



**MINUTES of the AGM  
OF THE FOURTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE  
AUSTRALIAN SCREEN PRODUCTION EDUCATION AND  
RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (ASPERA)  
RMIT University 16<sup>th</sup> July 2007**

Meeting began at 14.30

**Chair:** Mr Nick Oughton (ASPERA President and GFS)

**Present:** Representatives from; Newcastle University (left at 15.30), University of Canberra, Swinburne University, Edith Cowan University, QUT, Deakin University, VCA, Flinders University, Curtin University, UTS, AFTRS (left at 15.45), University of South Australia, RMIT University.

**Agenda :**

**1. Welcome and apologies**

Welcome by ASPERA President Mr Nick Oughton

**Apologies:**

Mick Broderick (Murdoch), Josko Petkovic (Murdoch), Katherine Millard (Macquarie), John Hetherington (Griffith).

**2. Confirmation of the minutes from the 2007 AGM**

Moved: Gillian Leahy

Seconded: Stephen Huxley

MINUTES ACCEPTED

**3. Business arising from the previous minutes**

**CILECT** - Gillian Leahy asked whether the Executive had followed up on motions from the 2007 AGM.

Alison confirmed she had proposed that ASPERA join CILECT as a partner member. Partner members do not have full voting rights in elections but are invited to the annual world congress. Any issues requiring votes would be adequately dealt with via the full voting rights of the VCA, Griffith and Flinders who have full membership. It was argued that it would serve us strategically as a national organization to have separate representation and allow for another Australian (other than those mentioned above) to attend the annual congress.

Alternatively Ian Lang suggested that when a vote is required that the ASPERA delegate becomes the 'country' vote.

**MOTION I** - "We move that ASPERA join CILECT as a partner member - available to projects, organizations, initiatives, or other institutions which are collaborating with CILECT and which can benefit from a formal relationship with CILECT."

Moved – Gillian Leahy  
Seconded – Alison Wotherspoon  
Carried unanimously

**ACTION** - Ian Lang and Nick Oughton to follow up on the best membership options at the up coming world congress in China November 2008 and report to the executive for confirmation.

#### **4. Presidents Address (Nicholas Oughton)**

See Appendix 2

#### **5. Secretary's report (Rachel Wilson)**

As pointed out by Nick Oughton in the President's report 2007/2008 has been a busy year for the ASPERA executive.

- We held three executive meetings throughout the 2007/2008 year. Two at RMIT and 1 as a conference call. The minutes of these meetings can be found on the ASPERA website.
- As secretary my 1<sup>st</sup> duty was to sort out our outstanding issues with the NSW Office of Fair Trading. ASPERA had not paid its fees nor submitted the required paperwork for the previous two years. I negotiated an extension, Nick and I paid the outstanding dues and late fines and submitted the up to date paper work.
- In working on this issue we discovered that to be *properly* registered under Associations Incorporation Regulations we must have at least one executive member from the host state (NSW) - as well as an up to date address in that state. I looked into other national representative bodies and because many of them have a physical office they are usually OK. It seems to me we need to consider becoming a company limited by guarantee through ASIC.  
<http://www.asic.gov.au/asic/asic.nsf/byheadline/Registering+not-for-profit+or+charitable+organisations?openDocument#> .  
I am continuing to examine our options as this is not an ideal solution and would change the way we can function.
- I have also spent a considerable amount of time making sure all our contact information and email list information is up to date. Again this was an area that had been neglected in the previous two years. I now have a comprehensive list of all ASPERA members and the school they represent, their postal addresses and a number of delegates/representatives for each institution. I continue to add people's names to the email list and

encourage people to forward the list information to other people in their departments.

- I have been working with the other executive to keep up to date with developments with the ERA and Innovation policy and represented ASPERA at the Innovation Review road show in Melbourne in early March.

