

# Minutes

## Annual General Meeting

Meeting	09Mar2017/Mtg1	Location	Scotch College Board Room
Date	Thursday March 09, 2017	Facilitator	Tristan Hill
Start time	5:04 pm	Minutes	VAPS Gmail Returning Officer
End time	6:53 pm		
Attendees	Bonnie Zuidland, Tristan Hill, Josh Coller, Janette Poulton, Audrey Rizzato, Debbie Michels, Laurance Splitter, Fiona Wheeler, Harry Galatas, Ian Worley,		
Apologies	Michelle Rocca, Susan Knopfelmacher.		

### Item 1: Chair's Report

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

The Victorian Association for Philosophy in School has three purposes which underpin all we do. VAPS seeks to develop and promote philosophy for children in Victoria. This involves the exploration of philosophical concepts through critical and reflective thought, the discussion of philosophical issues and the encouragement of the Community of Inquiry methodology in classrooms.

I am very pleased to report that VAPS, once again, has had a very busy year, preparing, delivering, organising and coordinating an impressive array of activities. VAPS conducted the very successful 8th Annual Victorian Secondary Schools Philosothon in August. My thanks goes to Bonnie Zuidland, Janette Poulton and Laurance Splitter who coordinated this wonderful event. VAPS supported the Primary Schools Philosothon with the National Gallery of Victoria, and we have sought to establish a Middle Years Philosothon as an ongoing feature of our program.

VAPS has held and expertly led educational seminars and training on the Community of Inquiry methodology. Indeed, it was our model of training which has been adopted by FAPSA, the peak body for p4C organisations in the country, recognising VAPS's leadership in the provision of quality professional development.

Since the introduction of the VCE, VAPS has operated as the subject association supporting philosophy teachers across the state. Under this guise, we have hosted a number of VCE Network meetings on topics from the writing of SACs to preparing for the VCE Examination. VAPS has sought feedback from our members on the workshops offered as part of our program. From that feedback, VAPS has a number of interesting workshops planned for 2017. We also organised two Forums, with the generous support of The University of Melbourne. The Unit 3 Forum was very well attended, the Unit 4 Forum, less so, but a new date for this year's Unit 4 Forum will seek to address this.

One of our major focuses as an Association this year has been our continuing work on the SPP Ethical Capabilities Project, using the funds procured from a generous government grant. The SPP project has been ably led by the project coordinator, Deb Conwell, and her team of Hub Leaders. VAPS looks forward to the conclusion of the project this year and the chance to reflect on what will be, I am sure, a job well done.

## Item 1: Chair's Report

I take this opportunity to thank all members of the Committee for their work over the last year. Your efforts have been well invested to the greater benefit of our members and, I trust, into your own interests and abilities.

I thank, especially, the Executive of the Committee. Josh Coller, the Treasurer, has done a wonderful job managing our finances. His attention to detail in his job has been immense and I am most grateful. Bonnie Zuidland, as our Secretary, has proved to be one of the most hardworking members of our Committee. Her enthusiasm and her dedication to her colleagues, her desire to help in an array of roles is so very admirable, and I thank her for her efforts. Laurance Splitter, as Deputy-Chair, has served our Association with a resolve that has ensured that VAPS has met our goals this past year. I remember well Laurance's speech at the 2016 Philosothon where he argued that we need the special skills of philosophy now more than any other time in recent memory. It is time for philosophy, for reason and for dialogue, and I couldn't agree with him more. Finally, I want to particularly thank Janette Poulton, our Education and Innovations Officer. Make no mistake: we are lucky to have Janette. She is effervescent yet determined; she is creative and dynamic and inventive. In her unique way, she has propelled our Association, pushed us even, to do more, to be better. We owe her much for her tireless service to the Association for, I believe, over twenty years.

And now we look forward. We look forward to improving the organisational capacities of our Association, to solidifying and regulating our program of professional development opportunities and hosted events. But, I am proud that we continue to be responsive to the needs and interests of our members through feedback and conversation. We look forward to our next Conference, to developing resources and programs for Primary Years philosophy and we look forward to further strengthening our Community of Inquiry training program.

