

**Minutes of the Australian Health Economics Society
Annual General Meeting
2:30pm, Tuesday 15th September 2020
Online**

(Subject to ratification at 2021 AGM)

The meeting was chaired by the President of the Society, Julie Ratcliffe, who declared the meeting open at 2:31 pm.

Present: Edifon Akpan, Samia Badji, Natalie Carvalho, Terence Cheng, Michelle Cunich, Henry Cutler, Barbara de Graaff, Sonja de New, Lidia Engel, Lisa Gold, Megan Gu, Philip Haywood, Claryn Kung, Susan Mendez, Cathy Mihalopoulos, Rachel Brennan, Richard Norman, Alicia Norman, Jemimah Ride, Anthony Scott, Jia Song, Michelle Tew, Caroline Watts, Befikadu Legesse Wubishet, Virginia Mumford, Aarushi Dhingra, Julie Ratcliffe, Nathan Kettleworth, Andrew Partington.

Apologies: Nil

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was moved by Lisa Gold and seconded by Rachel Brennan that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. The motion was carried.

President's Report

2020 has been year like no other in the history of AHES. We have all had a very challenging and unprecedented year, with the COVID pandemic and associated restrictions forcing us to postpone our annual face to face conference in Brisbane until 2021.

Despite the challenges caused by the restrictions we have still been able to meet virtually for an AHES event today which has been a great success and it is fabulous to see so many AHES members remaining online to attend and participate in this our 2020 AGM. We have had several fantastic new initiatives commence this year including continuing with the fantastic ground work commenced by our immediate past president Tony Scott to introduce the Deeble-Scotton Prize for Policy Impact. John Deeble along with Dick -Scotton, laid the foundations for Medicare when they worked at the Melbourne Institute in the late 1960s, and John went on to establish the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, and was also involved in establishing AHES. I would like to thank the members of the Policy Impact Committee Stephen King from the Productivity Commission, Rosalie Viney ITS, Michael Shields Monash and Michelle Tew from the University of Melbourne who generously gave up their time to judge the applications. All members of the Committee commented on the high quality of the applications. We plan to continue offering this ward on a bi-annual basis and we look forward to receiving more applications from AHES members in future years.

A second new initiative this year was the introduction of the rising star award and I would like to thank all of the ECR AHES members who took the time to prepare and submit an application. The AHES Exec Committee were very impressed with the high quality of all the applications received and I would particularly like to thank Sonja de New

for her excellent adjudication and co-ordination as Chair of the selection committee. Again we look forward to receiving more applications from our pool of highly talented ECR AHES members in future years.

AHES Executive Activities

Research Australia. As reported in previous AGMs, AHES is a member of Research Australia, the peak body for health and medical research in Australia. Two Research Australia Health Economics Roundtables have been held this year. The first was held in April and focused on health economics and aged care (hosted virtually by Research Australia) including presentations from myself and Professor Kathy Eager from the University of Wollongong and the second roundtable will be held virtually tomorrow. These roundtables are an important vehicle for research translation and for communicating what health economics can offer to key policy makers and other Research Australia members in the Health and Medical Research Sector. Due to a clash with AHED I will be unable to attend tomorrow's meeting although AHES will be well represented by Sonja and Rachel and other members. The roundtables are limited in number to around 35, and AHES members are welcome to attend, but usually the places fill up fast.

Health Economics Connect. We established a new newsletter 'Health Economics Connect' in 2018 aimed at policy makers, to help promote the research and activities of members that are of interest to policymakers. We have had four newsletters so far. We have established a mailing list of policy makers and key organisations, as well as the newsletter being sent to AHES members, though they are not our prime target. The newsletters are produced by a committee of AHES members who take it in turns to lead the production of each one, and this model seems to be working well. I'd like to thank out-going Health Economics Connect committee members Jay Stiles for his membership and contributions to this committee prior to his recent change in employment. Also Alison Pearce for her contributions to the committee prior to her departure on maternity leave. I would like to thank the current committee AHES members Jo Flavel, Caroline Watts, and Claryn Kung for their feedback and continued contributions. If any members have any content they would like to bring to the attention of policy makers, please get in touch. And we are always looking for people to help.

IHEA. Report from Tony Scott - the representative of AHES on the IHEA Board
Prof. Anthony Scott is the IHEA Board Director representing AHES (term ending in 2021). He is a member of the Finance Committee (Chaired by Rosalie Viney) and a member of the Nominating Committee (which is responsible for suggesting nominations for IHEA Board positions).

The main activity of IHEA in the past year has been planning for the 2021 congress. A decision was made to hold the congress virtually (with the face-to-face Cape Town Congress delayed until 2023), with a recent short survey sent to members about the format. The plan is to hold the congress with a similar size of participants but a significantly reduced registration fee, and with consideration given to time zones for the timing of sessions. There has been much debate about what to do and many different budget scenarios examined. In terms of format, a popular suggestion is to have oral paper presentations pre-recorded so that the actual session can focus more on discussion, so that interactions between participants are maximised. Registration will open as usual later this year.

IHEA has a number of member-led Special Interest Groups, with newest SIG on Mental Health. These have also been behind the growing number of IHEA webinars.

An Equity, Diversity and Inclusiveness survey was undertaken earlier this year with results available very soon. We also have a focus during the current Presidential term of Winnie Yip to explore capacity strengthening initiatives in health economics for LMIC. As well as engaging with SIGs and regional associations, a survey was recently sent out to help scope some of the issues.

The IHEA mentoring program has been reviewed this year, and a call for the next set of mentees and mentors will be made soon.

Nominations for the Arrow award and Student prize open later this year. This year a new award was established to recognise the contributions of the late Adam Wagstaff: the "Adam Wagstaff Award for Outstanding Research on the Economics of Healthcare Financing and Delivery in LMIC".

AHES Mentoring Session

We held a virtual AHES Mentoring session in late July and this was a fabulous success with very positive feedback received from both mentors and mentees alike. I have no doubt that the excellent organisation of this event made a massive contribution to its success and I would like to thank the 2020 AHES Mentoring Committee: Natalie Carvalho (Convenor), Michelle Cunich, Sonja de New, Megan Gu, Li Huang, Tianxin Pan, Alison Pearce, Dennis Petrie for their time spent arranging and convening this event

AHED

The AHED PhD workshop will be held virtually tomorrow with featured presentations from some of our most talented PhD students. I would like to thank the 2020 AHED paper selection committee Chaired by Steve Birch, Natalie Carvalho, Paula Cronin, Terence Cheng, Hannah Carter, and the AHED organisers Michelle Tew (University of Melbourne), Ingrid Cox (University of Tasmania) and Alice Tran (University of Queensland) for their contributions in organising this important event in our annual calendar which will be held for the first time in a virtual format and I am sure this event will prove to be a big success in spite of the current restrictions.

AHES 2021

We are pleased that Tracy Comans at the University of Queensland has agreed to be the local organiser for next year's AHES Conference which will be held as a traditional face to face meeting (COVID permitting) in Brisbane.

Expression of thanks

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the AHES Executive committee for 2020 Sonja De New Deputy President, Rachel Milte Secretary, Virginia Mumford Treasurer, Mutsa Gumbie Public Officer, Michelle Tew AHED representative, Barbara de Graff General Councillor and Tracy Comans conference organiser.

This is Rachel Milte's final year as secretary and Mutsa Gumbie's final year of service and myself and the AHES Executive would like to thank Rachel and Mutsa for their highly valued contributions to AHES during the past 4 years and to wish them both well in their future endeavours. The AHES Executive members have worked patiently and tirelessly during this extraordinary year and I would like to personally thank you all once again for making 2020, my first year as AHES President a pleasure and a joy and a seamless transition despite all the challenges and unique hurdles that we have faced.

It was moved by Rachel Brennan and seconded by Anthony Scott that the President's report be accepted. The motion was carried.

Treasurer's Report

Virginia Mumford tabled the 2019/20 financial report and presented the 2020 Treasurer's report (see Appendix A).

Virginia Mumford noted that the financials show us to be in good shape after an extremely successful and well organised conference in Melbourne. We had more than 150 attendees, which seems to be record for the AHES conferences.

With the help of the conference team in Brisbane, headed by Tracey Comans, we selected the conference centre at the Royal Agricultural Showground for the conference. We are hoping this will all go ahead next year and have rolled over the deposit to lock in our spot.

To help us organise our conferences we have extended our contract with CVENT and this has enabled us to pay no fees this year and an 8% reduction over the next four years.

We currently have 201 members paid up by the census date for the AGM and these numbers are growing steadily.

We have made some changes to the website to make that easier to negotiate including the ability to send receipts from Paypal. If you receive one of these, please note they look like an invoice but clearly state that the amount has been paid.

It was moved by Julie Ratcliffe and seconded by Rachel Brennan that the Treasurer's report be accepted. The motion was carried.

Election of Office Bearers

The Secretary, Rachel Brennan, informed the meeting that there was one nomination for Secretary (Michelle Cunich) and one for Public Officer (Megan Gu). Both were elected. Four nominations were received for AHED Organiser and, after voting, the successful candidate was Xiuqin Xiong. Virginia Mumford also re-elected as Treasurer.

Nomination for candidates for election as office-bearers of the Society were called via the August notice sent to the membership. By the due date of 23rd August 2020, the following nominations had been received by the Secretary.

Secretary:	Michelle Cunich
Public Officer:	Megan Gu
AHED Organiser:	Aarushi Dhingra, Qing Xia, Xiuqin Xiong, Ingrid Cox
Treasurer:	Virginia Mumford

As for the roles of Secretary, Public Officer, and Treasurer there was one candidate, according to the rules of the Society these positions were declared elected. As there were four candidates who nominated for the AHED Organiser role, a vote was held for this role electronically prior to the AGM. Xiuqin Xiong received the most votes in the ballot for AHED Organiser. Under the rules of the Society, Xiuqin Xiong was elected to the role of AHES Organiser role.

