

MINUTES OF AGM – WEDNESDAY 19 MAY 2004 – HICKS LECTURE THEATRE 7 – 1:00 PM

1. Apologies were received from members of SAUT

2. Minutes of the last meeting

These were taken as an accurate record of AGM 5 June 2003

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Reports

The Treasurer's Report was tabled by Richard Ward. He pointed out that the balance was healthy but suggested that there should be an increase in the local subscription from £0.50 to £0.70. The reasons for this modest increase were explained in the Treasurer's Report.

The motion to increase the local subscription was proposed by Richard Ward and seconded by Martin Pitt. It was carried unanimously.

The Membership Report was tabled by Steve Ludlam who noted that our membership had grown significantly in the past year and that we had surpassed our target. Tim Searle thanked Steve Ludlam for his efforts in this regard.

The Trust Fund Report was tabled by Liz Hall and also read out a letter of thanks from a mature student who had been awarded £1000 from the Fund.

The President's Report was given by Tim Searle who reviewed the campaigns of the last year particularly the Pay Campaign and reported on the progress made. He thanked those who had taken part in the action and thanked the Committee members for their support. He also thanked Christine Methley who had given us excellent support over the last year despite the inconvenience of the AUT office move. The President also proposed a rule change to the list of Officers in section 7. Delete the Hon Assistant Secretary and add 2 Honorary Assistant Secretaries. The motion was proposed by Tim Searle and seconded by Mick Ashman and was passed with a greater than 2/3rds majority. The reason for the change was that the Committee would be taking on many responsibilities during the next year because of the re-grading exercise and needed as much help as possible with this work.

5. Election of SAUT Officers 2004 - 2005

President: **Ms T V Clarke (Library)**

Senior Vice-President **Dr T M Searle (Physics & Astronomy)**

Vice-President: **Dr S Ludlam (Politics)**

Hon Secretary: **Mr M Ashman (SNM)**

Hon Treasurer: **Mr R B Ward (Teaching and Learning)**

Hon Asst Secretaries: **Ms P Fairbrother (SNM)**
Dr J Perraton (Economics)

Hon Asst Treasurer
and Membership Secretary: **Prof G Turner (MBB)**

Equal Opportunities Officer: **Ms E J Hall (Student Services)**

21280 e.hall@shf

6. Election of Ordinary Committee Members

7 Candidates had been put forward for 6 places on the Committee so a ballot was held after candidates had been given the opportunity to make brief comments. The results of the ballot were as follows:

Gillian Brown	35
Roy Brown	6
Steve Collier	34
Donald Hislop	32
Karen Kehtarnavaz	33
Maggie McPherson	34
Angela Shann	34

After completion of the ballot, Richard Ward gave a word of thanks to Tim Searle the retiring SAUT President and presented him with shares in Pan-American Airlines and a model plane. A book on aircraft observation, Tim's hobby, had been delayed in the post.

7. Sally Hunt National AUT President then took the floor to address the meeting.

She discussed the issues of the lower base pay levels for university staff and the problems of local negotiation which were now upon us. She summarised the achievements of the recent AUT action in the context of other disputes in the public services at the present time including civil servants' redundancies, the FBU agreement, the 1% pay offer in the Prison Service and the play-off being attempted between sickness pay and a pay rise for local government workers. For our own part, employers had assumed that there would be no action. They had driven their policies through from July with no negotiation with the AUT and would not address our issues of concern. Nevertheless, after the initial strike action, the phone began to ring as UCEA sought clarification from the AUT. Even then there have been other problems such as threats by individual employers and attempts to undermine our links with the NUS though this had not been successful. Only after the assessment boycott began to bite did UCEA request formal negotiations through the TUC which had led to significant gains through the Memorandum of Understanding. During this period of action there had been a dramatic growth in the AUT membership, such that extra staff had been recruited by AUT. Though the agreement had not been ideal, it was now our job to implement the national agreement at a local level which would involve considerable hard work. She felt that a better deal could have been reached had we been supported by the other Unions. In her view, good employers only exist in the presence of strong unions. Despite the poor relationship between the Unions at national level, relationships were generally better at local level and she emphasised we must work with our other union colleagues during negotiations with the University so that they are not disadvantaged in the final outcome.

She ended her address by commenting on the next motion which was to be put to the meeting. She herself fully supported the statement in the motion and pointed out that the AUT had affiliated nationally to Unite. She explained that the forthcoming elections and the threat from the BNP does impact on our students since the BNP could gain a lot in resources from success in the European elections. The TUC and other teaching unions were also in agreement with this motion.

Sally also reported that the High Commissioner of Mozambique had requested help and support from teaching unions in the UK since the World Bank were putting pressure on them to cut back on public spending. This presented a threat to one million 5 year-olds who were now being taught to read in Mozambique and the cutbacks would put this programme in jeopardy.

She also stated that she would like to work on a positive agenda towards unity with NATFHE to avoid problems which could be exploited by employers and Government.

Questions were then invited from the audience. George Chapman (CICS) was concerned that transfer to the new grading structures would be a problem. He felt that the national AUT figures had been misleading and were more optimistic than was the case. Sally agreed that a national scale would have been better but linkage with Academic-Related staff had been maintained along with transparency and protection of progression up the scales. UCEA were unwilling to move beyond this position and she again pointed out that the other unions had opposed any improvement for AUT members. Many

university officers had said that they would implement the Memorandum of Understanding in a positive way.

8. Motion – Unite Against Facism

Check where I put motion – first or lower down

The motion was proposed by Angela Shann and seconded by Donald Hislop. Angela Shann spoke to the motion and it was then opened up for debate. Martin Pitt spoke against the motion saying that he felt that the AUT should not be passing motions which were more relevant to national political issues rather than AUT business. Steve Ludlam felt strongly that this issue did affect AUT members and one of the Committee had already been named on a BNP associated website, with implied threats against her. Liz Hall also pointed out that the BNP was anti trades union. When put to the vote, the motion was carried 33 for, 1 against and 1 abstention.

9. Any Other Business

Liz Hall reported that about 100 members had replied to her email concerning the rate of salary deduction following the recent AUT Strike and had agreed to initiate a grievance procedure against the University of Sheffield.

Geoff Turner