

**ASPERA**  
**Australian Screen Production Education and Research Association**

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**Executive Meeting – minutes**

Meeting 2  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2007  
RMIT University  
Room 6.6.04 @ 10.00am

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**Meeting opened:** 10.00am

**1 Attendance**

**Present:** Nick Oughton (President - GFS), Leo Berkeley (VP - RMIT), Alison Wotherspoon (Treasurer - Flinders Uni) Rachel Wilson (Secretary - RMIT), Mick Broderick (Murdoch Uni).

**2 Previous Minutes**

The previous minutes were passed without amendment.

**3 Business Arising**

Any issues arising are covered within the report section below.

**4 Reports**

**4.1 Summary of meeting with Andrew Reeves**

Nick, Mick and Rachel attended a meeting with Andrew Reeves – the senior advisor for Kim Carr (the Federal Shadow Minister for Industry Science and Research) - at 9am Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October at RMIT. The meeting was primarily called to clarify Labor's position in relation to research impact in terms of the coalition's RQF research audit. The intention was to learn about Labor's proposed research model. The meeting was also seen as an opportunity to locate ASPERA and its concerns in the minds eye of Labor's senior caucus.

It was felt by all participants that the meeting went extremely well and that Andrew was aware of, and sympathetic to, the particular issues facing our sector within both the research climate and with academia in general. There was much frank and open discussion and it was felt that we made an impression of being a pro-active organization.

We discussed how ASPERA has formed a national peer review committee to oversee the evaluation of screen-based creative/professional work and developed a research assessment model. This model employs the ASPRI index to allocate research points according to established criteria. This index and its criteria are based on rankings of items such as festivals, broadcasting, theatrical exhibition, conference, performance and alternative platforms of distribution such as the Internet and mobile phones. It also includes funding, (which brings with it its own peer review frameworks) and the impact of screen work on policy, popular culture and education. The

ASPRI system does not exclude traditional academic impact that occurs within a community of peers.

Andrew indicated that Labor does not intend to drop impact (a valuable indicator of screen research) as criteria within the RQF (as previously understood) and that impact should not be separated from questions of quality - it is in fact integral to notions of quality. At this stage Labor may not entirely replace RQF, but is on the look out for a cheap/transparent/verifiable and internationally recognised 'suite of measures' for research. He emphasised that he is not a fan of metrics as the only measure, and that peer review is critical to any framework that Labor may initiate. He also stressed that quality does not necessarily mean more money or is the result of money.

Throughout the meeting Reeves offered an 'open door' policy to ASPERA. All of the senior staff in Kim Carr's office have post-graduate degrees in the humanities and are very aware of the institutional pressures brought to bear on this sector.

In relation to Labor policy Reeves suggested we access a discussion policy paper as it relates to innovation and its commitment to establishing a series of enterprise connect centres.

[<http://www.alp.org.au/media/0407/msindloo240.php>]

He suggested that this presents a particular set of opportunities to our sector in relation to potential research partners and that we should liaise with SPAA on this issue directly.

Reeves also indicated that it is Labor policy to create a new department of Innovation and that all research funding will be directed through this department including higher education, CSIRO, industry research etc. Labor believes that it is time to change the conversation around innovation and that it is a collaborative process between universities, research centres and industry.

A major change signalled by Reeves was that the notion of research only universities, an arrangement that is completely against Labor's ethos, would be dropped.

#### **4.2 Report on CHASS AGM**

Leo reported on the CHASS AGM he attended on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October at Melbourne University. The guest speaker was Terry Cutler and Leo presented the CHASS annual report for the executive to check out. Leo suggested the layout design of listing all activity for the year might be a model that ASPERA adopt as our profile grows. Also worthy of note are the five levels of membership offered.

ASPERA is now a member of CHASS and the annual report can be found at the following link. <http://www.chass.org.au/>

#### **4.3 Financial & membership update**

Nick presented the bank statements and accounts for month ending 22/10/07. When airfares and accommodation for the executive meeting are paid for we are still looking reasonably healthy financially.

There will however be some outgoings for fines occurred for incorrect and late reporting to the office of NSW fair-trading and in the change over of registration of ASPERA with the ACCC.

Alison stated that she will chase up all the universities still with 2007 fees outstanding - these include VCA, UTS, AFTRS and Deakin who sent delegates to the 2007 conference

*ACTION - Alison to chase up outstanding fees no later than December 1st 2007*

#### **4.4 Business registration**

Rachel reported that there had been correspondence from the NSW Office of Fair Trading indicating we were in breach of our registration as an incorporated association as financial report for 2006 and 2007 had not been submitted. After some investigation it was discovered we were also in breach as none of the executive reside in NSW - again a fundamental requirement.

Rachel reported that the next course of action would be to register ASPERA with the ACCC as a corporation limited by guarantee. There was some discussion of other possible models including us being auspiced by another organization

*ACTION - Nick to send through accounts for 2006 and 2007 financial years and cheque to NSW Office of Fair Trading. Rachel to start work on registration process and further investigate auspice options with a view to sorting this out ASAP.*

#### **4.5 ASPRI update**

Nick reported that he had approached Susan Kerrigan from Newcastle University to head up the NSW sub-committee and she had agreed in principle.

There was further discussion on the direction of the groups and Nick will call an Internet conference with all state heads to determine a process.

*ACTION - Nick to call ASPRI working party Internet meeting by the end of November.*

### **5 Conference 2008**

Conversation continued around possible themes for the 2008 conference and the following dates were confirmed. Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July to Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July (inclusive). It was felt by executive it was better to hold the conference at the beginning of the week to as to allow time to get back to prepare for semester 2 classes.

Day 1 14/7/07 - industry day and ASPERA film festival  
Day 2 15/7/07 - pedagogy and research  
Day 3 16/7/07 - ASPERA AGM

There was some discussion on how to proceed with the ASPERA film festival and Leo and Rachel agreed to take this on as part of their conference organisational duties. We will formulate a strategy to present to executive group by March 2008.

It was agreed by the executive to contribute \$5,000 toward the 2008 conference. This reflects the extra day and the Film Festival.

*ACTON = Leo and Rachel to continue planning conference and film festival.*

## **6 Next Meeting**

It was decided a teleconference should be arranged for end of December 2007 and again in March 2008 (between 10-14<sup>th</sup>).

**Meeting closed:** 11.45am.