Membership Officer Role

Rachel Brennan explained how the Secretary role has expanded over recent years and the potential benefits of splitting the workload between the Secretary and Membership Officer. Due to this, the President has directed that a new role will be trialled as a Membership Officer over the next year. Based on the results of this trial, a Membership Office role could be instated in the AHES Executive in the constitution via a Special Resolution at the next AGM. Lidia Engel has volunteered to take up the Membership Officer role over the next year as part of the trial.

Updating AHES Official Address

The Treasurer, Virginia Mumford, spoke to the issue of changing the AHES official mailing address to a single address, that of the AHES Public Officer.

A motion for voting on changing the AHES official mailing address to a single address was moved by Virginia Mumford and seconded by Julie Ratcliffe. The motion was carried.

AGM attendees voted on the issue of changing the AHES official mailing address to a single address. There were a total of 25 YES votes (majority). Agreed.

Mentoring Activity

The Convenor of the AHES Mentoring Committee, Natalie Carvalho, updated the meeting on the work of the AHES Mentoring Committee, success of the AHES Mentoring Workshop (with invited speakers and speed mentoring), new members joining the Committee, and next steps for the program including the speed mentoring workshop to run annually, and establishing a 1:1 mentoring program.

Sonja de New praised the efforts and leadership of Natalie and the contributions made by the Committee Members.

Conference 2021

The President, Julie Radcliffe, outlined how the 2021 Conference is planned to be held in Brisbane, Queensland with Tracy Comans (UQ) as the local organiser. Invited Speakers from the cancelled AHES Conference 2020 have been invited to present at the 2021 Conference. They have confirmed their attendance.

Any Other Business

a) Anthony Scott updated the meeting with regard to his role in IHEA, with his term ending next year. He outlined some aspects of the new process to fill this position.

b) Susan Mendez thanked the Executive for their help with looking for the key areas of research expertise within the AHES Membership. Wider discussion centred on the possibility of seeking information about each member's areas(s) of expertise (methodological and subject area) through the information collected via first registration of members/annual membership renewal. Discussion noted that these details are currently private; could seek consent from members to have this information available publicly.

Rachel Brennan suggested that the Executive assess what is currently being collected from members, consider how to possibly expand the information collected, and then consider a way to provide this information. Process to be led by the new Membership Officer, Lidia Engel.

c) Anthony Scott opened the discussion concerning the degree of AHES involvement in Research Australia Roundtables. Julie Radcliffe noted that she was in contact with Research Australia and had contributed to some (aged care and a content one), and Sonja de New noted that she had attended a few Roundtables as well. Henry Cutler commented that it would be helpful to develop a more consistent plan for AHES involvement in these roundtables; integrate academic health economics work into Research Australia's work. It was felt that it would be helpful to consider how this involvement and contribution could be further enhanced as well.

A motion that "The President, Julie Radcliffe, contact Research Australia to discuss AHES membership opportunities to contribute" was moved by Lidia Engel and seconded Anthony Scott. Carried.

No further business.

Meeting closed at 3.22pm.

Appendix A: Treasurer's Report

AHES FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2019-2020 Financial Year

Opening Balances		
	CBA at 01/07/2019	\$37,930.87
	PayPal at 01/07/2019	\$7,345.91
	Balance 01/07/2019	\$45,276.78
<hr/>		
Revenue	Interest	
	Membership	\$6,350.01
	Conference fees	\$98,095.00
	Sponsorship	\$17,000.00
	Total Revenue	\$121,445.01
<hr/>		
Expenses	Melbourne 2019	
	Venue final payment	\$(29,615.00)
	Conference dinner	\$(4,705.00)
	Exec/Speaker dinner	\$(1,011.73)
	Conference sundries	\$(2,221.99)
	AHED Catering	\$(2,001.35)
	AHES and AHED International speakers	\$(9,597.00)
	AHED Domestic scholarships	\$(1,200.00)
	AHES prizes	\$(1,100.00)
	AHED prizes	\$(750.00)
	Brisbane 2021	
	Venue deposit	\$(6,058.75)
	AHES Web site maintenance	\$(1,103.44)
	CVENT	\$(3,957.35)
	Paypal fees	\$(2,756.31)
	Net ATO payments	\$(6,340.00)
	Research Australia	\$(1,844.04)
	Adjustments and refunds	\$(1,506.10)
	Total Expenses	\$(75,768.06)
<hr/>		
Closing Balances		
	CBA 30/06/2020	\$87,864.12
	Paypal 30/06/2020	\$3,089.61
	Balance 30/06/2020	\$90,953.73
<hr/>		
	Provision for internet fraud	\$(4,950.00)
	Closing balance total	\$86,003.73
<hr/>		