Moved: Gilian Leahy

Seconded: Graham Thorburn

## **6. Treasurer's report (Alison Wotherspoon)**

Alison thanked Nick Oughton for his ongoing support in the role and confirmed that most of the 2008 membership fees had been gathered. She asked that any outstanding invoices be seen to as soon as possible by the delegates.

The bank balance remains healthy and expenditure in the 2007/8 was primarily related to travel to executive meetings all of which coincided with other meetings and strategic planning. CHASS membership was also included.

See Appendix I for full details of income and expenditure.

Moved: Gillian Leahy

Seconded: Graham Thorburn

Carried unanimously

## **7. Vice President's report (Leo Berkeley)**

Leo reported that he had focused on three main tasks in the past 12 months:

1) Updating the ASPERA website to Drupal, an open source web 2.0 program. He had focused on ease of use and the ability to quickly add or delete material, and went for a simple design approach. There have been significant additions to the content on the website but Leo encouraged all members to consider positing their own content, which is possible (and easy) with Drupal.

2) Organising the peer review process for screen works, which involved 24 people reviewing the eight works submitted.

3) Organising the 2008 Conference

Moved: Gilian Leahy

Seconded: Graham Thorburn

Carried unanimously

## **8. Review of Constitution:**

*Advisory Council*

Nick Oughton suggested further clarification was required on the role of the ASPERA Advisory Council and proposed the following motion.

**Motion 2** – It is proposed that a new clause be put into the ASPERA constitution to more clearly recognise the role of the Advisory Council. This clause should be placed in Part I, (I) in the rules after the *Executive Committee*.

*Advisory Council* - a sub-committee appointed by the Executive Committee and directed to carry out specific tasks on behalf of the Executive Committee. Members are appointed by the Executive Committee as referred to in rule 14 (5) of section 3.

Moved: Leo Berkeley  
Seconded: Alison Wotherspoon  
Carried unanimously

**Motion 3** - That outgoing President Nicholas Oughton is nominated to join the ASPERA Advisory Council, thereby continuing the tradition of past presidents moving onto the Council.

Moved: Rachel Wilson  
Seconded: Leo Berkeley  
Carried unanimously

#### *Ordinary Member Representatives*

Rachel Wilson suggested that now that ASPERA is better established that is in the best interest of the organization to increase the number of executive members to include 'two ordinary' members. As the association activities increase this would allow for a broader distribution of workload and provide the training of future executive members.

**Motion 4** - It is proposed that section 14 (clause 1 b) should change to read: (b) *two ordinary member representatives*, allowing for broader work load distribution and for the training of future executive members.

Moved: Nicholas Oughton  
Seconded: Rachel Wilson  
Carried unanimously

## **9. Election of the Executive for 2008-2009**

The former Vice President Leo Berkeley became President. Elections were held for the positions of Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and One Other Member

The new Executive elected on nomination as follows:

- President – Leo Berkeley RMIT UNIVERSITY VIC
- Vice President – Alison Wotherspoon FLINDERS UNIVERSITY SA
- Secretary – Rachel Wilson RMIT UNIVERSITY VIC
- Treasurer – Nick Oughton GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY QLD
- Two Other Members -

Gillian Leahy UTS NSW  
Jenny Stokes UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA SA

The 2008 conference will therefore be held in Adelaide, South Australia.

## **10. Any other business**

Leo Berkeley thanked Nick Oughton as outgoing president.

*ERA*

**Motion 5** - ASPERA members can forward to their institutional research office the AFI Research Collection's list of ranked journal recommendations for the screen studies area.

Moved: Rachel Wilson

Seconded: Alison Wotherspoon

Motion carried unanimously

**Motion 6** - In ASPERA's submission to the ERA we advocate that there be a number of panels for cluster 2 (reflective of the diversity within the sector) and also express our willingness to work with the Indicator Development Group in developing an indicator set specific to screen production research.

Moved: Rachel Wilson

Seconded: Gillian Leahy

Motion carried unanimously

**Motion 7** - That ASPERA recommends that the presidents of the peak bodies representing the Creative Arts (ASPERA, ACUADS, CHASS etc) continue to consult in an attempt to harmonise responses regarding the ranking and nature of research outputs within the new ERA.

