



*The Society for the Study of French History*

**Agenda for SSFH Annual General Meeting,  
University of Leeds  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019  
12.30 p.m.**

**Minutes**

1. Minutes of previous AGM

The minutes of the previous meeting were made available for consultation by the meeting. The AGM approved these minutes.

2. Matters arising & Chair comments

DA noted the introduction of the new associate editor positions outlined in previous meetings.

DA thanked Mark Greengrass for his lengthy and indefatigable service to the society, noting that he was stepping down as a Trustee. DA noted that the committee had decided to offer Mark a life membership by way of thanks.

DA mentioned the introduction of the new code of conduct for conferences and events which had been inserted into the conference pack and was operating well.

DA noted that there was a provisional booking for next year's annual conference to take place at the University of Westminster

3. Committee Membership

AS welcomed new members appointed to the committee: Alison Carrol, Sara Barker, Ludivine Broch, Tom Hamilton

4. Equality and Diversity

DA proposed that the AGM address issues of Equality and Diversity under the next item, to suggest activities which could be proposed to improve the society's efforts in this area.

5. Suggestions for New Activities

Membership

It was suggested that the membership could be grown by insisting that conference attendees were Society members. Alex Fairfax, Tom Hamilton & Sara Barker noted that society membership was a normal function of going to conferences for other learned societies. There was also a discussion of whether applicants for Society awards and funding schemes should have to become members. It was noted that this could make it difficult for PG students to apply for funds, and the AGM suggested this rule could apply only to those in permanent posts. There was some discussion about making membership and networking more visible, and whether members could be listed online, or more information on conference participants provided (such as research interests). There were concerns about how this sort of measure would sit with GDPR.

Geographic eligibility

The AGM also discussed geographic eligibility. OO asked about the eligibility of those in France to apply for funding, and Donal Hasset mentioned the possibility of having a scholarship for someone from beyond the UK (eg Africa/Asia). There was discussion of establishing a competitive competition to fund full bursaries to attend our annual conference (with exclusions or specifications for particular groups – eg those outside UK/Europe). Kesewa John mentioned Caribbean Society offered a full bursary which included accommodation & fees, and also a partial bursary which covered only fees. The AGM queried whether this was compliant with society's charitable aims (to promote the study of French history in the UK). KV mentioned that we may need to report any wider change of this sort to the Charities commission. Joseph Clarke mentioned the potential of

establishing a scheme to attract students to undertake postgraduate study at UK institutions.

### PG/ECR Funding

There was some discussion of offering travel grants to all PG speakers at the conference. Laura O'Brien suggested extending research grants (currently limited to postgraduates) to people in precarious employment. Likewise, there were discussions of whether the society could increase the number of RG bursaries awarded, or whether there was the potential for providing a fund to support language training.

Discussion of increasing the amount of existing awards. Specifically increasing the cost of the research grant. Potential for sponsoring PGs to represent the society with sister societies elsewhere, such as Rude or Western.

RG bursary – Emily H suggested it may be set too early in the academic year, Kesewa John suggested we could have 2 dates.

### Schools Engagement

Daniel Gordon discussed supporting more schools activity and working more with ASMCF. Ludivine Broch suggested creating a 'resources for teachers' section on our website to which members could contribute. Discussion about trying to bring more high school teachers into contact with the society. DA suggested we needed to do more to revive schools engagement. Laura O'B suggested we could engage with HA to try and reach teachers directly. We could also try to encourage A-Level students to come along to PG study day.

### Diversity and Inclusion

Claire Eldridge suggested we should more prominently state that we welcome applications for membership, funding schemes, and prizes from under-represented groups. There were discussions of whether the society could support the organisation of either events or schemes targeted at events like Black History Month. Olivette Otele mentioned that if we were to do this that we could work

more closely with groups already engaged with Black History Month, and that we ought to contact Patrick Vernon, or potentially partner with IHR. OO suggested that we could also work with community organisations or support members to work with them, particularly people working with refugees and migration likely to be Francophone.

6. Officer Reports

AS presented officer reports

DA discussed the need for the society to focus on defining and developing its membership benefits

MC updated the meeting on recent publications in the MUP series

The AGM approved these reports and accounts

7. Announcement of Ralph Gibson Prize winners

AS read the report written by the prize panel.

8. Any Other Business

DA mentioned ongoing work on Constitution – AS to make available in advance of next year's conference.