



**Minutes of the Australian Health Economics Society
Annual General Meeting
5.00pm, 1 October 2015
STAMFORD PLAZA, BRISBANE**

(Subject to ratification at 2016 AGM)

The meeting was chaired by the President of the Society, Rosalie Viney, who declared the meeting open at 5.16 pm.

Present: Rachel Milte, Claryn Kung, Richard Norman, Julie Radcliffe, Jenny Whitty, Youjin Hahn, Michael Wright, Elisabeth Huynh, Terence Cheng, Jinhua Li, Michael Palmer, Jenny Watts, Tracy Comans, Philip Clarke, Liz Schroeder, Tho Thi Hai Dang, Gang Chen, On Yang, Anthony Niu, Son Nghiem, Natalie Carvalho, David Johnston, Rosalie Viney, Bonny Parkinson, Anthony Harris, Kim Dalziel, Chris Schilling, Tony Scott, Nicole Black.

Apologies: Jing Jing Li

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was moved by Tony Scott and seconded by Tracy Comans that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. The motion was carried.

President's Report

This will be my last President's report, so I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all the members of the Committee over the past six years – both current and former members. I'd like to make special mention of Jenny Watts who has been Treasurer for more years than she cares to remember and does a fantastic job of managing our finances and always making sure that we have the resources to do a great conference. Also special thanks to David Johnston and Mike Shields who have held the VP role over this time, and Lisa Gold, Jing Jing Li and Bonny Parkinson who have kept AHES running in the role of secretary, but also all the other members of the Committee who have provided support and helped with any tasks that needed doing.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate Jing Jing on the birth of her baby boy Jeremy earlier this year and to thank Bonny for her willingness to step in to the secretary role in what was also a pretty big year for Bonny, and for the efficiency with which she has undertaken all these roles and kept the Society running smoothly. Jing Jing and Bonny have had carriage of the management of our new website which has made communication with members much more streamlined.

Once again we are having a very successful conference – thanks to the great organisation and hard work of the local organising committee – in particular Jenny Whitty (UQ) has done a wonderful job,

supported by Son Nghiem (QUT) and Tracy Comans (Griffiths) – it has been great to have all three of the health economics groups in Queensland involved in the organisation of the conference. I'd also like to mention the administrative support from Nathan La Burniy and Malanie Banney. Also thanks to the Centre for Applied Health Economics at Griffiths for their sponsorship of the Conference bags.

One of the challenges for organisations such as ours in terms of Conferences is that the pool of sponsorship funding for activities such as Conferences is much smaller. It has been great that we have two very distinguished plenary speakers for this year's conference – but one of these was local, therefore a challenge for the incoming executive will be the issue of attracting sponsorship to support international plenary speakers as well as scholarships for students. We may need to consider a broader pool of potential sponsors in the future.

The AHED workshop is now in its third year and has become a core component of the Conference – this year there were 6 excellent papers and also great discussion of each paper both from the discussants and the audience of the Conference. We also had some interesting logistics with one speaker (unfortunately a scholarship recipient) who was unable to obtain his visa in time for the meeting delivering his paper via Skype, phone and keyboard! Congratulations to the team of ECRs who have initiated this really important new activity for AHES and to this year's organisers Rachel Milte, Claryn Kung, Anthony Nui and Haitham Tuffaha. I'd also like to acknowledge the sponsorship of the AHED workshop from the Monash Student's Association.

One issue that it would be useful for the membership to consider is the operation of the AHED workshop alongside the AHES main conference. In particular – whether the running of the AHED workshop and the prize for the best paper at the AHED workshop replaces the need for the AHES Early Career Prize, and whether and how we should incorporate registration for the AHED workshop within the AHES Conference registration (bearing in mind that one of the great attractions of the AHED workshop is that we have been able to keep it free for PhD students, and it would be a pity for this not to continue).

As mentioned this year we offered two scholarships for students – one international and one for a local student. One thing that we have implemented this year is making these scholarships available for papers presented at the AHED workshop but with strong encouragement for the recipients to also attend the AHES Conference – we have discouraged presentation of the same paper in both settings, so this is again something for consideration of the membership (whether scholarships should be for either meeting or only for the AHES Conference).

The other important activity of the Society this year has been the awarding of the AHES Research Prize which will be announced at this conference. This year we started with a long list of 36 papers which we then reduced to a shortlist of 8 for the international judges. I'd like to thank the other shortlisters – David Johnston, Luke Connelly, Tony Scott, Denzil Fiebig and Paul Scuffham for their careful consideration of the papers. The final prize was chosen from the shortlist by a panel of international judges – Professor Jim Smith (this year's keynote speaker), Professor Andrew Jones and Professor Bruce Hollingsworth, so thank you also to them for this important role. The prize will be announced at the end of tomorrow's plenary session.

The rules for the prize are that all papers published in Health Economics and Journal of Health Economics in the previous two years are eligible for the prize, and that other papers can be nominated. Typically we receive 3-4 nominations but the number of eligible papers has grown. Another factor for consideration is that the rules require that 50% of the authors have an Australian affiliation – however, given the timing of the award, this does not require that they have an Australian affiliation at the time of the prize is awarded, so again this is something the Executive may like to canvass the views of the membership.

In terms of other activities, the Society continues to be active in promoting the importance of health economics and health services research. This year we prepared a submission to the Senate Community Affairs Committee Inquiry into the legislation for the Medical Research Futures Fund.

Thanks in particular to Tony Scott, Mike Woods and others for their contributions to preparing this submission. Tony and I also appeared before the Senate Community Affairs Committee in their public hearings on this issue. At this stage there is fairly limited information about this – even who will constitute the Board or how its priorities will be determined but safe to assume that there will be emphasis on commercialisation, and there is a real risk that this will drive even more research funding to biomedical research and away from health services and health economics research. Funding success rates for health economics and health services research continues to be very low. Therefore advocacy is critical for AHES members.

The draft policy committee document remains in draft – this was circulated with the minutes of the last AGM and it would be useful for the meeting to give feedback to the incoming executive about whether they would like to see a more active advocacy role for the Society in terms of health policy. My own view is there is a careful balance between advocacy for the role of evidence and research to inform policy compared with advocacy for particular policies or programs (beyond research programs).

The final issue I would like to mention is the relationship with IHEA – this is an important time for IHEA with the transition to a new Executive Director and with a Board that has been fairly active in encouraging IHEA to focus on its core activities. There are upcoming Board elections and the Board nominated candidate for President is Bruce Hollingsworth, so I would encourage all AHES members who are also IHEA members to exercise their right to vote, and to consider suggesting Australasian members for the Board. Currently Denzil Fiebig is a member of the Board, and has been working hard to represent the interests of affiliate organisations, particular from areas other than North America and Europe.

Finally thank you to all the members of AHES but particularly to the Executive – it has been a great pleasure to be on the Executive and I look forward to health economics in Australia continuing to go from strength to strength with the incoming executive.

The President's report was moved by Tony Scott and seconded by Nicole Black. The motion was carried.

At the AGM, the President Rosalie Viney announced that she would be stepping down from the position of President after more than 6 years in the position. The Society greatly appreciates Rosalie's commitment to health economics in Australia and the outstanding work that she has done for the Society over his period as President. A motion of thanks was moved by Philip Clarke and seconded by Tony Scott. The motion was carried.

Treasurer's Report

Jenny Watts noted that there was a mistake in the 2013/14 financial report in terms of the balance in the AHES PayPal account, which required an adjustment of \$239.74 (see Appendix A). This amendment was moved by Nicole Black and seconded by Julie Radcliffe. The motion was carried.

Jenny Watts tabled the 2014/15 financial report and presented the 2015 Treasurer's report (see Appendix B).

The treasurer reported that there is a healthy balance in the balance sheet of the society with some excess revenue. This year there are 90 conference attendees. The Society has also awarded 2 travel scholarships.

The Treasurer's report was moved by Son Nghiem and seconded by Rachel Milte. The motion was carried.

Election of Office-Bearers

Nominations for candidates for election as officer-bearers of the Society were called for in the first issue of the 2015 newsletter. By the due date of 25th September 2015, the following nominations had been received by the Acting Secretary:

- President: Tony Scott
- Vice President: David Johnston
- Secretary: Jing Jing Li
- Treasurer: Jenny Watts
- General Councillor: Bonny Parkinson
- General Councillor: Claryn Kung

At the AGM Bonny withdrew her nomination for General Councillor. According to the rules of the Society, the other positions were declared elected.

