptance of the report was moved by Jim McAuley and seconded by Samus Mac Mathúna. In seconding the motion, Samus Mac Mathúna paid tribute to the way in which the Ex Dir had conducted the business of the Association during the year.

Acceptance agreed.

Honorary Secretary: There was a question regarding the statement in the report that, while AIB would assist the Association with further approaches, the Bank would not extend the present financing. It was explained that this fell very much within the pattern of corporate financing; continuation, while very welcome, would be more the exception than the rule.

There was a further question regarding the ensuring of quality in the provision of Irish Studies teaching. It was emphasised that BAIS could not act as a validating body.

The acceptance of the report was moved by George Boyce and seconded by Graham Davis.

Acceptance agreed.

Treasurer: The Treasurer explained that the Auditors had failed to produce the audited accounts in time for the meeting. This failure was not due to any deficiency in the accounts, but to a possible confusion of dates on the part of the auditors. They would be posted first-class to those present at the meeting the moment they became available, and would be published in the Newsletter in due course.

He gave an update on the finances of the Association: some 20,000 in the Association's bank accounts, with 25,000 coming to the Association in February. He spoke of the need to finance the energy of the Association and instanced a range of activities on which money had been expended to date: two conferences, the Soar Valley "Irish Dimensions in British Education" conference, Sixth Form History Conferences in Northern Ireland, the BAIS lectures, student bursaries at the IESAIL and Irish Historians in Britain conferences, the post of the AIB Director of the Joint Education Programme, the Survey of Irish Studies in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Institute of Linguists Irish examinations.

He pointed out that the activities of the Association were financed by money on the margin; that the cost of services to members was barely covered by subscription income; and that the Association was dependent on large donations in order to continue its wider activities.

The acceptance of the report was proposed by Graham Davis and seconded by Jim O'Hara.

Acceptance agreed.

Conference Secretary: Winifred Murphy, speaking as a retired person, working on research in isolation, welcomed the opportunity which the BAIS Biennial Irish Studies Conference of meeting others working in the field of Irish Studies.

The acceptance of the report was moved by Jim McAuley and seconded by George Boyce.

Acceptance agreed.

Newsletter Editor: The Newsletter Editor, speaking to his written report, said that he was working towards a double issue to appear towards the end of the year, to make up for the non-appearance of the summer issue.

The acceptance of the report was moved by Jonathan Moore and seconded by Samus Mac Mathúna.

Acceptance agreed.

Higher Education Subcommittee: George Boyce, speaking to his written report, informed the meeting that Roger Swift hoped to organise an in-service course for teachers to support Irish Studies programmes. With regard to the situation of the Liverpool Institute, he informed the meeting of the bleak funding prospects. The first MAs in Irish Studies had been awarded. The situation at Liverpool was also affected by the fact that that the university had introduced a freeze on appointments.

The issue of the fee for the Higher Education Conference on strategy/ERASMUS which had taken place in June was raised. The small budget available for conferences and the fact that most academics would want to use this for a conference on their specialism was stressed. George Boyce said that much thought had been given to getting the price right.

The acceptance of the report was moved by Eamonn Hughes and Bob Bell.

Acceptance agreed.

Adult & Further Education: A written report was read to the meeting by the Chair.

It was suggested that the Association might investigate the potential of the University of the Third Age. The point was made that targeting Irish Studies for particular groups (e.g. pensioners) might increase the chances of obtaining local authority funding. Irish language/Irish Studies courses as

facilitators in bringing people back into education was mentioned.

Irish Language: This report was spoken to by the Ex Dir in the absence of the Convenor.

The adoption of the report was proposed by Jim McAuley and seconded by Anne Laurence.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: It was proposed by the outgoing Treasurer and seconded by the incoming Hon Sec that the rates of the annual subscriptions should be as follows from July 1991 onwards:

7.50	student/unwaged
18.00	waged
40.00	corporate

This motion was carried nem. con.

AOB: There was no AOB.

The meeting concluded at 3.40 p.m.

James Hughes' resignation as Convenor was proposed by David O'Connell and seconded by Jonathan Moore. It was agreed.

George Joyce was nominated as Convenor of the Education Sub-committee by Sharon Richards and seconded by Jonathan Moore. It was agreed.

William O'Connell was nominated as Convenor of the Adult & Further Education Sub-committee by Sharon Richards and seconded by Jonathan Moore. It was agreed.

John Thompson was nominated as Convenor of the Irish Language Sub-committee by Sharon Richards and seconded by Sharon Richards. It was agreed.

Jim O'Connell brought forward three names for co-optation: Gerry Cronin, John Cooper and Tony Sawyer. The meeting was already very informed of the background of these nominees and their willingness to sit on the Executive Committee. Jonathan Moore brought forward a fourth name, but subsequently withdrew it after some discussion.

