

Minutes General Meeting

Dyason House

6.00 pm Thursday 26 May 2016

Welcome

President Patrick Moore welcomed all in attendance and particularly to new members.

It was noted that a quorum had been achieved and the meeting would proceed.

The Notice of Meeting was noted as read.

Apologies had been received and the list of these was noted as read.

Approve the Minutes of the 25 November 2015 Annual General Meeting

- a) The President noted that at last year's Annual General Meeting, there was encouragement for a half-yearly meeting to update members and for feedback for the future.
- b) **Any Matters Arising from those Minutes**
 - i) No matters or issues were raised.
 - c) **Motion:** to accept the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 25 November 2015.
 - d) **Moved:** Patrick Moore
 - e) **Seconded:** John Basarin

Carried

Topics of Discussion

International Careers Conference (ICC)

John Allen

- f) Council Member and former ICC Committee Chair John Allen provided an update on the ICC in the absence of this year's Committee Chair, David Harper. The date was confirmed for Friday 26 August, to be held at the ANZ Pavilion at the Arts Centre. The room can accommodate up to 300.
- g) Keynote speakers include Tim Costello, who will be returning for the third year, and Jenny Bloomfield, State Director DFAT in Victoria. The conference will include three panels in the areas of Not for Profits, Business, and International Relations and Further Study. In response to survey suggestions from last year, career specific workshops have been added.
- h) Over the last few years wonderful sponsorship has been secured from Haileybury in 2014, Deakin University in 2015, and for this year, one from La Trobe University and a supporting sponsorship from the National Security College at ANU. Peta has been successful once again in gaining sponsorship of the venue from the Arts Centre at no cost to us.

Review activities year to date – Program, AND Themes for talks for the next 12 months

Alastair Roff

- i) Council Member and Program Chair Alastair Roff reported on the busy start to the year, with over 900 attendees so far at Dyason House for events. The country coverage has been widespread however additional areas were to be included such as India and China. Different formats were also being tried such as Roundtables, along with more luncheon and partnership events. ABC's 'Big Ideas' program has also recorded two events.
- j) The team behind the program organisation has been very active, meeting monthly to plan and prepare. He particularly acknowledged former Program Committee Chair Cate Pickett for her great work in setting up new frameworks for the future.
- k) Alastair also acknowledged the great support from DFAT with facilitating visitors for speaking engagements.
- l) Proposed themes for the next 12 months included trade, elections and global governance.
- m) Following discussion and the contribution of many, event suggestions included:
 - i) A follow up from the Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul set for May 2016
 - ii) Syria - the plight of refugees, the impact on neighbouring nations, is there a solution
 - iii) Global health issues – in particular the impact on the southern hemisphere
 - iv) Interfaith issues – the impact of religion around the world
 - v) Myanmar developments
 - vi) Economic impacts or foundations arising from war
 - vii) 'Brexit' implications
 - viii) The prospect of a US President Trump
 - ix) An overview of the global economy
 - x) ASIO and the issues of the under-resourcing of Russian specialists
 - xi) The Law of the Sea Convention and Norfolk Island
 - xii) China's 'One Belt, One Road' strategy
 - xiii) Changing dynamics of globalisation
 - xiv) The future of the UN and Europe
 - xv) US led trade partnerships
 - xvi) Post-Soviet countries and Russian aggression
- n) Promotion of events has been boosted by a newly appointed Marketing/Comms Intern who has been doing a good job with social media.
- o) Thanks were extended to the membership for their attendance and support of the program.

Discuss Study Tours

Patrick Moore

- p) The forthcoming Sri Lanka Study Tour
 - i) The High Commissioner of Sri Lanka kindly spoke at the Institute the previous evening as a precursor to the upcoming Study Tour. The itinerary has included top level official meetings in conjunction with the tourist sights. Tour participants were numbered currently at around 20, with a good mix of ages and gender.
 - ii) The development of on-going relationships should be an important aspect of Study Tours. A small scholarship has been suggested by Sean Jesudason of the AIIAV for the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute in Sri Lanka.