The Society took nominations from members present for the remaining roles. The following nominations were received and carried:

- Public Officer: Bonny Parkinson (nominated by Rosalie Viney, seconded by Jenny Watts).
- General Councillor: Richard Norman (nominated by Bonny Parkinson and seconded by Anthony Harris).
- General Councillor: Rachel Milte (nominated by David Johnston and seconded by Gang Chen).

Special note: Anthony Niu will work with Claryn Kung on the organisation of the 2016 AHED Workshop. They will also identify another student who is keen to be involved in the AHED organising committee, with the chance to be part of the AHES executive as a general member next year.

Proposal for Term limits

That the rules of the society are changed to:

1. Set a term limit of a maximum of three years (continuously) for any one member can nominate for the same post on the AHES executive (e.g. president);
2. That the maximum (continuous) term a member can nominate for any AHES executive positions is six years.
3. If executive positions are unfilled after the election process, existing office holders may be invited by a motion carried at the AHES business meeting to continue to hold their posts beyond the specified term limits in parts 1 and 2.
4. That all officers of the AHES executive are requested to indicate in June each year whether they intend to re-nominate for positions and that this information be circulated with the call for nominations to allow members to know in advance of any vacancies.
5. That all society elections be conducted via the web to give the opportunity for all financial members of AHES to participate in voting.

Moved by Philip Clarke and seconded by Tony Scott

Philip Clarke, who spoke to the motion, argued that the rules regarding office bearers have not changed since 1978. Similar organisations have rules regarding term limits for office bearers, and term limits would encourage 'new blood' to join the executive. He acknowledged that a provision may be required to extend terms if no one nominates for a position. However if an election is required, then the current office bearer should step down if they have been in that position for a long time. Finally, Philip noted that it is time to think about the future and consider introducing voting via the internet. This would enable all members to vote, even if they are not present at the AGM.

Rosalie Viney suggested that the motion be considered in two parts: first regarding term limits, and then regarding voting via the internet.

Term limits

Regarding term limits, Rosalie Viney considered it a good thing for members to get experience as office bearers and she was comfortable with introducing fixed terms. However she considered that a 3 year term limit for a single position, and 6 years for total time may be too short. She also noted that other organisations have incoming and past presidents on the executive to learn or offer advice as needed.

David Johnston noted that there was not many members nominating for positions this year, and suggested that the total AHES membership is not big enough to set 3 year term limits. He also asked whether, if this motion is passed, whether those office bearers who have been in their roles for more than three years should step down immediately?

Bonny Parkinson noted that some roles, such as treasurer or secretary, required significant knowledge in order to be performed effectively, and so stepping down immediately may cause issues. Philip Clarke agreed that there was a need to identify members who may want to hold a certain position and train them up. Bonny suggested that maybe this could be done through introducing “assistant treasurer” or “assistant secretary” positions to ensure handover occurs smoothly. Philip suggested that this may form part of the general councillor position. However Jenny Watts argued that the role of general councillor has expanded and now includes the lead organiser of AHED, and the local organiser of the next conference.

David Johnston noted that in general members have been in a position for so many years and then have moved on. Tony Scott agreed that there has not been a demand in the past, however maybe there is a need to indicate whether a role is going to become empty. Rosalie Viney noted that this is a ‘push’ not a ‘pull’ solution, and questioned whether it was the right solution. She also noted that the Research Prize is every two years, and this needs to be considered in relation to the President position.

Anthony Harris agreed that a trainee positions were a good idea, however he didn’t like the idea of pushing people out of positions. Kim Dalziel suggested that it would be good to foster a culture where everyone has a turn. Nicole Black suggested that if there was a known vacancy then members may be more willing to nominate.

Richard Norman suggested that 4 year term limits for a single position and 8 years for total time should be considered. Finally Kim Dalziel suggested perhaps role changes should be implemented in a staggered manner.

Rosalie suggested that the new standing rules be accepted, but need to work out the details. She suggested that the wording of the motion be changed to:

1. Starting from the 2015/16 AGM, those appointed to the executive will serve a maximum of four years (continuously) for the same position on the AHES Executive.
2. If executive positions are unfilled after the election process, existing office holders may be invited by a motion carried at the AHES business meeting to continue to hold their posts beyond the specified term limits in Parts 1.
3. That all officers of the AHES executive are requested to indicate in June each year whether they intend to re-nominate for positions and that this information be circulated with the call for nominations to allow members to know in advance of any vacancies.

