



**Political Studies Association of Ireland**  
**Minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting**  
**19-21 October 2007**  
**Issacs Hotel, Dublin**

**Minutes of the 2006 AGM**

The minutes of the 2006 AGM were passed on a motion proposed by Eoin O'Malley and seconded by Aaron Edwards.

**Matters Arising**

None

**Treasurer's Report**

Maura Adshead presented the October 2006 - August 2007 accounts, which showed a surplus of €357.36 and total assets of €6,874.98. Maura noted a number of minor issues regarding the payment of outstanding membership fees. She also advised the Association that steps were being taken to clarify the charitable status of the organisation. She advised the meeting that outstanding royalties on *Politics in the Republic of Ireland* would be paid to the authors and she thanked them for their ongoing support for the organisation.

The accounts were approved on a motion proposed by Conor McGrath and seconded by Eoin O'Malley.

***Irish Political Studies* Editor's Report**

John Garry and Alan Greer reported on another year of progress for *Irish Political Studies*. The journal is published four times a year with two regular issues, a data yearbook and a special edition. Alan Greer advised the meeting that following an examination of the articles published in *Irish Political Studies* over the last number of years, a couple of patterns are clear.

- Over the period since 1986, there is a balance between articles on Northern Ireland and the Republic.
- There is a clear gender imbalance with 77 articles authored by men and 23 by women. Since 2002, this pattern has improved slightly with 67 articles authored by men and 33 by women. Reports are overwhelmingly written by men. He also noted that only a small number of women are asked to review papers.
- The institutional breakdown of papers was 40% from the Republic, 26% from Northern Ireland, 20% from Britain and 9% from Europe.

Finally, the editors noted that progress was being made in the bid to have the journal included in the ISI Citation Index.

**Election of the First PSAI Fellow**

Prof Tom Garvin was nominated as PSAI Fellow by Conor McGrath. The motion was seconded by Eoin O'Malley and unanimously approved by the association. Conor

spoke of the enormous contribution of Prof Garvin to the profession and in particular, to the association over the last number of decades. Prof Garvin accepted the Fellowship.

### **President's Report**

Conor McGrath reported on the activities of the organisation over the last year. He began by expressing his thanks to the committee which met four times over the year (22 October, 1 December, 2 March and 19 October). Conor thanked UCC for hosting the 2006 conference and TCD for hosting the 2007 postgrad conference. He notified the meeting that NUIG will host the 2008 annual conference and the next postgrad conference will take place in UCD.

Conor outlined the many activities of the organisation in 2006-07. The organisation worked and continues to work with the NCCA on the development of Politics as a leaving cert subject. The new subject will be called Politics and Society.

2006-07 saw the launch of seven specialist groups. The Democratisation Group held a one day seminar, European Studies hosted a Masterclass and the Urban Politics Group held a one day conference.

The Irish Political Studies Reader was launched after the AGM and Conor thanked the many contributors for their effort. A copy will be distributed to each member.

The PSAI continues to co-operate with a number of other organisations and over the year, there have been significant moves towards the creation of a European confederation of Political Studies organisations. This development will lead to new facilities and services being made available to PSAI members.

The organisation withdrew from IPSA because of a lack of communication and no perceived benefit of membership.

The inaugural book prize and the annual Basil Chubb PhD prize were announced at the annual dinner. Conor urged Heads of Departments to nominate people for the variety of schemes and prizes which are now offered by the PSAI.

Conor outlined a number of ongoing concerns with the membership and although membership is healthy, efforts to extend and maintain the membership continue. Following discussions, it was agreed that the organisation would consider publishing an annual membership directory, similar to that compiled by the PSA.

Finally, Conor concluded by thanking all those he worked with over his two years as president and he made a particular note of thanks to those who launched the organisation in 1982.

Maura Adshead proposed a vote of thanks to Conor, this was seconded by Eoin O'Malley and passed unanimously.

### **AOB**

AOB was taken before the election of the committee and officers.

Alan Greer proposed a vote of thanks to Fearghal Cochrane for his work as reviews editor. He will be replaced by Eamon O'Kane.

Niall O'Dochartaigh advised the organisation of plans to digitise back issues of *IPS*.

### **Election of Officers and Committee Members**

Three members of the committee notified the meeting of their intention to stand down. They were Andrew Cottey, Maura Adshead and Cillian McGrattan.

1. **President** Neil Collins (Proposed by Conor Mc Grath, Seconded by Adrian Kavanagh)
2. **Vice President** John Garry (Proposed by Aaron Edwards, Seconded by Yvonne Galligan)
3. **Treasurer** Eoin O'Malley (Proposed by Niall O'Dochartaigh, Seconded by Alan Greer)
4. **Secretary** Theresa Reidy (Proposed by Conor McGrath, Seconded by Liam Weeks)
5. **PG Representative** Jessie Blackbourne (Proposed by Alan Greer, Seconded by Yvonne Galligan)

Eleven nominations were received for the remaining committee positions.

1. Aaron Edwards (Proposed by Jim McAuley, Seconded by Conor McGrath)
2. Katy Hayward (Proposed by Christopher Farrington, Seconded by Conor McGrath)
3. Owen Worth (Proposed by Maura Adshead, Seconded by Jim McAuley)
4. Liam Weeks (Proposed by Conor McGrath, Seconded by Jon Tonge)
5. Niall O'Dochartaigh (Proposed by Jim McAuley, Seconded by Elizabeth Ball)
6. Conor McGrath (Proposed by Maura Adshead, Seconded by John Garry)
7. Jane Suiter (Proposed by Michael Gallagher, Seconded by Tom Garvin)
8. Christopher Farrington (Proposed by Aaron Edwards, Seconded by Tom Garvin)
9. Diarmuid Whelan (Proposed by Gary Murphy, Seconded by Eoin O'Malley)
10. Niamh Puirseil (Proposed by Yvonne Galligan, Seconded by Conor McGrath)
11. Adrian Kavanagh (Proposed by Gary Murphy, Seconded by Theresa Reidy)

Short speeches were given by each candidate.

Gary Murphy raised the possibility that some institutions could end up with no representation.

Following a PR-STV election, the following were elected to the committee.

Aaron Edwards  
Katy Hayward  
Liam Weeks  
Niall O'Dochartaigh  
Conor McGrath  
Jane Suiter  
Niamh Puirseil