- q) Other possibilities, continuing out theme of “Coming in from the Cold” could include Cuba and Iran
 - i) Patrick visited the Iranian Ambassador in Canberra to discuss a potential visit to Iran, with potential dates of May/June 2017. The Ambassador has agreed to visit the Institute on 6 July.
 - ii) Others which have been suggested include Norway, New Zealand, South America
 - iii) AIIA NSW had visited New Zealand around two and a half years ago. North Korea, India and Ethiopia were suggested as other destinations.
- r) Further Suggestions
 - i) There was discussion about Study Tours, in particular what activity was happening nationally. Victoria is the main branch organising Study Tours. Other branches do organise Study Tours although not as regularly as Victoria. Sean noted that some young Tasmanian branch members had indicated interest in the Sri Lanka Study Tour (But none had registered). It was noted that proposed Study Tours were shared at national AIIA meetings.
 - ii) Suggested organisations for sourcing Study Tour leaders or speakers included IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association), Curtin University or the University of WA.
 - iii) It was suggested that if considering more than one Study Tour per year then plenty of notice to the membership was needed and plenty of time between Tours was necessary.

Major activities for the second half of 2016

Discussion ensued on the number and format of events. Suggestions included:

- iv) Smaller dinners for around 30-40 people
- v) City lunches
- vi) Boardroom lunches for small groups
 - (1) Boardroom evening events
- vii) Partnering with businesses for all the above as well.
- viii) Consulates and Embassies may have funding or community outreach grants of relevance to us
- ix) Discussion ensued on selecting speakers, with preference for speakers with up-to-date knowledge.
- x) It was noted that it was difficult to attract the 30 – 50 age group to evening events, lunches was perceived to help in this area.
- xi) On the question of how many events the Institute should hold per year, it was noted that careful planning of limited resources and ensuring financial and logistical support was important, particularly for the already “over-stretched Peta McDermott”.

Executive Committee

Patrick Moore

Patrick advised that the Executive Committee has been disbanded. Committees have been more active along with the engagement of Interns attached to those committees. However the ambitious growth desires can place pressures - current calculations have estimated that the work of five full time employees has been undertaken by AIIAV volunteers. In light of this, review of the structure was being undertaken to help ease the load. Denis Dragovic was investigating the possibility of corporate sponsorship to assist in this regard.

Patrick raised the matter of maintaining 'The Tribal knowledge of the Institute' thus an Advisory Board has been established under the chairmanship of former Council Member, Jim Short. Other members include Zara Kimpton, Les Rowe and Hugh Morgan.

Sir Zelman Cowen Oration

Breck Hilton

Council Member and Chair of the Sir Zelman Cowen Oration Committee Breck Hilton advised that Andrew Robb has accepted our invitation to present this year's premier event on 13 October, at The Australian Club. Organisation of the marketing is beginning with attention to the selling of tables of ten and sponsorship opportunities.

Festive Luncheon on December 8th

Breck also reported on the Festive Luncheon for 2016, to be held at the RAVC Club in Bourke Street. Planning was underway for securing a speaker. DFAT are kindly co-hosting the event with AIIAV.

Breck Hilton

Other matters raised by members

- A book group, discussing international relations issues. A qualified person could provide an informed critique followed by an interactive session. Potentially for a small group.
- A small luncheon roundtable, of around 15 – 20 attendees. It was noted that this type of activity would be well suited to a city located boardroom.
- A volunteer dedicated to finding opportunities with high profile visitors such as past visits organised via the national office - the Dutch Foreign Minister and the Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung Roundtable.
- An interview and Q&A session format.
- In response to a question on the direction for young members, it was noted that activity was reduced due to the departure of key members from the Young Professional Forum, however involvement was encouraged.

Patrick expressed great thanks for the feedback which was vital for future planning.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm.