

# Minutes

## Annual General Meeting

Meeting	22Mar2018/Mtg1	Location	Scotch College Board Room
Date	Thursday March 22, 2018	Facilitator	Tristan Hill
Start time	5:30 pm	Minutes	Bonnie Zuidland
End time	7:00 pm		
Attendees	Tristan Hill, Rachel Clark, Julian Lowndes, Harry Galatis, Lucas McGauran, Janette Poulton, Kalinda Ashton, Cathy Legg, Jill Howells, Sue Knopfelmacher		
Apologies	Josh Collier, Emmanuel Skoutas, Phil Steinke, Rob Wilson, Samuel Quinlan, Margarita Fair, Hayley Lewkowicz, Lorna Brooks, Andy Vaszolyi, Sarah Coleman		

### Item 1: Welcome to AGM

### Item 2: Confirm minutes of the last AGM

#### Decisions

Minutes from last AGM confirmed. Proposed: Tristan Hill. Second: Janette Poulton.

### Item 3: Chair Report

Welcome to all members of the Executive Committee, the Committee and members of the Association for our Annual General Meeting this evening.

I am very pleased to report that the Victorian Association for Philosophy in Schools successfully produced and planned, managed and coordinated an impressive array of activities since our last General Meeting, all delivered to promote the aims and purposes of our Association. Our activities involved the exploration of philosophical concepts through critical and reflective thought, the provision of high quality professional development opportunities for teachers and the encouragement of the Community of Inquiry methodology in classrooms. I will summarise our notable achievements this year.

The 2017 Victorian Secondary Schools Philosothon was perhaps the most diverse Philosothon we have had in years. We had representative schools from all educational and socio-economic sectors, and VAPS is proud to have supported a number of school to attend.

Janette established a Middle Years Philosothon as an ongoing and exciting feature of our events calendar. This Philosothon trialled a unique format of a number of events run over the course of the year and was been very well received by a number of schools.

Through our ongoing efforts to review our COI training methods, we have already established ourselves as a leader in P4C in Australia. We continue to develop these methods to the highest standards.

### Item 3: Chair Report

As the subject association supporting philosophy teachers across the state, VAPS hosted a number of VCE Network meetings on topics from the writing of SACs to preparing for the VCE Examination. We organised two Forums with the generous support of The University of Melbourne. Unfortunately, the University has now changed their community support model and we now need to search for a new home for the Forums. But, our Committee is already hard at work in securing alternative sites.

VAPS secured a second SPP grant from the Victorian Government late last year, to subsidise and support regional students and teachers of philosophy to attend philosophy events. This money granted to us means we can meaningfully support our regional colleagues and students – as we really should.

So, we have much to be proud. And now, can cast our ambitions forward: We seek to establish more rigorous training standards. We strive to improve our activities, buoyed by the feedback of our members. We are emboldened by an understanding that what we represent as an Association is a commitment to help, to improve and to be even better. And we look to a new crop of Committee members – our most exciting opportunity, to be sure.

I take this opportunity to thank all members of the Committee for their work over the last year. Our Education and Innovations Officer, Janette Poulton, has once again spear-headed our success this year. Her energy and tireless enthusiasm for the good work of VAPS is the backbone of our success. She has been, as ever, creative and dynamic in her approach to her work and I thank her for her amazing work.

I thank, especially, the Executive of the Committee.

Bonnie Zuidland, as our Secretary, has again proved to be one of the most hardworking and dedicated members of our Committee. She has volunteered to work in an array of jobs for which I am grateful. Her genuine warmth, her friendship, her enthusiasm and her dedication to her colleagues has been immense and I thank her for her efforts.

Josh Collier, the Treasurer, has done a wonderful job managing our finances. You will already know that Josh stepped down as Treasurer of VAPS earlier this year to move to Wodonga. I want to take this opportunity to laud his truly exemplary service to our Association. He has modernised our finances and enacted a more rigorous and transparent method of accounting. He has been a reliable member of the Executive, helping direct the business of the Association. His attention to detail in his job has been immense and I am most grateful. Indeed, without his efforts as treasurer for VAPS and for our previous SPP project, I doubt we would have been able to manage such a vast array of conditions and requirements as we are expected to juggle. I thank Ben Kilby, too, for jumping in as treasurer since Josh's departure.

As you are aware, I will not seek re-election as Chair of the Association this year. Instead, I look forward to spending more time with my family and especially my baby daughter, Lily, born October last year. I now look forward to contributing to VAPS through other projects. In reflecting on my years as Chair, I am proud to have led our Association, to have helped where I could and to improve our Constitution twice and our organisational systems. Mostly, I am grateful for having had the opportunity to serve. I have relished the opportunity to develop my leadership skills, to further my organisational abilities and to establish a rewarding network of fellow teachers. I have been the beneficiary of so much from VAPS and now, as I step back, I want to say simply: thank you.

My colleagues, fellow members, our work as an Association continues, but we can all be proud of our accomplishments over the last year.

#### Item 4: Education and Innovations Officer Report

Development of COI program – facilitators manual, level two model in development, apprenticeship model, assessors team (level one under the guidelines of FAPSA), in house level one training in schools – three schools doing this.

Monica Bini – will add Capabilities into Level One Training.

VCE Forums - Melbourne Uni will be moving to a new location

Unit 2 – at Deakin.

Philosothon – formal relationships with public institutions. MOU with institutions.

Ethical Capabilities Project – finalised, but still in publishing phase.

#### Item 5: Treasurer Report

Josh Collier's report

Headline items perhaps to be read out include:

- As of Monday, VAPS has \$34,975.28 in the bank.
- The big SPP grant money has been considered completely separately to my attached excel report, which includes all other regular VAPS monies. The SPP Grant is finalised, Janette and Bonnie to report further on the results of that.

My recommendations and important points for the committee to consider moving forward from this AGM:

- Memberships are our core business and sustain the organisations running costs. They should be fostered at every opportunity.
- We've made some great progress in making sure each event beyond our regular running costs, such as the philosothons, are self-sustainable; they pay for themselves. I think we've done a great job of keeping our finances focused on achieving our goal of promoting philosophy – and so while events should be as cheap as possible, they must also be self-sustaining, both financially and in terms of appropriately rewarding those who staff the events. So while VCE network meetings are perhaps best run by volunteers and free for members, Level 1 courses are of course run by paid presenters and attended by paying students. We should be mindful of this balance when planning future programs.
- Our finances are due for a constitutionally required audit. I'm sorry I haven't been able to arrange this within my time as treasurer.

I'd like to say a huge thank you for the opportunity of serving as treasurer for VAPS. It's been a fabulous experience for me, working alongside some absolutely professional and committed educators to promote philosophy as a valuable activity for the children of our society. It's been a pleasure working alongside all of you, but I'd like to particularly mention Tristan, Bonnie and Janette, who've been constant sources of help and shared work, since I arrived and very likely continuing far beyond today! We should all be proud of the work and impact we've had and continue to have at VAPS. I look forward to seeing you all at events and helping out now and then when I return to Melbourne next year.

#### Item 6: Special Resolution

Proposed constitution had been distributed prior to meeting.

#### Decisions

Modified Constitution adopted. Proposed: Tristan Hill. Second: Janette Poulton

#### Item 7: Election of Office Bearers 2018

#### Executive:

Chair: Nomination: Bonnie Zuidland. Proposed: Tristan Hill. Second: Janette Poulton.

Duty Chair: Nomination: Harry Galatis. Proposed: Janette Poulton. Second: Tristan Hill.

Secretary: Nomination: Lucas McGauran. Proposed: Tristan Hill. Second: Bonnie Zuidland

Treasurer: Nomination: Ben Kilby. Proposed: Tristan Hill. Second: Harry Galatis.

General Committee members: Hayley Lewkowicz, Andy Vaszolyi, Sarah Coleman, Emmanuel Skoutas, Jill Howells

#### Decisions

New Executive accepted.

#### Item 8: Election of other roles

Education and Innovations Officer: Nomination: Janette Poulton. Proposed: Tristan Hill. Second: Rachel Clark.

#### Other roles:

Membership Officer: Ben Kilby

Conference Convenor: Lucas McGauran

VCE Network Officer: Tristan Hill, Bonnie Zuidland, Kalinda Ashton.

Webmaster: Julian Lowndes.

Tertiary Sector Liaison Officer: Cathy Legg

Social Media/ Publicity Coordinator (inc. newsletter): Tristan Hill

(New Role) IB School Liaison: Sue Knopfelmacher

#### Secondary Philosothon Sub-Committee:

Schools Coordinator - Rachel Clark

Facilitator Coordinator - Ben Kilby

Judge Coordinator - Janette Poulton

#### Decisions

Acceptance of the above allocation of positions.

### Item 9: Membership Fee Review

#### Membership

Institution \$200

Individual \$80

Tertiary Student \$10

No change to membership fee structure.

Student membership fee for tertiary students.

#### Decisions

No change to fee or membership structure.

#### Details of next meeting

Date	Thursday March 22, 2018
Start time	7:00 pm
Location	Scotch College Board Room
Facilitator	Bonnie Zuidland
Minutes	Bonnie Zuidland

NOTE: A summary of tasks assigned in this meeting is on the next page.

New tasks assigned in this meeting (ordered by deadline)		
Description	Assigned to	Deadline
No tasks were assigned in this meeting.		