Moved: Stephen Goddard

Seconded: Nick Oughton

Motion carried unanimously

*Peer review*

**Motion 8** – ASPERA members authorise the executive to continue to develop the ASPERA peer review project and that the executive continue to investigate peer review publication opportunities.

Moved: Rachel Wilson

Seconded: Nick Oughton

Motion carried unanimously

**Motion 9** – The 2008 ASPERA conference has identified the need for the development of a rigorous set of proxy research indicators for the screen production discipline within the ERA framework and encourages the

executive to continue to develop these, building on relevant work undertaken during 2007/8.

Moved: Gillian Leahy

Seconded: Michael Sergi

Motion carried unanimously

*Outreach*

**Motion 10** – The meeting recommends that the ASPERA executive investigate international links with other screen production peak bodies.

Moved: Michael Sergi

Seconded: Gillian Leahy

Motion carried unanimously

**Motion 11** – The meeting would like to thank RMIT for hosting the 2008 conference.

Moved: Jill Holt

Seconded: Nick Oughton

Motion carried unanimously

**Meeting ended – 5.00pm**

## APPENDIX I - ASPERA 2007-08 Income and Expenditure

### ASPERA Income and Expenditure Summary 2007-08

Date	Income	Details	Expenditure	Chq No	Details	Sund	Balance
		Brought forward from previous year		0		0	6537.24
2/7/07	0		72	12	Flowers for Conference Sec	0	-72
3/8/07	0		66	13	Drinks for pre-conference meet	0	-66
2/7/07	0		1223	10	Che Laia' Conference Dinner	0	-1223
10/9/07	0		220	0	Membership fee, CHASS	0	-220
17/9/07	0		757.23	0	M. Broderick, Air Fare for exec	0	-757.23
3/10/07	943.16	Credit from Griffith for Con Balance	0	0		0	943.16
23/10/07	0		250	16	N.Oughton Air fare for exec	0	-250
30/10/07	0		454	17	A. Wotherspoon Air fare for exec	0	-454
3/12/07	500	AFTRS Membership 2007-8	0	0		0	500
13/12/07	500	Deakin U Membership 2007-8	0	0		0	500
13/12/07	0		140	18	Office of Fare trading fee	0	-140
11/1/08	0		512.4	19	N.Oughton fares and Acoom Mel	0	-512.4
2/2/08	500	VCA Membership 2007-8	0	0		0	500
17/3/08	0		240	21	N.Oughton Air fare for CHASS	0	-240
18/3/08	500	VCA Membership 2008-9	0	7		0	500
9/4/08	0		63	8	Griffith U for 50% cost of Tele Con	0	-63
7/5/08	500	AFTRS Membership 2008-9	0	0		0	500
13/5/08	500	Flinders U Membership 2008-9	0	0		0	500
22/5/08	500	RMIT Memebership 2008-9	0	0		0	500
19/5/08	0		150	20	Transcription of tapes 2007 Confr		-150
2/6/08	500	Griffith U Membership 2008-9	0			0	500
5/6/08	500	QUT Membership 2008-9	0	0		0	500
5/6/08	500	Curtin U Membership 2008-9	0	0		0	500
11/6/	500	UNSA Membership 2008-9	0	0		0	500
7/7/08	500	Newcastle U Membership 2008-9	0	0		0	500
8/7/08	500	MacQuarie U Membership 2008-9	0	11		0	500
	0		0	9		0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>7443.16</b>		<b>4147.63</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>9832.77</b>

## **APPENDIX 2 – 2008 President’s Report (Nicholas Oughton)**

This has been an active year for ASPERA, mainly precipitated by a change in Government and a review of the role of research in Australia and its Universities. The RQF has become the ERA and it remains to be seen if there are any advantages in this transformation for our Association. One immediate disadvantage has been the exclusion of ‘Impact’ (included in RQF) from the new, ERA schedule of research indicators. ASPERA advocated strongly for the retention of impact in any new iteration, arguing that it succinctly defines a measurable outcome for screen production work - measurable in our terms and by our peers.

