

POLITICAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

Minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting, 22 October 2005,
Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast

Minutes of the 2004 AGM

The minutes of the 2004 meeting were approved.

Matters Arising

Members asked for an update on the status of the PSAI website. The old site had been removed from the TCD server by Michael Gallagher at the request of the committee. In 2003 the Association engaged a website designer to produce a new version, and it was later agreed with Taylor & Francis that they would host and manage the website. However, it then became apparent that the site which had been designed was in a form which was incompatible with that used by Taylor & Francis. Maura Adshead had had discussions with Taylor & Francis during the 2005 conference, and they were hopeful that the new site would be up within the following month.

Treasurer's Report

As Christopher Farrington was unable to attend the meeting, Maura Adshead had prepared the 2004-2005 accounts. She reported that the Association's finances were stable, with a surplus of €2,455.03. Some organisational issues were identified which may need to be addressed. A few subscriptions continue to be paid by Standing Order, and these have proved troublesome in terms of both ensuring that Taylor & Francis are aware of these members and of then ensuring that those members don't subsequently renew their membership unnecessarily through the other channels. Maura suggested that the Association's financial year should be re-arranged so that there is time between the end of the financial year and the AGM to get accounts properly audited. She also confirmed that we do have charitable status, but that we would require audited accounts to maintain that in the future.

During discussion of the accounts, a member suggested that we have a relatively high level of assets for a charity and queried whether some of that money ought not to be used for 'good works'. The interest rate being paid on our assets was also questioned. The accounts were approved, on a motion proposed by Jon Tonge and seconded by John Garry.

Irish Political Studies Editors' Report

Jon Tonge reported on another good year for *Irish Political Studies*. The flow of submissions had increased markedly during 2005: 22 submissions, 5 rejected, 5 Revise & Resubmit, 12 acceptances. The average of 4 articles per issue would likely increase in the coming year. The imbalance between articles on Northern Ireland compared to the

Republic of Ireland remained at about 2:1. Average turnaround time for a publication decision was 9 weeks. The journal's priority for the coming year was to work towards getting *IPS* included in the ISI Citation Rankings, and the editors would be meeting Taylor & Francis in January 2006 to begin preparing a submission to ISI. In addition, it was hoped to start planning regular thematic special issues. New members would also be recruited to the editorial board.

A motion of thanks to Gary Murphy was carried, as he was stepping down as co-editor and being succeeded by John Garry. Jon Tonge would be stepping down at the end of 2006, to be replaced by Alan Greer. Liam Weeks was taking over as editor of the Data Yearbook issue from Christopher Farrington.

President's Report

Maura Adshead made her last President's Report, stepping down after three years in post, although she was happy to remain on the committee to offer support and continuity. She began by thanking the organisers of the conference. UCC had offered to host the 2006 conference, and the 2007 conference would be hosted by DCU. Volunteers were asked for the 2006 postgraduate conference.

Maura emphasised the importance of *IPS*, which has gone from strength to strength, and thanked Jon Tonge, Gary Murphy and Feargal Cochrane for their contributions. The Association itself had been through a transitional period, with some practical difficulties arising from the move from Frank Cass to Taylor & Francis, but it now had a firm base. Policies had been put in place to support members through schemes such as postgraduate funding and book launches; while we could communicate them better, the policies are there and will benefit members. Her greatest disappointment was that the new website was still not up and running. Maura thanked all those committee members and officers with whom she had served for their efforts on behalf of the Association, in particular Michelle Millar for bearing much of the brunt of a difficult couple of years as Secretary.

Any Other Business

One member questioned whether all conference attendees should be required to be members of the Association, or if this might act as a disincentive to people attending the conference. The general practice is to offer tiered attendance fees so that it makes financial sense to join at the same time as paying to attend the conference. The questions of how effectively communication flows between committee members, and how often the committee needs to meet in order to function most efficiently, were also discussed.

Conor McGrath
28 October 2005

Nomination and Election of Executive Officers, 2005-2006

President: Conor McGrath

Nominated: Maura Adshead

Seconded: Jon Tonge

Vice President: John Garry

Nominated: Jane McConkey

Seconded: Eoin O'Malley

Secretary: Luke Ashworth

Nominated: Gary Murphy

Seconded: Eoin O'Malley

Treasurer: Maura Adshead

Nominated: Conor McGrath

Seconded: John Garry

Postgraduate Representative: Aaron Edwards

Nominated: Jane McConkey

Seconded: Niall O'Dochartaigh

Executive Members

Liam Weeks

Christopher Farrington

Eoin O'Malley

Andrew Cottey

Niall O'Dochartaigh

Michelle Millar

PSAI AGM 2006: PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The very first thing I must record is my thanks to all the members of the committee over the last 12 months, who have done so much to develop the role and services of the Association.