She also suggested that informal arrangements will also be implemented wherein a general councillor will be asked to shadow another member of the executive.

The changes to the wording was moved by Philip Clarke and seconded by Tony Scott.

Voting via the internet

Regarding voting via the internet, Rosalie suggested that the incoming executive be empowered to investigate and implement voting via the internet for the 2015/2016 AGM.

David Johnston noted that voting would need to occur earlier than the AGM, which means that the call for nominations would need to occur earlier. David Johnston suggested that the constitution would need to be checked regarding this.

The AGM asked the executive to report back to the society about the implementation of the new rules.

Proposal for new office-bearer

That a new position on the AHES executive be established for the head organiser of the Australian Health Economics Doctoral (AHED) workshop and the term limit for this position is one year.

Moved by Bonny Parkinson and seconded by Rachel Milte

Rosalie Viney noted that it has been very useful to have the lead organiser on the AHED executive. David Johnston agreed that it should be for 1 year. Rachel Milte noted that they were in the process of identifying volunteers to help with running AHED next year. Jenny Watts agreed that the organisers this year did a good job.

The motion was carried.

Proposal for AHES policy response committee

A proposal for AHES Policy Response Committee was circulated prior to the AGM:

- Establish a Health Economics and Policy Rapid Response Committee, convened by an AHES member who could become a member of the AHES Executive.
- The President or Vice President of AHES would also be a member of the Policy Response Committee.
- AHES members could nominate to be core members of this Committee or to be part of a broader network of members who could be called on to contribute to specific issues in their area of expertise.
- The Committee would report to the AHES Executive, and any comments or documents would be reviewed and approved by the AHES Executive before being released. The wider AHES membership may also be given the opportunity to comment on draft policy documents/ responses emanating from this rapid response committee. However depending on the timing this may not always be possible.
- The AHES Executive would refer any specific requests to the Committee (for example requests regarding Senate Committees or other Reviews).
- The establishment of this Committee would not preclude individual AHES members from commenting on specific issues (independent of AHES), but rather establish a mechanism for AHES to be able to create a coordinated and agreed response in a short time. It would also formalise a process that has already happened in the past.
- Meetings to be held via teleconference to discuss specific issues, and other communications via email or a sharepoint (such as google groups).
- It would be expected that the Policy Committee would hold virtual meetings at least twice a year and more often if required.

Rosalie Viney spoke to the motion. Rosalie reported that the 2013/2014 executive had discussed how AHES has had a limited role with regards to public discourse about policy (e.g. the current Medicare review). To date, AHES responses have been limited to issues around research (e.g. MRFF). She suggested that the AHES membership may be interested in responding to policy requests, and asked whether AHES needs a rapid response policy committee where there is a strong and common view? She also suggested that relying on the executive may not be the most appropriate approach, and

asked whether a separate committee who reports to the Executive should be set up to produce policy responses, and then the Executive leads/decides whether to proceed. Any specific requests for input to the Executive will be moved to the committee. Rosalie noted that the motion was discussed last year, and discussions focused around the balance regarding where we want to be active in policy and where we don't.

Tony Scott noted that AHES having a position on policies is very different compared to the past. He argued that other organisations spend whole days debating health policies and have teams doing research and responding to calls for submissions. He suggested that it is ok for AHES to have a position about health economics research and evaluation, however having a position on other issues may be too risky without having dedicated experts to develop positions on policies. It can also be political. Furthermore, AHES members do not have the time to do this. So far it has been manageable for Senate Committees that have come up 1-2 times a year.

Rosalie asked where do we draw the line between what AHES responds to?

Dennis Petrie suggested that perhaps AHES could push for evidence to be considered, rather than take a position (i.e. present the evidence). However David Johnston argued that if we do this it may look like AHES is favouring a certain position.

Phillip Clarke suggested maybe it could be trialled. For example, if someone has policy-relevant research, then AHES should send this to journalists 1-2 times a year. Rosalie agreed that this is something we can do, but how does AHES decide what is high quality research? David Johnston argued that the secretary does not want to field media inquiries.

