

Australasian Speech Science and Technology Association

Minutes for the 2022 Annual General Meeting

held at 5pm on Wed Dec 14, 2022, ANU Canberra, also hybrid via Zoom

1. Acknowledgement of country

Felicity Cox (FC)

2. Attendance

Apologies – Michael Tyler, Yuko Kinoshita

Members in-person: Adele Gregory, Gerry Docherty, Felicity Cox, Laurence Bruggeman, Louise Ratko, Michael Proctor, Marija Tabain (MT), Rosey Billington, Debbie Loakes (DL), Isabella Shields, Sasha Calhoun, Janet Fletcher, Helen Fraser (HF), Josh Penney, Michael Wagner (MW)

Members online: Kirsty McDougall

Members non-financial – Michael Proctor (MP), Cathi Best, Catherine Watson, Chloé Diskin-Holdaway, Olga Maxwell

Non-members in attendance: Zara Maxwell-Smith, Elena Sheard

3. Minutes from 2021 AGM

Accepted by HF Seconded by FC

4. President's report – FC

FC thanked the SST organising committee, and especially Rosey Billington. She also acknowledged Anne Cutler and announced that ASSTA will name a lecture series after her to honour her legacy.

FC mentioned the ARC review, noting that the Ensuring Research Independence bill was unsuccessful.

FC reported that ASSTA is in discussion with LDaCA to repackage AusTalk to make it more accessible to all. She mentioned that the governance of AusTalk is fluid and unsustainable currently.

FC reported to the group that the awards schemes are open but we have not received many applications. She encouraged members to apply (and to check eligibility). FC also

mentioned the ASSTA special initiative, which helped fund SocioPhonAus, which this year was held in two parts (and the second part at SST).

FC reported on the INTERSPEECH 2026 bid, noting the theme “Diversity and Equity – Speaking Together” which has a generous support package associated with it.

MT asked about support for SST. FC mentioned that there is a \$15,000 seeding fund from ASSTA, a set of guidelines, and that the previous committee usually mentor the incoming committee. FC stated that ASSTA are prepared to offer as much support as possible.

FC ended her report by thanking Executive Member Janet Fletcher, and Treasurer Michael Tyler, for their service on the committee, noting they have now stepped down.

- All present accepted the President’s report

5. Treasurer's report – Michael Tyler

The financial report was noted as a tabled document (Michael Tyler was an apology). This is available on the ASSTA website for members <https://assta.org/assta-news/assta-agm/>

- All present accepted the Treasurer’s report
- MW noted that the surplus was too much. It was discussed that the amounts for awards was too little and needs raising, and MW suggested a subcommittee of 3-4 people to look into actioning this.
- FC noted that ASSTA cannot use all funds, because that is unsustainable.

6. Forensic Speech Science Committee – Helen Fraser and Yuko Kinoshita

A FSSC report was submitted to the AGM, and this document was made available to members. HF reported there were a good number of forensic phonetic papers at SST. She thanked Bronwen Innes for her service on the committee, BI has had to step down due to ill health. She reported a talk by Michael Jessen to the FSSC group earlier in the year. She noted Yuko Kinoshita has now left her research position at ANU and has a job in defence, but will still be a member of FSSC. She noted that Phil, Michael and Shun have continued their work and involvement in the committee. HF reported that the Research hub for Language in Forensic Evidence at The University of Melbourne has been very active (both HF and DL work in this Hub). She noted that ASSTA endorsed workshops hosted by the Research Hub for Language in Forensic Evidence, including one with Deakin Law School, and these were successful. In particular, following the call to action in 2017 there is now a commitment to law reform in the new year.

7. ECR / PG network activities – Louise Ratko and Josh Penney (headed by Sasha Calhoun from the exec)

8. Election of Officers

Michael Tyler and Janet Fletcher stepped down from their positions, they were thanked by FC for their work on the committee.

Members were nominated to positions as follows and this was unopposed:

New committee members:

- Olga Maxwell, nominated by JF, seconded by DL
- Michael Proctor, nominated by FC, seconded by JF. Michael Proctor was also nominated for treasurer by FC.