Building on Firm Foundations

That said, it is important to acknowledge that we were very fortunate in having been left last year with a firm foundation on which to build. It's easy at this point to forget that the Association was in a quite different position three or four years ago. The move from Frank Cass to Taylor & Francis was not unproblematic, particularly in the areas of communication and membership. We had then fallen to around 75 official members, and we had no means of communicating with those members ourselves. The introduction at the end of 2004 of the monthly newsletter, and a series of mailshots we helped Taylor & Francis to distribute meant that this time last year we were in a much better position. But even then, at last year's conference I was sending the newsletter to 173 people while Taylor & Francis had 201 registered individual subscribers to the journal.

Today, there are 258 members/subscribers, of whom around 223 receive the newsletter each month – the others do not currently get it because I have no email address for them. If you are a member and do not receive the newsletter each month, please do let me know. If you are unsure about your membership status, you can get in touch with Sian Askew at Taylor & Francis at Sian.Askew@informa.com

I really must say that much of the credit for stabilising the position of the Association to the point where we have been able to take it forward this year goes to Maura Adshead and Michelle Millar who, during their terms as President and Secretary, did a huge amount of unseen and often unacknowledged work.

Website

Our new website just went live on Tuesday this week – www.psai.ie . It has full information about the Association and about *Irish Political Studies*, and extensive links to relevant resources. The content for the site was written a couple of months ago, so some sections are slightly dated or incomplete, but please bear with us and we'll get it all cleaned up over the next few days.

If you have comments about the site, and particularly suggestions for other material/links which could be added, please get in touch with Conor McGrath at mcgraths@iol.ie

Those of you who are giving papers at this conference and who would like your work to be included in a paper archive of the conference should email the paper to Conor McGrath but use a different address – conor.p.mcgrath@gmail.com

Our thanks to Ben Honey, Rebecca Webb and their colleagues at Taylor & Francis who have designed the site for us – it looks terrific and will be an enormous boon to the Association in future years.

Committee

This year's Committee has met on three occasions (9 December 2005, 10 March 2006 and 23 June 2006 – see attached minutes), and conducted a great deal of work by phone and email. In particular:

- We agreed the establishment of seven specialist groups within the Association, as a way of encouraging members sharing a common interest to work more closely together – see below. Most of these groups are holding their initial business meetings during the conference to determine how they might operate and what activities they might undertake.
- We have formalised a scheme by which the PSAI will support postgraduate students undertaking fieldwork or giving conference papers – see www.pesai.ie. This scheme was finalised relatively late in the year, and only circulated to members at the start of July, with a closing date of 31 August, for 2005-06 grants. No applications were received. We hope to receive an application from each of the departments for the 2006-07 grants. In addition, we will be rewriting the policy to allow for one grant per year to be made to a postgraduate student not based in an Irish department.
- We have drawn up a transparent policy for supporting book launches by PSAI members – see www.pesai.ie.
- The committee decided that the Association should withdraw from collective membership of the International Political Science Association (IPSA). We took this decision in part on financial grounds (feeling that the \$500 annual membership fee could be better spent on our own activities) and in part because of our inability to identify tangible and direct benefits which accrue to PSAI members through collective membership in IPSA. Individual membership of IPSA is of course still available to all PSAI members.
- However, we are keen to develop links with other associations which can deliver practical benefits to members. We are currently discussing this with the Australasian Political Science Association, and the PSAI will be represented at a meeting of 16 European associations in Germany next month to discuss issues such as the harmonisation of politics degree in Europe, accreditation procedures, quality assurance approaches, and the relationships between the various groups present.
- We have signed a new contract with Taylor & Francis for *IPS*. It runs for five years from 1 Jan 2006 to 31 December 2010, and would be automatically renewed for another three years unless either party gave written notice during 2010. From 2007 the journal goes up to four issues a year (between 512 and 640 printed pages, up from the current level of between 384 and 480 printed pages). Taylor & Francis currently (and will continue to) remit annually to the PSAI €26 per full member and €6 per student member. This move necessitates raising the

- subscription/membership fee from €45 to €50 for full members and from €25 to €30 for postgraduate members. 100% of this rise is accounted for by the rise in production costs; the committee was particularly firm in asserting that the Association itself should not use this move to increase its income from members.
- The Political Studies Association of Ireland joined the Anna Lindt Foundation. Dr. Francesco Cavatorta of Dublin City University is the Head of the Irish national network of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for Dialogue Between Cultures. The task of the ALF is to promote dialogue between the cultures of the Euro-Mediterranean region--including its three main religions: Christianity, Islam and Judaism--and to contribute to the visibility of the Barcelona Process through intellectual, cultural, and civil society exchanges. The Foundation has an initial three-year budget of approximately €1 million. For more detailed information regarding the opportunities offered to PSAI members through the Association's membership of the Foundation, please see the Foundation's website at <http://www.euromedalex.org/En/AboutUs.htm>.
 - We have submitted a book proposal to Routledge, which is currently being reviewed but the initial responses have been positive. Our hope is to publish next year, as a way of celebrating the Association's 25th anniversary, a selection of articles from *Irish Political Studies* over the years.