Tony Scott suggested there is a role for AHES to disseminate research, however Anthony Harris argued that people can do that themselves. Jenny Watts suggested monitoring the Conversation and including articles by health economists in the newsletter.

Anthony Harris suggested that AHES could develop some simple principals, but even some of these may be contentious.

Jenny Whitty suggested that AHES support a communication conduit? For example, help support collaboration over issues across universities.

Rosalie Viney suggested that in terms of senate inquires, a submission from an organisation is treated differently to an individual or a group of individuals. Maybe we can use the website to see whether AHES wants to make a response to policy issues (e.g. a discussion board)?

David Johnston suggested that we use email to say here is something someone has written, and they want to make contact with other AHES members who are also interested. Anthony Harris agreed this is a good idea.

Finally Rosalie concluded that in terms of formal responses from AHES they will be restricted to the executive to issues with regards to health services research, data linkage etc. AHES will help put in contact members when someone wants to push a viewpoint, but AHES will not be involved.

Proposal Regarding Signatories to AHES Cheque Account

That the AHES AGM agrees that Jing Jing Li and Bonny Parkinson be added as signatories to the AHES cheque account held by the CBA in addition to the current signatories Lisa Gold and Jennifer Watts.

Moved by Jenny Watts and seconded by David Johnston. The motion was carried.

AHES conference 2016

Richard Norman reported that he will be the local organiser of the 2016 conference which is to be held in Perth. The local conference organising committee, dates and location are yet to be finalised.

Call for expression of interest for AHES conference 2017

The President, Rosalie Viney, put out a call for members to express interest for hosting the 2017 conference. The Vice President, David Johnston, noted that 2017 will be the same year as the International Health Economics Association (iHEA) conference, and so there is a preference for the conference to be held in Sydney or Melbourne. Those interested should get in touch with the AHES executive.

Any Other Business

None discussed.

The President declared the meeting closed at 6.35pm.

Australian Health Economics Society Incorporated (Y2540337)

Financial Statement 2014/15

Prepared by Jennifer Watts, Treasurer

		TOTALS
Opening Bank Balance (1/07/2014)		\$ 31,988.30
CBA at 1/07/2014	\$ 30,304.20	
Paypal at 1/07/2014	\$ 1,684.10	
Revenue		\$ 61,950.42
Interest (CBA cheque account)	\$ 12.58	
Membership - new/renewals 2014/15 (N=100)	\$ 7,400.00	
Adelaide Conference (Registrations=92)	\$ 40,040.00	
Sponsorship for Adelaide conference - UTS CHERE	\$ 5,000.00	
Sponsorship for Adelaide conference - Flinders	\$ 5,000.00	
Sponsorship for Adelaide conference - Monash CHE	\$ 2,500.00	
Monash Student Association sponsorship - AHED 2014	\$ 500.00	
Revenue adjustment	\$ 1,497.84	
Total Revenue		\$ 93,938.72
Expenditure		
2014 Adelaide Conference Total		\$ 50,709.33
- Venue + IT + printing	\$ 22,167.60	
- Dinner	\$ 6,374.00	
- Keynote Travel & Accommodation	\$ 20,030.00	
- Executive dinner	\$ 700.00	
- Conference costs (Flinders University)	\$ 1,437.73	
2014 scholarships Total		\$ 3,600.00
- AHES scholarships x5	\$ 3,400.00	
- AHED prize	\$ 200.00	
Other Total		\$ 11,326.23
2015 Conference Venue Deposit (Brisbane)	\$ 7,683.00	
Teleconferencing	\$ 106.87	
Sundries (gifts)	\$ 171.85	
AHES Web site maintenance (Victor Lo)	\$ 1,380.00	
Bank Fees and Charges		
- CBA	\$ 184.42	
- Paypal	\$ 1,198.09	
NSW Fair Trading	\$ 602.00	
Total Expenses		\$ 65,635.56
Balance (30/06/2015) CBA	\$ 26,697.04	
Balance (30/06/2015) Paypal	\$ 1,606.12	
Closing Bank Balance (30/06/2015)	\$ 28,303.16	\$ 28,303.16

at 29/09/2015

CBA	51,620.39
Paypal	1,485.80
Closing Bank Balance (29/09/2015)	\$ 53,106.19