

Association for the Study of German Politics

Annual General Meeting

Goethe-Institut Inter Nationes, London, 12 April 2002

Present:

Matthew Allen	Dan Hough	Silke Pottebohm
Kiki Anastasakos	Charlie Jeffery (Chair)	Monika Prützel-Thomas
Peter Barker	Emil Kirchner	Thomas Saalfeld
Vanessa Beck	Astrid Küllmann-Lee	Ulrike Schulz
David Broughton	Joanna McKay (Treasurer)	James Sloam
Andreas Busch	Alister Miskimmon	Gordon Smith
Chris Flockton	Neville Osmond	Antje Sommer
Simon Green	Stephen Padgett	Graham Timmins
Beatrice (Secretary)	Harper John Preston	Helga Welsh

1. Apologies for absence

Geoff Roberts, Marianne Howarth, Karl Koch, Willie Paterson, Peter Pulzer, Roger Morgan, Martin Lodge, Clare Annesley

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

These were distributed in the June 2001 newsletter and were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

It was agreed that these would be covered elsewhere in the agenda.

4. Chair's Report

Prof. Jeffery (CJ) stated that Item 7 on the Agenda (Publications report) would be covered in his report.

Chair's Report

This is my last Chair's Report before my term of office closes. I begin therefore by recording my thanks to the Officers and Members of the Executive Committee who have in the last three years ensured that this Association has been well and diligently run. Special thanks go to the two Treasurers with whom I have served – Graham Timmins and Joanna McKay – for the usually thankless task of paying bills and eking subscriptions from members. I am most indebted to the two Secretaries, Simon Green and Beatrice Harper; it is they who have really run the Association over the last three years.

I would like formally to record our thanks to the sponsors of this meeting and the Graduate Conference which preceded it: the Goethe Institute, the DAAD, the German Embassy, the Anglo-German Foundation and Pricewaterhouse Coopers.

There are four other points in my report.

1) *German Politics*

It was agreed at the 2001 AGM that the editorial team for *German Politics* should explore ways of securing better terms for the ASGP in respect of *German Politics* than those currently offered by Frank Cass. They were mandated to enter discussions with Cass to improve terms, but if necessary also to consider a move to a different publisher. In the case of the latter, the AGM mandated the editorial team to commit up to half the ASGP's reserves should we need to buy ourselves out of the relationship with Cass.

Stephen Padgett, as senior editor, and I followed up these mandates by arranging legal advice last August which clarified issues of ownership and copyright. We were advised that copyright of the content of *German Politics*, past and present, resides with the various authors, and that ownership of the title is jointly held by Cass and ASGP. We were also advised that we would be able to end our relationship with Cass without penalty given an appropriate – say 12 month – period of notice. We wrote to Cass in October confirming this was our understanding and that we were seeking a formal review of our relationship. In the absence of a response we wrote again at the end of November 2001 that we were serving notice to quit the current agreement with Cass as of 30 November 2002. Our intention is to use the period of notice to explore options for a renewal of terms with Cass and to explore possibilities with other publishers.

The Executive Committee, meeting in December 2001 endorsed the following as the ASGP's aims in renewing publication arrangements for *German Politics*:

- To get a better return for the ASGP from the journal (we currently get £1K for ASGP plus editor fees of £2.5K total per year)
- To this end to achieve sole ownership by the ASGP of the title, so that we can better exploit its commercial possibilities in the marketplace
- To secure sufficient extra income to professionalise the administration of the journal by employing a part-time administrator (approx £4K per year); any further income to accrue directly to the annual budget of the ASGP
- To use the extra administrative capacity to underpin our recent move to fully refereed status (and thus to strengthen the academic reputation of the journal)
- To extend the journal's reach into underexploited European and US markets by trading on fully refereed status and by mobilising the good institutional contacts we have built up especially in the US

- To this end to substantially improve the marketing of the journal, including a high profile electronic presence

Cass have recently responded with a revised offer which offers a growth in revenues, but does not envisage a change in the relationship of joint ownership. We have also entered into discussions with 'Publisher X'. 'X' offers at the outset an annual honorarium for ASGP of £6.5K *plus* a royalty starting at £5K and conceivably rising with institutional subscription growth to £9K at the level at which Cass would award 3.9K. 'X' is happy with sole ownership and offers also a major investment in marketing and electronic publishing some way beyond the levels envisaged by Cass.