Two members of the committee have indicated prior to the conference that they will be stepping down at this AGM – Michelle Millar and Luke Ashworth. Both have been hugely supportive to the Association as Secretary in recent years, and deserve our thanks.

The new committee will hold its first meeting immediately following the end of the conference, at 1.15 on Sunday, to begin planning for the year ahead.

Conferences

The 2006 joint PSAI-PSA Postgraduate Conference was held at Queen's University Belfast on 19 and 20 May. The PSAI would like to thank QUB's School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy for hosting the conference, and particular thanks to the two organisers – Aaron Edwards (QUB) and Lyndsey Harris (UUJ). We must also thank Jon Tonge and John Garry who delivered a workshop on 'How to Pass Your Viva' and 'Publishing Articles in Academic Articles'; the QUB bookshop for providing a stand with discounted books and launching *Religion, Identity and Politics in Northern Ireland: Boundaries of Belonging and Belief* by Claire Mitchell; and the PSA's Irish Politics Group for sponsoring a wine reception. Finally, welcome to the 22 new PSAI members who joined at the conference.

The committee would like to thank Theresa Reidy for the enormous amount of work she has devoted to organising this present conference. She has put together a terrific academic and social programme, in superb facilities, and the Association is very grateful. Thanks also to Neil Collins and the other members of the department at UCC for their support and assistance.

The 2007 annual conference will be hosted by Dublin City University. That conference will be the major event marking the Association's 25th anniversary. It is to be convened by Eoin O'Malley, so any members with suggestions for the conference can contact Eoin.

We are of course seeking a host for the 2008 conference, so all offers are most welcome. For Departments interesting in hosting future PSAI annual conferences, a background note on the practicalities will be available on our website.

The 2007 Postgraduate conference needs a venue, but that can be sorted out once we have elected a new Postgraduate Representative.

Journal

Irish Political Studies continues to go from strength to strength. Jon Tonge is stepping down as co-editor, and we have to record our thanks for all the work that both he and John Garry have put in over the last year. We welcome Alan Greer, who is succeeding Jon as co-editor.

RIA Gold Medal in the Social Sciences

The PSAI submitted a nomination form for Professor Tom Garvin of UCD for the Royal Irish Academy Gold Medal in the Social Sciences. Our thanks to Professor Eunan O'Halpin and Professor Michael Laver for proposing and seconding Tom's nomination. And of course, we wish Tom's nomination every success. The recipient will be announced shortly.

Specialist Groups

The PSAI has established seven specialist groups in recent months, six of which are holding their initial business meetings during the conference to begin setting out how each group might operate and what activities each might undertake.

The Political Studies Association of Ireland exists to promote the study of politics both in and of Ireland. The Association is concerned with politics, not simply Irish politics. To this end, the specialist groups are seen as a way of supporting those who teach and research across the disciplinary spectrum. The Association will provide some funding for each group (in the region of several hundred euro per group per year) to support its activities. In addition, the Association's committee will work with the convenor of each group to identify potential group members and produce mailings to those people encouraging them to join and participate in the group. All members of specialist groups must also be or become PSAI members. Each group will have to provide an annual report of its activities and the use which has been made of any PSAI funds.

Specialist groups could provide a highly tangible benefit to their members, at the expense of little more than some time and commitment on the part of those who help set them up. They will become an effective networking resource through which contacts and research

partnerships can be developed. It is envisioned that each specialist group could undertake a range of activities – perhaps a dedicated newsletter or email discussion forum; maybe hosting workshops or seminars; certainly sponsoring panels at the PSAI annual conference and its annual postgraduate conference; perhaps bringing together collections of papers for submission to journal special issues; assisting postgraduate students to attend meetings; and so.

