

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 22 November 2023, virtually, via Zoom.**

The AGM commenced at 15:30

### **1. Finances**

Rosa Maria Fernandez provided a summary of finances for the year, indicating a positive situation for 2022.

2022 had seen increased income from JCMS. Income from the Lille conference also exceeded expectations.

The UACES Internal examiner has noted that UACES reserves are quite high and that we need to make sure we can justify these reserve levels to the Charity Commission.

RF emphasised the need for prudence as many of our income streams are uncertain or coming to an end – for instance JCMS income, and EU commission grants.

### **2. Financial Overview for 2023**

Another successful year with high income from Belfast.

JCMS income projected to be consistent with 2022.

Increased expenses attributed to inflation, consultancy, recruitment, additional staff, and salary increments.

Membership fee adjustment due to increase in costs: £65 for individuals, no increase for lower-income countries. There

### **3. Membership**

Slight decrease in 2022 and a further decrease in 2023.

Decrease in 2023 is largely attributed to free memberships offered during the covid pandemic which did not turn into paid memberships this year.

Income from membership has actually increased this year – but we also need to focus on improving numbers.

### **4. Staffing**

Introduction of Ollie Pilkington as Events Officer in April 2023, replacing Emma Marlow.

Acknowledgment of Emily's departure after 13 years at UACES and 8 as Executive Director. Simon offered his thanks to her.

### **5. Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)**

Koen Sloomaeckers presented the EDI report on textbooks, highlighting where the gaps in representation of EDI issues currently sit.

Collection of EDI data from conference registrants for monitoring acceptance trends.

Special thanks to research assistant Poppy Moncaster-Bridgeman for contributions.

Previous EDI officers Roberta Guerrina and Katharine Wright were thanked, alongside former chair Nick Startin, for originating a lot of the work that underpinned this report.

## **6. Journal Updates**

Contemporary European Politics was launched with Wiley in January 2023.

This followed the decision by UACES to close JCER due to increased costs and difficulties with publication. JCER published its last issue in August 2023. Simon encouraged members to read it.

Roberta Guerrina reported on JCMS. It continues to receive high-quality submissions with minor challenges in the publication process.

Bruno Luciano reported on the first year of CEP. It had recently published 2 articles but Wiley had not yet published the editorial that was supposed to accompany them. Once this was sorted out, UACES and CEP would do full promotion of the first 'issue'.

The journal was open access but there were funding options for European members via Wiley agreements and fee waivers for non-European members.

## **7. Audience Questions**

Simon opened the floor for questions and discussion.

Gerard Conway suggested exploring EU reform for future events, to be discussed via email.

## **8. Election Announcement**

Simon's farewell AGM.

Reminder that this would be Simon's last AGM as chair, encouragement for others to stand for election as Chair and committee members.

The AGM closed at 16.20.