The ERA Consultation round provides a vehicle for ASPERA members to advocate our Association’s policy. Happily, our discipline, Film Television and Digital Media has been recognised in the ERA and is located in the Humanities and Creative Arts discipline cluster. This cluster will be reviewed through consultation with stakeholders from July to October 2008. It will provide an opportunity to recommend those indicators that have already been highlighted in the ASPIRI index. Usefully, exhibition and performance (e.g. cinema, festival, broadcast, web-based and other forms of dissemination) are recognised in the ERA Consultation Paper as valid indicators of success in ‘applied’ research. Some have argued, however, that ghettoising our production outputs in only the ‘applied’ domain will make us discountable, and the poor relation of those disciplines recognised as generators of ‘pure’ research.

It appears that ERA consultation is more likely to recognise inputs from Universities than discipline based associations and professional bodies such as ASPERA. Therefore, we should act decisively and vociferously to broadcast our policy and wishes within our home institutions. If we convince our research managers/leaders of our worth (which should be self-evident), we have a good chance of getting our message through to the ARC and ERA. Of course, ASPERA has an important role to play too by collectively developing a cohesive research policy for its members to advocate, as well as widely agitating for the adoption of our preferred research position.

In many respects, this journey has begun with excellent work contributed by Dr Jocko Petkovic with his successful application to the ALTC for 220,000 dollars, with which to conduct a three-year study of assessment and reporting regimes for post-graduate screen productions. This research project involves seven ASPERA film schools. In addition, Professor Ian Lang has provided an erudite and persuasive submission to the Innovation Review on behalf of ASPERA, while a number of members have made public comment on the Screen Australia Bill. ASPERA has also become associated with an ARC funded research project into the psychosocial hazards of arts industry practice and workplaces.

As many of us contribute to scholarly journals, the ranking of these journals is of great importance to us. We are able to submit recommendations regarding the provisional rankings provided by ARC until 14th August 2008. Institutions and scholarly societies (e.g. ASPERA) are invited to make suggestions for addition, deletion, promotion and relegation to the rankings.

Minister Kim Carr (Innovation, Industry, Science and Research) was invited to attend this year’s conference as keynote speaker and initially indicated that he would do so. Unfortunately, other matters interceded and we have missed an opportunity to press our case to him in person. He is now, however, very much aware of our existence.

Over the past year ASPERA members, particularly the hard working executive have participated in many events. These include: Innovation Review consultation sessions held in a number of states; the Arts and Innovation workshops provided by CHASS; HASS on the Hill; RQF Discipline Workshops; ERA briefings; meetings with government advisors to

Minister Kim Carr and; meetings with ACUADS and many others groups. In addition the executive committee have conducted a number of face-to-face meetings as well as tele-conferences.

I believe that this year, ASPERA has further established itself in the Australia landscape of recognised professional associations. The ASPERA name is on more lips and considered in more councils than ever before.

One of several ways forward is to promote the value of the ASPERA brand within our own institutions. Our most powerful allies may be our own Universities. Other allies are the professional organizations associated with our discipline cluster such as ACUADS and ASDA.

A further way is to argue that 'new knowledge', linked to applied research outcomes provides a meaningful, robust and measurable strategy for assessing research performance, and that ASPERA are best placed to define the meanings, provide the robustness and establish the metrics for the screen production discipline.

We have advanced some way since our genesis in 2004, but must go further to establish ASPERA as one of the most recognised and respected professional associations in Australia.

I would like to thank those people, especially the members of the executive committee, Leo Berkeley, Rachel Wilson, Mick Broderick and Alison Wotherspoon, who have made a contribution to ASPERA's distinctive progress throughout this past year.

Nick Oughton  
Conference 2008