The seven groups which have been set up, and their convenors, are:

- Democratization, Conflict & Peace Studies Specialist Group: Dr William Crotty, Northeastern University, Boston w.crotty@neu.edu
- Diaspora Studies Specialist Group: Dr Feargal Cochrane, Lancaster University f.cochrane@lancaster.ac.uk
- European Studies Specialist Group: Dr Katy Hayward, University College Dublin Katy.Hayward@ucd.ie
- Interest Groups and Lobbying Specialist Group: Dr Gary Murphy, Dublin City University gary.murphy@dcu.ie
- International Relations and Area Studies Specialist Group: Dr. Francesco Cavatorta, Dublin City University Francesco.Cavatorta@dcu.ie and Dr. Maura Conway, Dublin City University Maura.Conway@dcu.ie
- Political Theory Specialist Group: Dr Iseult Honohan, University College Dublin Iseult.Honohan@ucd.ie and Dr Lasse Thomassen, University of Limerick lasse.thomassen@ul.ie
- Urban Politics Specialist Group: Deiric Ó Broin, Dublin City University deiric.obroin@dcu.ie

Supporting Members' Book Launches

This year, the Association supported a number of book launches by members:

- 20 May: *Religion, Identity and Politics in Northern Ireland: Boundaries of Belonging and Belief* by Claire Mitchell;
- 15 June: *Ulster Unionism and the Peace Process in Northern Ireland* by Christopher Farrington; and
- 20 September: *Irish Social and Political Attitudes* (eds.) John Garry, Niamh Hardiman and Diane Payne.

Basil Chubb Prize

The Political Studies Association of Ireland has established a new annual award to recognise the best PhD thesis (produced in an Irish university) in any field of politics. The award will take the form of a cheque for €250, very generously donated by Taylor & Francis.

Named after Basil Chubb, this award seeks to recognise an outstanding contribution to the research of politics undertaken in Ireland. Following a history degree and doctorate

in politics at Oxford University, Basil Chubb was appointed as lecturer in politics at Trinity College Dublin in 1948. In 1960 he was appointed Professor of Political Science, and first Chair of the new Department of Political Science at TCD. He headed the department until 1991. Widely described as the doyen of Irish political science, Basil Chubb's major books included *The Government and Politics of Ireland*, *A Source Book of Irish Government*, *Cabinet Government in Ireland*, and *The Politics of the Irish Constitution*. A frequent broadcaster during Irish election campaigns, Professor Chubb is credited with the development of a popular interest in and understanding of the Irish political process. Basil Chubb died in 2002 at the age of 80, but his legacy lives on both in his writings and through his former colleagues and students.

The judging panel for this inaugural year of the award was: Luke Ashworth, Michelle Millar and John Garry.

Priorities for the Year Ahead

I would welcome suggestions from members, but my personal priorities at this stage for the year ahead are:

- To further increase membership – to this end, the committee will be identifying researchers of Irish politics around the world and contacting them directly;
- To maximise the impact of our new website – by linking it to other sites, by increasing the information available on the site, and by keeping it constantly updated;
- To build relationships with other national political studies associations;
- To get the seven specialist groups bedded down and help them become active in terms of membership recruitment and events/collaboration;
- Organisation of the 2007 annual conference and postgraduate conference;
- (Hopefully) production of a book published by Routledge highlighting some of the best research to feature in *Irish Political Studies* over the years;
- Planning some ad hoc events and activities to mark the Association's 25th anniversary.

Conor McGrath
17 October 2006
mcgraths@iol.ie

Irish Political Studies Editors' Report:

1. Issues

Two 'normal' issues of the journal (June and Sept) were published, along with the Data Yearbook (Feb). The latter was edited by Liam Weeks and Christopher Farrington and also contained a report on the Northern Ireland 'Peace Polls' by Colin Irwin. The co-editors of IPS thank them for their excellent efforts.

2. Articles published

A total of 12 articles were published in *Irish Political Studies* in 2006, an increase from 9 during the previous year.

The articles were published in *Irish Political Studies* in 2006:

- 'Peter Hain: Secretary of State for Northern Ireland', Paul Dixon
- 'Ulster Says Maybe: The Restructuring of Evangelical Politics in Northern Ireland', Gladys Ganiel
- '...It's a united Ireland or Nothing? John Hume and the idea of Irish unity, 1964-72', Peter McLoughlin
- 'Social Inclusion and the Limits of Pragmatic Liberalism: The Irish Case', Marie Moran
- 'The Northern Ireland Government, the 'Paisleyite Movement' and Ulster Unionism in 1966', Margaret O'Callaghan and Catherine O'Donnell
- 'Conor Cruise O'Brien and the Legitimation of Violence', Diarmuid Whelan
- 'Reform of Politico-administrative Relations in the Irish System: Clarifying or Complicating the Doctrine of Ministerial Responsibility', Bernadette Connaughton
- 'Is Post-nationalism or Liberal-culturalism behind the Transformation of Irish Nationalism?', Catherine Frost
- 'Assessing the Relationship between Neoliberalism and Political Corruption: The Fianna Fail-Progressive Democrat Coalition, 1997-2006', Gary Murphy
- 'Ministerial Selection in Ireland: Limited Choice in a Political Village', Eoin O'Malley
- 'Between Party and Movement: Sinn Fein and the Popular Movement against Criminalisation, 1976-1982', F. Stuart Ross
- 'Sinn Fein and the Media in Northern Ireland: The New Terrain of Policy Articulation', Graham Spencer

3. Articles rejected

A total of 10 articles were rejected following comments from referees.

