

Media, Communication & Cultural Studies Association

Report on MeCCSA AGM – January 2005 Professor Christine Geraghty, Chair, MeCCSA

The MeCCSA Annual General Meeting was held at Lincoln on 6 January as part of the very successful MeCCSA/AMPE conference. The AGM was well attended with 39 members present plus the MeCCSA Officers. The meeting began on a sad note as we remembered Tessa Perkins who died in September. In the traditional minute's silence we reflected on how much we owed Tessa and how much we miss her.

As Chair I reported briefly on the year's work and drew attention to the work of the sub-committees whose written reports are available on the website. I noted that problems with the website had been resolved thanks to the hard work of Karen Ross and that it was becoming increasingly important as a way of communicating with members and the outside world.

Gillian Doyle our treasurer and membership secretary reported on the finances which were reasonably healthy particularly since we had benefited from a one-off incorporation of inherited savings from a savings account held by SCCCMS. Membership was increasing though in response to a question the treasurer noted that members needed to check their departmental membership details on the website as it was impossible for MeCCSA to keep track of changing departmental lead contacts and nominated member lists unless we were informed.

The accounts and associated report from R. Rose and Co. (chartered accountants) were formally accepted *nem con*.

Association Activities Sub-Committee

A paper [on the work of the Women's Media Studies Network] was tabled by its chair Heather Nunn who gave a brief account of a number of successful events.

The work of the Postgraduate Network was reported on by Annette Hill. Over 50 had attended the first forum in September and a panel had been held at the conference. Just over 100 were on the email list and future events were planned for Cardiff and Ulster. Funding received and applied for from the HE Academy was noted with thanks.

Administration and Communication Sub-Committee

David Hesmondhalgh spoke to his report and particularly thanked Di Harris for help on the Newsletter. 670 people were now signed up to the JISCmail list, which received roughly 50 postings a month. The website had received about 57,000 visits between Aug 03 and Dec 04.

Academic Development Sub-Committee

Peter Golding spoke to his report on a number of issues including the successful work carried out by him and other MeCCSA members which had secured a favourable funding deal for media and communications students in England and Wales. Questions from members about the composition of the RAE sub-panel were raised and it was noted that our nominations had stressed the likely need for further consultation.

Report on ballot for Executive Committee.

The Chair noted the procedure introduced last year that required half the executive to stand for election annually. This first year the 8 persons to stand had been selected randomly by drawing lots. The result of the postal and AGM voting was that the following were elected:

Jane Arthurs
Maire Messenger Davies
Natalie Fenton
Peter Golding
Annette Hill
Mark Jancovich
Tim O'Sullivan
Sue Thornham

These joined the following members who continued on the Executive Committee

Anita Biressi
Barbara Cairns
Gillian Doyle
Christine Geraghty
David Hesmondhalgh
Sally Munt
Karen Ross

The Chair noted that the election meant two previous members would no longer be on the EC, namely Helen Baehr and Heather Nunn. They were both thanked for their outstanding service to the committee and to MeCCSA, and it was to be hoped they would be able and willing to offer their assistance in those areas where they had provided such expertise and effort.

Resolutions

The meeting considered a motion from the Executive Committee which I proposed from the chair:

This AGM believes in principle that the interests of the subject area would be best served by a single organisation with appropriate sections/networks for specialist interests. It therefore instructs the Executive Committee to pursue this aim with AMPE and any other interested organisation and report back to the next AGM

The resolution was discussed and passed nem con.

We later learnt that AMPE had passed a similar motion which cleared the way for discussions to begin on how we can carry this forward

All in all, reports to the AGM indicated that MeCCSA had had a successful year and was successfully establishing itself as an effective subject association. The Officers were thanked for all their work and it was noted that the next AGM and conference were being hosted by Leeds Metropolitan University