

MINUTES OF THE 11TH BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASGRG
held at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, Tuesday 10 December, 2019

The meeting opened at 4.15 p.m.

Present: Jörg Frauendiener (President), Malcolm Anderson (Secretary), Susan Scott, David Wiltshire, Karl Wette, Krzysztof Bolejko, Colin Maclaurin, Woei Chet Lim, Matt Visser, Nikodem Poplawski

Apologies: Todd Oliynyk (Treasurer), Leo Brewin

1. The minutes of the 10th Biennial General Meeting, held at the Gravity Discovery Centre, Gingin, Western Australia on Monday 27 November, 2017, were presented to the meeting. Woei Chet Lim moved that the minutes be accepted, and David Wiltshire seconded. The motion was approved, with the following corrections:

“David Wilshire” should be “David Wiltshire”

“Gervais Bay” should be “Jervis Bay”

“Barry Barrish” (twice) should be “Barry Barish”

Matters Arising:

Susan Scott mentioned that the ASGRG was not represented by a plenary speaker at the last AIP Congress. Ray Weiss was invited as a plenary speaker but pulled out at the last minute, so Susan Scott and Paul Lasky instead gave a combined plenary talk. Previous plenary speakers in GR at AIP Congresses have included Bruce Allen, Steve Carlip, Gary Horowitz and Barry Barish. Jörg promised to submit names of potential plenary speakers for the next AIP Congress (in Adelaide in December 2020) early next year.

2. President's Report: Jörg Frauendiener informed the meeting that

(i) The OzGrav Centre [the ARC Centre of Excellence for gravitational wave discovery, hosted by Swinburne University] is up and running.

(ii) David Wiltshire, Richard Easther and Jenny Adams have submitted a proposal for a New Zealand Centre of Excellence in Astrophysics, which if funded will be a network for planetary and space science with 16 principal investigators, costing \$5.5 million a year for 8 years. The proposed name for the project is the Kerr-Tinsley Centre [Beatrice Tinsley was the first female professor of astrophysics at Yale University].

(iii) He [Jörg] delivered reports to the AIP Council Meetings in 2018 and 2019, as ASGRG is a cognate society of the Australian Institute of Physics. ASGRG members are eligible for a fee reduction if they wish to join the ISGRG. The general advice of the AIP was that the ASGRG should remove the option of lifetime membership, which was restricting the income of the society.

3. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer, Todd Oliynyk, was unable to attend the BGM and sent his apologies. He reported by email that the Society's current account contained \$10,702 and there was another \$5,305.75 in Paypal. The net balance of funds was therefore \$16,009.75.

4. Auditor's Report: No auditor's report was available at the BGM.

5. Appointment of Auditor for the next session: Malcolm Anderson would ask John Schutz if he was willing to remain the Auditor of the Society's accounts.

6. Election of officers: The following people were elected officers of the ASGRG Committee for the 2019-2021 session unopposed:

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|------------|-------------------|---|
| President: | Jörg Frauendiener | (nominated: David Wiltshire, seconded: Susan Scott) |
| Treasurer: | Karl Wette | (nominated: Susan Scott, seconded: David Wiltshire) |
| Secretary: | Malcolm Anderson | (nominated: David Wiltshire, seconded: Jörg Frauendiener) |
| Officer: | Susan Scott | (nominated: David Wiltshire, seconded: Jörg Frauendiener) |
| Officer: | David Wiltshire | (nominated: Susan Scott, seconded: Jörg Frauendiener) |

Krzysztof Bolejko was also co-opted as a Committee member.

Karl Wette was appointed as a signatory to all the Society's bank accounts.

7. Date and venue for ACGRG11: The date of the next Conference was set for December 2021, but the venue remained undecided. The next Amaldi meeting would be held in July 2021 at Swinburne University in Melbourne. One possible venue for ACGRG11 was Hobart. Krzysztof Bolejko would investigate this. ACGRG12 might be hosted by the ANU in December 2023.

8. Other business

There will be a Summer School in Mathematical Relativity in Nelson, New Zealand in January 2020, organised by the New Zealand Mathematics Institute. 30 students will attend, including 6 from Australia.

It was agreed that the advertising for ACRGR10 was sent out too late, and an effort should be made to advertise ACGRG11 much earlier.

It was agreed to keep the fees for membership of the ASGRG unchanged, namely \$40 a year for full membership, \$20 a year for student or unwaged membership, and \$250 for lifetime membership.

The ASGRG website is hosted by Monash University, and there is always a need for someone who can spare the time to update it regularly. Karl Wette agreed to look at the website and see if he could take it over.

Susan Scott stated that the ASGRG needs more members from OzGrav, and should actively try to recruit some.

The meeting closed at 5.35 pm.