4. Articles pending – 11 in total.

These comprise 5 items still 'live' which are required to be revised and resubmitted; 2 accepted for publication in 2007 and 4 awaiting comments from referees.

5. Overall assessment

There has been a further significant increase in the flow of submissions during 2006. However, the imbalance in terms of submissions, 75% of which are on the North, remains. The quality of articles is generally good, with a final rejection rate of only 1 in 3 pieces. Comments from referees have generally been received promptly, with feedback on submissions provided to authors after six weeks on average.

6. Special issues

From 2007, the journal will be published FOUR times per year: 2 normal issues, plus the data yearbook and a special issue on a theme. The proposed themes subject to approval are:

2007: The Commemoration of 1916, edited by O'Callaghan and Daly. This has now been drafted in its entirety and has received favourable reports from referees.

2008: Crises in Ireland since 1969, edited by Girvin and Murphy

2009: Inclusion and Democracy, edited by O'Neill and McBride

An alternative offer has been received for 2008: Northern Ireland: Ten Years On from the Good Friday Agreement, edited by McAuley and Ferguson.

7. Reviews section

19 books were reviewed this year, a record number. The co-editors wish to thank Feargal Cochrane for overseeing the Reviews Section. There was a minor controversy earlier this year over whether non-Irish books should be reviewed. As journal editors we are happy to leave reviews to the discretion of the Reviews Editor, with the broad view (offered by members of the editorial board) that books of relevance to scholars of Irish politics should at least be considered for possible review. In the case of dispute, the Reviews Editor should consult with the co-editors, who will offer firm advice but not instruction.

8. Advertising

A new flyer has been produced for the journal, which should soon be in press. The journal has been extensively promoted at major conferences, such as APSA and the PSA.

9. ISI Citation index

This has been the only unsatisfactory element during the year. Insufficient progress has been made in terms of putting the journal forward for recognition in the International Citation Index, which would raise the profile of IPS and encourage submissions. This is a priority issue for the editors in their discussions with Taylor and Francis this weekend. Whilst such a bid might be rejected, it is nonetheless worth attempting.

10. New editorial board members

Four new editorial board members were appointed during 2006.

11. New co-editor

Finally, I (Jon Tonge) am standing down as co-editor at the end of this year, having completed my four years of service. The journal will be placed in the capable editorial hands of John Garry (QUB) and the new co-editor, Alan Greer (UWE). I would like to

thank John Garry, Feargal Cochrane, Gary Murphy, Maura Adshead, Conor McGrath, Paul Mitchell and Christopher Farrington, along with numerous referees, who have made co-editing *Irish Political Studies* such a pleasure.

PSAI ACCOUNTS

Balance Sheet Financial Year October 2005-30 August 2006

ASSETS

Current savings		
	BoI Current	12,921.00
	BoI Deposit	45,596.15
	BoI PSAI Press	0.47
Total Current Savings		58,517.62

TOTAL ASSETS 58,517.62

LIABILITIES AND EQUITIES

Opening Balance Equity		51,354.89
Consisting of:		
	BoI Current	6,169.57
	BoI Deposit	45,184.85
	BoI PSAI Press	0.47
Net Income		7,162.73
Total Equity		58,517.62

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY 58,517.62

Profit and Loss, October 2005-30 August 2006, with comparison to October 2004-October 2005

	2005-2006	2004-2005
Income		
Conference income	4,706.50	
Interest, BOI Deposit	411.30	621.18
Membership	3,424.06	2,849.43
Miscellaneous	82.55	209.44
Payments for editors	2,898.74	2,000.00
Royalties		855.06
Total Income	11,523.15	6,535.11
Expense		
Bank Service Charges	19.42	25.08
Conference expenses	4,011.00	
Contract Labour	240.00	
Editors' Fees, IPS		3,500.00
Refunds	90.00	
Transfers to Taylor and Francis		555.00
Total Expense	4,360.42	4,080.08
Net Income	7,162.73	2,455.03