



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – 10th January 2020, University of Oxford

1. Apologies:

Steering Committee Members – Douglas Baird, Augusta McMahon, Yagmur Heffron, Claudia Glatz, Joanne Clarke, Shahina Farid, Felicity Cobbing, Neil Erskine

2. Minutes:

The Minutes of the 2019 meeting were circulated and approved.

3. Matters arising

None

4. Elections to and retirements from the Steering Committee:

- 1) Karina Croucher re-elected to Steering Committee as Chair
- 2) Rachel Sparks becomes representative member for CBRL, replacing Graham Philip who steps down
- 3) The roles of Treasurer and Membership Secretary will be split. Yagmur Heffron will continue as Membership Secretary
- 4) Call for elected members of the Steering Committee, especially from Early Career Researchers, students and those outside of institutional settings
- 5) Call for a treasurer and new student representative to join the Steering Committee
- 6) Thanks to Jan Picton for her work over many years, and especially covering the Membership Secretary and Treasurer positions for Yagmur Heffron whilst she is on maternity leave

5. BANE Constitution

Constitutional changes were circulated and approved by the membership. Major changes include:

- 1) Change from charity to association throughout as our charity status has lapsed. The question of whether to reapply for charity status was raised and discussed, but it was felt that the administrative burden (auditing etc) and associated costs would outweigh the benefits.
- 2) Serving terms for all Steering Committee members changed from 3 to 4 years
- 3) More inclusive approach to representative member institutions to move away from named institutions
- 4) Reinvigoration of elected members with no cap

6. Chairs report: News from the Steering Committee

- 1) Thanks to Christoph Bachhuber and the team in Oxford for a very successful conference. The shift to plenary panels appears to have worked and produced stimulating debate
- 2) Note the importance of keeping Near Eastern archaeology and heritage on the agenda, especially in light of recent events in the Middle East and high profile interventions from senior figures including the President of the United States
- 3) Note that we have received a message from Olivier Nieuwenhuys who has been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. He has been a supporter of BANE and would have liked to attend this time. A card to sign is available at conference and will be passed to Olivier and his wife and daughters
- 4) We are expanding student support funds through partnerships with our BIRI partners who are now all on the Steering Committee
- 5) BANE will start a trial of payment by Direct Debit for membership

Action Point – Treasurer/Committee to report on this at next AGM

6) A sub-group has been set up to explore other uses of funds, including support for visas for conference participants from regional scholars, childcare at conference, those with protected characteristics and open access publishing (especially by early career scholars and those without an institutional affiliation)

Action Point – Chair to report on this at next AGM

7) Outreach days will be held on 7th March and 14th March in London and Durham respectively

8) Reminder to encourage students to join BANEA

9) Reminder to post events on social media and to send items to Jan Picton for the London diary, especially events outside London

7. Membership Secretary and Treasurer's report, year ending 31 Dec 2019

BANEA membership: 380 at Dec 2019. ((350 at DEC 2018, 392 at DEC 2017, 384 at Dec 2016, 291 in 2015; 254 in 2014; 253 in 2013; 246 in 2012). 188 members pay by standing order (196IN 2017; 188 in 2016; 160 in 2015; 150 in 2014).

The breakdown of membership at December 2019 was: TOTAL 382

LCANE 285 – includes 14 students (2018: 270; 2017: 279; 2016: 273; 2015: 254; 2014: 215; 2013: 213)

NW 31 – includes 14 students (2018: 24; 2017: 25; 2016: 24; 2015: 17; 2014: 17; 2013: 18)

NE 41 – includes 22 students (2018: 38; 2017: 43; 2016: 41; 2015: 35; 2014: 19; 2013: 19)

BANEA overseas members – 18 (includes 8 students)

Grants

Grants for attendance at the 2019 Liverpool Conference: £1552

(2018: £1552; 2017: £1089; 2016: £1089; 2015: £1323; 2014: £416.70; 2013: £1169; 2012: £852; 2011: £1543).

BANEA Accounts for 2018

Income

Membership

£1645

TOTAL INCOME £1645

Expenditure

Grants

EXPENDITURE £795

INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE

£ 850

BANEA Opening balance £11,439 Closing balance £12,289

2018: £11,439; 2017: £ 10666; 2016: £4859; 2015: £8406; 2014: £5830; 2013: £4088; 2012: £4390; 2011: £4316; 2010: £3921; 2009: £5403; 2008: £5575; 2007: £6490; 2006: £6219; 2005: £6725; 2004: £6212.

Reserve to meet potential shortfall in conference costs £1600

Reserve to meet publication costs c.£1000 (?)

Reserve to meet grant allocation 2020 conference: £1255

Due from London Centre as membership subvention £800 for 2019.

8. BANEA Social Media Report

BANEA Facebook page followers (09/1/2020) 17,554 (2019: 16,677; 2018: 15,387; 2017: 15,387; 2016: 10,463; 2015: 6038; 2014: 3825). 2,974 in Modern Middle East; 2,895 USA; 1,501 UK; 56% under 44yrs.

Thanks to Neil Erskine and Emma Cunliffe for maintaining this.

BANEA Twitter account [@2019Banea](#): 380 followers (account maintained by Neil Erskine)

Website The website is live at [/banealcane.org](#). No statistics available. Updates have been made to bring site up to date and further updates to follow

9. Future Conferences:

BANEA 2021, Bournemouth University.

BANEA 2022, Cambridge University (tbc)

BANEA 2023, British Museum (tbc)

10. Any other business:

Professor Nicholas Postgate enquired whether it would be possible to make membership of BANEA free for students. It was agreed that the Treasurer/Steering Committee would explore the financial implications of this and make a recommendation.

Action Point – Treasurer/Committee to report on this at next AGM

11. Action Points

1. *Treasurer/Committee to report on Direct Debit trial at next AGM*
2. *Chair to report on Sub-Group discussion on use of funds at next AGM*
3. *Treasurer/Committee to model implications of making BANEA free to students and report at next AGM*