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

### Decisions

Chair's report tabled.  
Seconded - Bonnie  
Motion: Agreed.

## Item 2: Education and Innovations Officer report

VAPS AGM Report 2016-2017

Education and Innovations Officer

VAPS was established in November 1990 - this is our 26th AGM.

It is the responsibility of the Education Officer to maintain and develop what is affectionately known as The Level One program. This is a course designed to lay the foundations for teachers and others to establishing the community of inquiry culture in their educational context. The pedagogy was inspired by the p4c project - the work of Lipman and Sharp.

### ACCREDITATION

Successful completion of a 2 day LEVEL ONE program results in a VAPS certificate of participation.  
Successful completion a 3 day LEVEL ONE program results in a FAPSA Level One certification.

WHO CAN DELIVER A LEVEL ONE PROGRAM?

## Item 2: Education and Innovations Officer report

□ Co-ordinator/s of a Level One program must be certified as FAPSA trained Level 2 facilitators demonstrating expertise both as an Educator and Philosopher. This role may be fulfilled by one or two personal.

□ Presenters must have Level One training or be academically qualified as Philosophers.

□ Coordinators are to be proactive in giving opportunity for level One trained persons to develop their skills as apprentice facilitators, or Level Two trained persons to develop their skills in presenting and organising as apprentice co-ordinators.

□ Applicants to participate do not require any past experience; although it is recommended that they have participated in some form of VAPS activity (eg VCE network, Philosophers, etc).

□ Independent co-ordinators must submit their list of presenters, Program notes prior to commencing their program, and participate in the assessment process of their participants if they wish their participants to receive accreditation from either VAPS or FAPSA.

□ All programs must fulfil the requirements set out in the FAPSA guidelines.

FAPSA Guidelines for Level One (2017) □ FAPSA Council on 18th April 2016 Working party established: Vanya Kovach (NZ) , Janette Poulton (VAPS), Phil Cam (NSW) , Catherine Gheraty (ACU), Emmanuel Skoutas (VAPS) □ FAPSA Council approved guidelines in Feb 2017 □ Guidelines distributed to current VAPS Level One presenters □ VAPS committee to discuss and formally accept

### VAPS LEVEL ONE (2002-2017)

VAPS has been conducting Level One PD program since the early 1990s. The Education Officer has been overseeing these on behalf of VAPS since 2002, and VAPS has contributed significantly to the development of the FAPSA national guidelines.

### VAPS LEVEL ONE 2016-2017

□ Janette Poulton coordinated Level One workshops @BEPS in March 2016. Oct 2016, March 2017. Assistants and apprentices included: Bonnie Zuidland, Jill Howells, Sherrie Knipe, Suzanne Oakley, Jenni Bradford

□ Emmanuel Skoutas coordinated Level One Workshops at King David School with Anita Bass

### LEVEL THREE aka LEVEL TWO (2009-2013, 2016)

These courses aspire to a Train the Trainer model and aim to support facilitators in training staff either in their own educational context or in co-ordinating Level One programs on behalf of VAPS.

Three "Level Two" programs have been held over the last year.

□ January 2016 VAPS

□ Mid 2016 NSW

□ January 2017 Sophie in ACU

### LEVEL TWO (aka ADVANCED LEVEL ONE)

To assist with the development of facilitators from novices to trainers, an intermediary training program is being developed by FAPSA.

PROPOSAL re-establish working party to develop LEVEL TWO for delivery in 2017

□ Planning for Advanced Level One commenced in June 2016 with Bonnie Zuidland and Emmanuel Skoutas.

## Item 2: Education and Innovations Officer report

□ We are seeking further directions from FAPSA. PROPOSAL re-establish a team of assessors for L1 certification In the past, whoever had presented was invited to join the team of assessors, to assist with moderation, and as further professional development.