The three co-optations were agreed.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON ADMINISTRATION SUBCOMMITTEE: The Ex Dir referred to the resolutions adopted by the Executive Committee at its meeting and recommended the following:

- 1) that Bob O'Connell, John O'Connell and Tony Sawyer be requested to constitute themselves an Executive sub-committee to work towards the constitution of a Facilitating Consultancy Committee Sub-committee;

Minutes of the meeting of the incoming Executive Committee of BAIS which took place at the Irish Club, Eaton Square, London, on Saturday, 10 November 1990, beginning at 3.45 p.m.

PRESENT: Ruth Dudley Edwards (chair), Bob Bell, Paul Bew, George Boyce, Graham Davis, Eamonn Hughes, Mary Hickman, Anne Laurence, Jim McAuley, Samus Mac Mathúna, Jonathan Moore, Jim O'Hara, Bob Purdie, Shaun Richards, Seán Hutton.

APOLOGIES: David Cairns, Nesson Danaher, Patrick Duffy, George Watson.

CO-OPTIONS/NOMINATION OF SUBCOMMITTEE CONVENORS, NEWSLETTER EDITOR: The Ex Dir outlined the constitutional position. There was some discussion as to whether co-options should take place at that meeting, or whether it should be postponed. That matter was discussed, as was the basis on which co-options should be made. A consensus finally emerged: (1) to proceed with the co-options and the nomination of subcommittee convenors as one agenda item; (2) and to make three out of four co-options at that meeting, since there were suitable candidates who fitted in with the Association's priorities available, leaving the fourth till later.

Eamonn Hughes' reappointment as Newsletter editor was proposed by Jim McAuley and seconded by Jonathan Moore, and agreed.

George Boyce was nominated as Convenor of the Higher Education Subcommittee by Shaun Richards and seconded by Jim McAuley, and agreed.

Nesson Danaher was nominated as Convenor of the Adult & Further Education Subcommittee by Jim McAuley and seconded by Jonathan Moore.

Kate Thompson was nominated as Convenor of the Irish Language Subcommittee by Samus Mac Mathúna and seconded by Eamonn Hughes.

Jim O'Hara brought forward three names for co-option: Emrys Evans, Joe Sheeran and Tony Downey. The meeting had already been informed of the background of these nominees, and their willingness to sit on the Executive Committee if co-opted. Jonathan Moore brought forward another nomination, but subsequently withdrew it after some discussion.

The three co-options were agreed.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON NONFUNCTIONING SUBCOMMITTEES: The Ex Dir referred to the resolutions adopted by the Executive Committee at its meeting; and recommended the following:

(1) that Bob Bell, Joe Sheeran and Tony Downey be requested to constitute themselves an Executive subcommittee to work towards the constitution of a functioning Compulsory Education Subcommittee;

(2) that George Watson and Shaun Richards be requested to constitute themselves an Executive subcommittee to work towards the constitution of a functioning Cultural Subcommittee.

These recommendations were agreed.

WITHDRAWAL OF GLÓR NA nGAEL GRANT: The Ex Dir presented letters which he had received from Jonathan Moore and Siobhán Uí Níll, asking that the Association take up this matter.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the Ex Dir would draft a letter to be signed by the Chair and forwarded to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. It was proposed that BAIS should approach the issue from the educational point of view: stressing the threat which the action presented to the place of the Irish language within the policy of multiculturalism being followed in Northern Ireland. The Ex Dir to discuss the text of the letter with Bob Purdie and Paul Bew. A copy of the letter to be forwarded to Glór na nGael.

1991 BAIS BIENNIAL IRISH STUDIES CONFERENCE: The Conf Sec tabled a written report on progress. A number of speakers were confirmed. There were also a number of probables; and some who had not yet replied.

The following points were agreed: that Nell McCafferty be approached to be after-dinner speaker at Conference; speakers should be good communicators; Conf Sec to consult with Vice-Chair on new names for conference.

Some concern was expressed in re. the impact on cost of the number of speakers from Ireland. Travel, postage, free accommodation would constitute main elements of cost. If there was to be a subsidy from the Association, there must be an upper limit agreed.

This to be a major item on Officers' meeting at Strawberry Hill on 21 November.

AOB: Bob Bell informed the meeting of NIO support for an OU pack which might be of wider use in adult education here or more widely in Ireland.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Saturday, 23 February 1991.

The meeting concluded at 5.40 p.m.

Secretary's report: The Treasurer reported on the briefing meeting he had had with the incoming Treasurer. He explained why he was unable to table services accounts for 1990. There was also