

Minutes ASPERA EXEC COMMITTEE

Date:	14 June 2018
Time:	17:00
Skype	
Chair:	James Verdon
Attendees:	Alison, Nicolette, Craig, Bettina
Secretary:	Tim Thomas

	Apologies		
	Ruari, Simon		
	Name of item	Discussion	For noting, approval, discussion, action
1	Minutes of previous meeting held		
	20 April 2018		<i>Approved subject to minor Changes</i> 1 James 2 Alison
2 /3	Matters Arising President report	List of Actions From Previous Minutes	For noting /discussion
	2/3.1	<p>Discussion around individual membership options.</p> <p>James summarized the discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We should keep institutional membership whilst continue to consider individual membership options. <p>Tim talked through a plan (see Talking points) whereby the conference could be financially independent from the ASPERA.</p>	Talking points from previous meeting

		Discussion to be continued at the conference	
4	Conference Report		
	4.1	Nicolette gave a report re registration and expressed concern at the low number of registrations.	Bettina and James to post a new reminder.
	4.2	Discussion re conference program draft... decision to make the most recent draft available.	Nicolette to liaise with Bettina re draft.
	4.3	Update book launch at the conference. Nicolette observed that it added to the conference cost. There followed a discussion re the format for the book launch James agreed to print and bring a flyer.	
	4.4	James and Craig to organise a gift for Leo.	
	4.5	Nicolette noted that the catering for the Casuals lunch was awkward due to unknown numbers.	
5	Education Report		
		Nothing to report	
6	Research		
	6.1	Research Excellence Report currently being proofread by Rauri. James to format print and to supply web optimised .PDF upload to the ASPERA site.	
7	Treasurer	NO REPORT	

8	Next Meeting:		
8.1			

ASPERA Exec

Talking points re ASPERA Individual membership: April-May 2018

Exec's intention re considering individual membership is to:

- A: Grow membership base in terms of heads (as opposed to 'members')
- B: Promote more active involvement in Association by more heads
- C: Increase income from membership fees so as to increase Association activities.

Broadly 3 options of individual membership discussed:

1. Add to existing institutional membership structure for any individual; with most probably income-based pricing tiers
2. Replace existing institutional membership structure with individual membership
3. Add to existing institutional membership structure for special categories only and defined pricing tiers that might include students, casual academics, retired academics, independent scholars. Might or might not replace existing Associate Membership category so option **3a** - with Assoc remaining and **3b** having full Institutional and individuals only

COMMENTS from Meeting 20180518

CRAIG

If we de-couple the conference financial contribution from ASPERA, would this enable us to a) retain more money to do ASPERA things and b) save the pain of working out 'free places' etc. each year. If we can pitch ASPERA as providing good benefits beyond just the two free places, surely institutions would still subscribe/pay? If the fee were kept the same (so, no more income apart from new members), and if no free conference places were given, would this give ASPERA an extra \$3000-\$4000 per year? Conference hosts should be able to keep things in budget, and departments might be more willing to invest each year if they see the value in ASPERA (the value of which might increase if there is more money to do better things for the discipline).

- not sure how associate or individual membership would work on this basis, but what if associate institutions could join for the same fee? Even a handful at \$650 each could raise a couple of grand.

- if we went for individual memberships as well, this would surely have to give a conference discount - though then we'd be in the same place trying to work out who owes what, who pays the shortfall, etc. Plus we'd need someone to manage all of these memberships ... could be a big task!

RAURI

I think the option for individual memberships should be explored in tandem with the existing institutional membership. I think there's a need for professional development, networking and conference attendance from the private sector providers (JMC, SAE, etc..) that is currently unmet.

As you describe in your prev document, I think this option (is there significant demand from individual screen academics?) can be explored relatively easily without disrupting the current institutional model too much.

I should add, interest from private providers above would be more on the prof networking and teaching and learning work of ASPERA rather than the research focus.

The complicating factor is around the conference. It's important. It's the driver for membership for both institutions and their staff and would be a big driver for the individual membership above. So who pays for it?

Could we have a trial year where the buffer for ASPERA to pay for the conference was there. But we trialed the individual membership being able to cover the conference costs?

Tim

Currently institutional membership is very cheap at approx. the cost of 2 conference tickets.

ASPERA gives some of the that institutional membership money to the conference to cover institutional delegates but not the full price of a ticket.

This means that currently non-institutional delegates subsidise institutional delegates at the conference. This does not feel right

(Working on numbers from the Canberra conference) ...If we remove the institutional membership freebee ASPERA can keep the conference subsidy (approx. \$4000) and the conference organiser supposing, that the institutional delegates still come and pay for their own tickets will receive the full amount per attendee, an extra 150 per institutional delegate. (\$3000)

|

If we make individual membership cheap, say \$90 (\$50 concession) but make membership part of attending the conference (be it for 1 day or 3) then a conference

ticket would 350 ish + 90 or \$440. This fits within most institutional conference support budgets?

In this case ASPERA receives a \$90 per attendee shot in the arm (4,500 or if attendee was a concession 2500)

This plan feels like having your cake and eating it which is a great thing since if conference attendance is steady ASPERA adds slightly less than 8K (there is uncertainty re concessional membership) to its budget.

Down side is that we have to manage a more complex membership with more complex voting arrangements.

The plan is open to finessing re numbers and how many delegates an institutional member gets to send (may be 2) to the conference on their institution membership (still paying full conference tickets but not paying the \$90 membership)