PROPOSAL to review Budget

REGISTRATIONS □ TWO DAY INTRODUCTION WITH VAPS CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION: \$450 per person \$300 for members of VAPS \$150 full-time student \$100 VAPS student member. This charge includes morning and afternoon teas, lunch on Day 1 and substantial materials. Certificate of Participation provided for 12 hours PD. □ THREE DAYS WITH FAPSA LEVEL ONE CERTIFICATION: \$650 per person \$500 for members of VAPS \$250 full-time student \$200 student member. This charge includes morning and afternoon teas, lunch on Day 1 and substantial materials; as well as assessment of written assignment □ Also just reintroduced VAPS Institutional rego (minimum 3 people) at MINUS \$50 per person. ie 2 days \$250 or 3 days \$450 PAYMENT TO PRESENTERS □ PAYMENT TO PRESENTERS: currently \$100 per session □ PAYMENT TO L1 APPRENTICES: ? □ PAYMENT OT L2 APPRENTICES: ? □ PAYMENT TO COORDINATORS:?

### INNOVATIONS OFFICER

The role of the innovations officer is to find opportunity for expanding VAPS network of connections with thin the teaching community and across institutions. Currently the 3 most important projects are: -

1. Philosothon events
2. VCE projects
3. The Ethical Capability project

### PHILOSOTHONS

#### VIC PRIMARY (2012-2016)

Inaugural Primary Philosothon at NGV on 22nd June 2012 .... Wed 22 June 2016

□ Contact for schools: Rosemary Etherton Education Officer at NGV.

□ Contact for VAPS facilitators and judges: Janette Poulton

#### VIC MIDDLE YEARS (2016, 2017)

Inaugural Middle Years Philosothon @ Melbourne Museum with Liz Suda.

□ Contact for schools and facilitators: Janette Poulton

□ PrePhilosothon Events in Term 1

□ Final Philosothon in Term 4

#### VIC SECONDARY (2009-2017)

Eighth successful Philosothon run at Ballarat City Cite for year 8 to 11 students on

□ Contact for schools: Laurance Splitter

□ Contact for facilitators: Bonnie Zuidland

□ Contact for Judges: Janette Poulton

PROPOSAL (accepted): reinstate the Briefing session for all participants in 2017

#### AUSTRALASIAN (2013 -2017)

VAPS conducted Inaugural event in July 2013.

## Item 2: Education and Innovations Officer report

PROPOSAL (LSplitter): VAPS conduct 2018 event

ETHICAL UNDERSTANDINGS PROJECT Third year of successful application to Department of Education Strategic Partnership Grant to establish 4 hubs to train and produce resources for the Ethical Capabilities. Building on contacts in Public Places eg SLV, Zoo,

Long term aim to decentralise VAPS and have 4 centres providing resources for all the General Capabilities supported by p4c materials and COI pedagogies.

NB provision of contact support for regional schools

Use of FUSE to promote VAPS resources

### VCE EVENTS

VCE STUDENT FORUMS AT UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE (2003-2017) Thank you to Laura Schroeter for advocating on our behalf for an ongoing commitment. from the Philosophy Department at UniMelb. "The philosophy department and SHAPS consider this an internal event, not an external one. All of the speakers are members of the Melbourne department and this is part of our outreach program to high school students, on a par with open day..... SHAPS is committed to continuing to support the VAPS events. Yay!!! That means we won't need to go through all this again in September. There may still be some internal negotiations between different branches of the uni over fees, but VAPS should be in the clear. "

UNIT 3 VCE STUDENT FORUM (2003 - 2016) 15th May 2016 Mind, Body and Persons

UNIT 4 VCE STUDENT FORUM (2003 - 2016) 28th August 2016 The Good Life

PROPOSAL (accepted) : We trialled a new date for Unit 4 - not successful. Resume initial pattern - the Sunday after Father's Day.

PROPOSAL: Design of Unit 1 and 2 forums.

VCE TEACHER NETWORK (2002-2016) Is now in capable hands of Tristan Hill and Bonnie Zuidland. (2012...

