

ITEM 2

AGM DRAFT MINUTES**DRAFT**

**MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY NINTH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
BY WEBINAR
ON WEDNESDAY, 1 JULY 2020 AT 14:00**

SCI/YY001

GOVERNANCE MEMBERS/PRESENTERS: Dr Alan Baylis, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Dr Geoff Fowler, Honorary Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance and Investments Advisory Committee; Dr George Okafo, Chair of the Membership Committee; Prof. Alan Heaton, Chair of the Early Careers Committee and Prof. Jenny Mordue-Luntz, Trustee.

SCI STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Sharon Todd, Chief Executive; Ms Anne Pinheiro, (Minute taker); Ms Karen Hobbs, Head of Corporate Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement; Ms Jacqui Maguire, Conference Manager; Mr Neil Eisberg (C&I Editor); Mr Steve Goodman, Finance Manager, and other staff members.

MEETING NOTICE: Members present and apologies: Please refer to the last page for a full list of members who joined the webinar meeting and apologies received.

In accordance with Charity Commission guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic, the AGM was held by webinar with a simplified agenda and no voting on any resolutions.

INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

Dr Alan Baylis, Chair of the Board of Trustees, welcomed members to the 139th SCI AGM and hoped that everyone was keeping safe. Although this was not in the usual format, he was delighted that so many members were able to join the webinar. He explained that the simplified agenda was slightly different from the usual structure and highlighted that the main AGM would cover the Chairman's report, finance update from the Honorary Treasurer and a CEO update followed by any questions. The programme would then continue with the notification of the Distinguished Service Awards and the Lampitt Medal winner, 2020 SCI Scholars announcement and 2019 SCI Scholars presentations.

CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW 2019/2020

The Chair began with recapping on what SCI is about and clarified the Society's vision, identity and mission. He highlighted how SCI was growing the membership by establishing corporate partnerships. He mentioned how SCI now had 60 Ambassadors and was vigorously pursuing new initiatives such as the mentoring scheme, which is now in place.

It was noted that the Board of Trustees (BoT) had decided that there would be no elections this year and, therefore, members of governance committees due to step down would remain in post for a further 12 months. Members have been invited to apply for open places and appointments would be made according to appropriate skills and competencies to positions available on the committees.

Further changes planned in the governance structure included:

- A President's Council that would provide BoT with strategic support and help to connect with and engage senior stakeholders.
- A Nominations Committee will search, select and recommend Board appointments/co-options and would be led by the President.
- A proposal for the future Chair of BoT to be a three-year appointment from 2021 entailing changes to By-Laws of the Society which will need to be approved firstly by the Privy Council Office and then by SCI members.

The Chair concluded by noting some progress made under the impact of COVID-19 and how SCI was operating in the 'new normal'.

- Scenario planning had been undertaken and the details of future strategies will be designed to be flexible.
- Although the longer-term impact is uncertain, SCI should be resilient with sources of income from Publications holding up well.
- Remote working and videoconferencing are proving to be efficient and, in particular, SCI webinars have been operating very well having attracted an impressive audience of more than 3,000 attendees over just a few weeks. This will hopefully create new opportunities for the Society in the future.

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2019/2020

The Honorary Treasurer, Dr Geoffrey Fowler, reported that SCI had a strong year with a surplus of £432k including gains on investments of £580k. Income in 2019 was £3.56 million. Publications remained the principal source of income (56% in 2019). He explained that during the current pandemic, SCI was still in a reassuringly healthy financial position.

He continued by reporting on the Reserves Policy, which aims to ensure that the Society preserves the value of its capital in line with the long-term rate of inflation. In 2008, a minimum level of free reserves of £6 million was set. The RPI inflation adjusted value in December 2018 was £8.1 million, based on an inflation rate of 35% (compound rate) since July 2008. The level of free reserves on 31 December 2019 was £6.98 million. The Reserves Policy is currently under review.

The new investment management company has been managing the investment portfolio very well, generally out-performing the benchmarks.

Members were requested to note that the membership subscriptions would remain unchanged for 2020/2021.

SCI STRATEGY UPDATE:

CEO, Sharon Todd, gave a short presentation on SCI's strategy and key activities during the pandemic. She emphasised the relevance of SCI to today's society and world events. There is a clear need for chemistry and SCI is well positioned to be involved. She explained the attention being given to SCI's Interest Groups and how SCI's digital activities had increased with the launch of SCITalks and other successful webinar series. Importantly, SCI is always focused on supporting the next generation of scientists and entrepreneurs.

The Chief Executive noted the continued and significant input and hard work of all members, staff and volunteers and thanked them for their efforts.

Any other business:

There being no more business, the AGM was declared closed.

Next year's Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday 7 July 2021.



Full list of attendees:

Arron Aatkar
Bashar Al-Gailani
Pauline Allen
Akshai Ashok Kumar
David Atkinson
Namdar Baghaei-Yazdi
David Berry
David Birkett
Robin Blake
Nicholas Bourne
Edwina Brejza
Duncan Broughton
Alexander de Bruin
Diane Burridge
Graham Byars
David Cameron
Adam Clancy
Paul Clarke
Tom Clarkson
Charlotte Crowhurst
Craig Duckham
Sebastian Green
Jeraime Griffith
Richard Hamilton
John Hardy
Alessandra Hausmann
Pol Hernandez Llado
Angel Hojati
Burhan Hussein
Iren Jasko
Raymond Jones
Patrick Kitt
Alan Knowles
Geoffrey Maitland
James Malins
Raman Mangabhai
Reuben Margerison
Alan Maries
Andrew McKnight

Andreas Neophytou
Thi Le Nhon Nguyen
Stephen East
David Evans
Paul Eweka
Malcolm Faers
John Farmer
Alison Foster
Anthony Girard
Gerhart Goltz
Karin Goodburn
Susan Grayeff
Richard Thwaites
Stephen Vbranch
Sarah Walker
Tim White
David Witty
Mark Woolfe
John Wren
Weiping Wu
Andrew Williams
Fred Parrett
Paulina Quintanilla
Jan Ramakers
Peter Reineck
Timothy Reynolds
Duncan Rosie
Ralph Sauer
Sarah Spurdle
David Stonor
K. Clive Thompson

Full list of apologies received by members:

Nat Monck
Julian Perfect
Eric Richards
Barry Rossell

Staff members:

Naadine Aitken
Will Atkinson
Matt Barnes
David Bott
Chris Brown
Marie Buffon
Theo Echarte
Ryan McKiernan
Greg McNeill-Moss
Shade Bull

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