Returning committee members:

- Felicity Cox was nominated as President by DL, this was seconded by JF
- Debbie Loakes was nominated as Secretary by FC, this was seconded by JF
- Sasha Calhoun was nominated as an Executive Member by DL, seconded by FC

Louise Ratko was nominated as an ECR member of the executive by FC, this was seconded by Laurence Bruggeman

(see below re: Louise Ratko)

9. Motion: extend the term of office for each member of the Executive

Motions were put to members on 14 Oct 2022 with a chance for feedback, and these closed on 9 Nov 2022 (some wording changes were made for clarity after member feedback). This was sent to members:

“The motion is to extend the term of office for each member of the Executive to a two-year term with re-election allowable for up to two additional consecutive terms. Re-election after a pause is allowable for all Executive positions. All Executive positions will become available at the conclusion of the AGM held at each SST meeting. Any financial member can nominate for a position on the Executive via a nominator and seconder who are also financial members. The position of President should be filled by an existing Executive member with re-election of the President allowable for up to two additional consecutive terms. If the position of President becomes vacant mid-term, another Executive member will be appointed acting President for the remainder of the term. The acting President will be eligible for a full three terms of office if elected as President following their substitute role. A secret ballot prior to the AGM will determine the outcome of the nominations to be announced at the AGM. A vote will only be necessary if there is more than one person running for a position.”

This was unopposed. Laurence Bruggeman discussed that 4 consecutive terms might be appropriate, there was some discussion around whether the same person could be in a

role and for how long. It was clarified that the terms relate to the role, and not the person.

10. Motion: increase the constituency of the Executive to include an ECR representative. This wording was sent to members, with some feedback incorporated:

“The motion is to increase the constituency of the Executive to include an ECR (early career researcher) member. Any financial member who is less than 5 years from their PhD conferral date (with career interruption taken into account) at the time of the AGM at which the vote is to be taken is eligible to stand for this position on the Executive. They will need a nominator and a seconder who are also financial members. The term for the ECR member is 2 years. A secret ballot prior to the AGM will determine the outcome of the nominations to be announced at the AGM. A vote will only be necessary if there is more than one person running for a position.”

This was unopposed. Louise Ratko had previously put in an EOI to be the ECR member and has now moved into that role. She was formally invited by FC and this was seconded by Laurence Bruggeman.

11. Fee structure change

At the time of the motions, members had been emailed to provide feedback regarding fee structure change. In the email it was stated that:

“The third issue to be discussed at the AGM is the membership fee structure. We had some correspondence recently with membership regarding this proposal, and members were in agreement. We also responded to a small number of queries about the increase noting that fees have not increased for ten years, and will be used to assist with costs so we can continue to provide initiatives that support our members. The proposal is to increase the ASSTA membership fees as follows:

- the student fee increases from \$22 to \$30
- the associate member fee increases from \$44 to \$60
- the ordinary member fee increases from \$66 to \$90”

There had been some questions from members during the original discussion period, and at the AGM members were satisfied that this is appropriate.

12. Any other business

It was reported that a newsletter will go ahead in 2023 with Jesin James leading.

Michael Proctor reported on INTERSPEECH, noting that there is a bid (put in during November 2022, outcome Jan-Feb 2023) and the theme is Diversity and Equity – Speaking Together. He described Australia as a great place to redress the lack of diversity

in understanding speech, and that is part of ISCA's approach. He discussed the Australian community contributing clinical, forensics and hearing sciences (among other strengths). He noted the strongest competitor is Canada, and if they are successful the plan is to re-bid. MP stated that he will reach out to the wider speech science community when the outcome is known.

MW questioned whether the ISCA community balances out around the continents, for example across 1st and 3rd world communities? MP responded that INTERSPEECH has been in Korea 2022, Dublin 2023, Jerusalem 2024, Rotterdam 2025 – this Australian bid is for 2026.

FC thanked Rosey Billington (RB) for an extremely successful SST, the first back after the pandemic.

RB reported on SST, noting that SST registrations were at 104 (inc. committee and volunteers). There were 56 registrations for the main conference + tutorial (5 online), 36 for the main conference only (22 of these online), 9 who attended the tutorial day only (4 online) – this amounted to a total of 71 in-person and 31 online all up. RB also reported that there were 43 oral presentations across the conference, and 13 poster sessions. She also reported that proceedings are now available (<https://sst2022.com/proceedings/>).