### OTHER IMPORTANT CONNECTIONS TO BE MAINTAINED

FAPSA 2016 Conference in Wellington - over 100 attendees. Very successful. Congratulations to Vanya Kovach Laura D'Olympia from WA is the new FAPSA Chair

### CPTAV

I have attended several workshops and tabled support information for the development of our association

Assisted us in editing of our Constitution in 2016.

STU Teachers from Singapore were inspired by their learning journey to VAPS ten years ago. Since then we have been involved in Level One training in Singapore, and hosting visits to Melbourne. (most recent in Nov 2016)

MONASH UNIVERSITY Reestablished contact re partnership around Critical thinking and youth disengagement. Do we wish to respond?

### LOOKING AHEAD ...

### EARLY YEARS

PROPOSAL (Jpoulton) The Innovations Officer to commence investigation of funding to support development of Early Years arm of VAPS with a view to value adding to the Level One program.

## Item 2: Education and Innovations Officer report

Janette Poulton

7/3/17

### Decisions

Report tabled.  
Seconded: Bonnie  
Motion: Agreed

## Item 3: Treasurer's Report

The report was tabled. Formatting does not permit copying into these minutes but if you want a copy it is available via the Chair, Deputy, Secretary or Treasurer.

### Decisions

That we have a budget format for all major events. All events over \$100 must be budgeting formally. To be presented to meeting for approval prior to the event.  
Motion: agreed. Second: Ian.  
Josh to create a template to be submitted at the next event.

All events must at least break even. For the purposes of budgeting.  
Motion:Agreed. Second: Harry.

That the VAPS account is audited this year (via a recommendation from another subject association).  
Motion: Agreed. Second: Josh.  
To be done by January/February 2018.

Summary report tabled.  
Seconded.  
Motion: Agreed.

Task	Assigned to	Deadline
Create a template for budgeting for an event.	Josh Coller	31 Mar 2017
Find an accountant for the audit.	Josh Coller	31 Mar 2017

## Item 4: Review of paid positions on the Committee

We need to reconsider the paid positions within the organisation due to financial situation.

#### Item 4: Review of paid positions on the Committee

##### Decisions

That we reduce the number of paid positions within the association except for the Education and Innovations Officers. Remove - webmaster, Newsletter and membership officers.

Motion: Agreed. Second: Bonnie

Reconsider the payment to the Education and Innovations Officer.

Current CRT rate - \$48 per hr 6 hrs a week.

Motion - pay (48.88 x5) x 40 weeks 2017 CRT rates.

Second: Ian.

Agreed.

Role description for EIO tabled.

Minor changes made to wording. And additional dot point regarding VAPS Level One Training not done by the EIO.

Motion: Agreed. Second: Josh.

#### Item 5: Membership Payments and Subscriptions

Ind - \$70

School - \$150

Student - \$20

##### Decisions

Increase individual member \$80. Institutional rate \$200. Student rate \$10.

Motion: Agreed. Second: Harry.

#### Item 6: Election of the Committee

Committee members: Tristan, Bonnie, Janette, Josh, Audrey, Debbie, Julian, Laurance, Fiona, Harry, Emmanuel

Observers: Ian

##### Decisions

Committee members: Tristan, Bonnie, Janette, Josh, Audrey, Debbie, Julian, Laurance, Fiona, Harry, Emmanuel, Susan.

Observers: Ian

#### Item 7: Election of Office Bearers of the Association

Nominations:

Chair - Tristan Hill

Deputy Chair - Laurance Splitter

Secretary - Bonnie Zuidland

Treasurer - Josh Coller

<b>Item 7: Election of Office Bearers of the Association</b>
Motion: Agreed.
<b>Decisions</b>
Nominations: Chair - Tristan Hill Deputy Chair - Laurance Splitter Secretary - Bonnie Zuidland Treasurer - Josh Coller Motion: Agreed.
We need to start succession planning as Josh is leaving at the end of the year.

<b>Item 8: General Meeting - to follow AGM</b>
Concluded.

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
Find an accountant for the audit.	Josh Coller	31 Mar 2017
Create a template for budgeting for an event.	Josh Coller	31 Mar 2017