It is clear that the offer by 'X' meets the aims endorsed by the Executive, and is substantially better than that of Cass. **We recommend** that we pursue our intention to terminate the arrangement with Cass and enter a new arrangement with 'X'. This is likely to need us to buy out Cass's interest in the title. Should the purchase price exceed the sum mandated by last year's AGM **we recommend** that the editorial team seek additional support from 'X', ensuring that any quid pro quo does not undermine the aims set out above.

2) *Relationship with the GSA*

We have invested considerable energies over the last three years in strengthening our relations with our US counterparts in the German Studies Association and the Conference Group on German Politics, which increasingly uses the GSA as its platform. ASGP members have established a prominent presence at GSA conferences, culminating in a large, British Academy-supported delegation at GSA last October. Equally the GSA/CGGP presence at our conference has grown. The purpose of these closer links is clear. We can benefit from exchange with colleagues with shared interests in the US; a stronger profile for ASGP and *German Politics* in the US may bring us welcome subscriptions growth; and a growing visibility of German Politics among US scholars may improve the throughput of quality submissions, raising the reputation of the journal in the world's biggest market.

I therefore made it an aim to better institutionalise the relationship with GSA, and through it the CGGP. Together with Willie Paterson I visited Gerry Kleinfeld, Executive Director of GSA, in January 2002 in Phoenix and agreed, subject to the endorsement of this AGM, the mutual 'affiliation' of the two associations. The terms of this affiliation are attached, and apply primarily to presence at each other's conferences. Affiliated status for us also means that ASGP members – especially younger members – will be eligible for consideration for support in attending GSA. The same right will not apply in the reverse. This status gives us a platform from which to build the relationship further and I anticipate a drive to recruit GSA/CGGP members as members of this Association and in due course to consider joint activities and publications. The presence of Helga Welsh –

currently secretary of CGGP – at this conference will help push on discussions on further cooperation. **I therefore recommend** that the AGM confirms the agreement on the mutual affiliation of ASGP and GSA.

3) 2002 Elections Trip

Planning has started for the 2002 Elections Trip. Outline agreement has been secured from the DAAD to provide 7,500 Euro to subsidise the trip (the same sum as awarded in 1998). The Executive established an organising committee of me, Simon Green and Claire Annesley. We anticipate the trip following the same format as on previous occasions.

4) ASGP Honours

We were pleased in the last year to see the publication as a Special Issue of *German Politics a Festschrift* honouring Gordon Smith's inestimable contribution to the study of German politics. A presentation was made in Gordon's honour in London in November 2001.

At its December 2001 meeting, the Executive unanimously proposed that we bestow the title of Honorary Vice-President of the Association to two colleagues whose contribution to the study of German politics and to the development of this association over the last 28 years has been outstanding: William Paterson and Geoffrey Roberts. **I recommend** that the AGM endorses that proposal.

Charlie Jeffery, London, April 12 2002

Proposal to change publishers of *German Politics*

Prof. Padgett (SP) clarified three points regarding the proposal to change the publishers of *German Politics*.

- The sum mentioned by CJ being offered by Publisher 'X' would cover administrative support and would not go to the editors;
- Publisher 'X' was proposing an honorarium in addition to royalties;
- It was still unclear how much of the ASGP's reserves would be required to pay to Cass; theoretically, a sum equivalent to the ASGP's entire reserves could be needed for this.

SP also reported on the editorial decisions that had been made to review the direction of *German Politics* in order to include a more comparative perspective; to establish a more formal refereeing system; and to proceed with a 'marketing offensive'. Should the deal go ahead with Publisher 'X', the latter point would form part of their strategy anyway.

Prof. Smith (GS) indicated that he supported the idea of the move, but suggested that ASGP should try to find out in advance how much was likely to be required by Cass to sell the Association their share of the title. He also asked for clarification on who would own the title as and when the journal moved to Publisher 'X'.

CJ confirmed that the intention was that sole ownership would reside with ASGP and that the term of the first agreement would be 7 years.

Support for moving to Publisher 'X' also came from Dr Green (SG), Dr Timmins (GT) and Mr Osmond (NO). SG underlined how important it was to ensure that ASGP continued to be able to use the name 'German Politics' though he also expressed concern that ASGP might be 'mortgaging the future'.

SP stated that ASGP had every intention of making sure that there were no legal loopholes, and he sought the agreement of the AGM that the negotiators should be empowered to pay for expert legal advice, which could prove costly, but may also help reduce the amount needed to leave the agreement with Cass.

CJ suggested that the solicitor should be asked for two quotes, one which would just cover writing letters and one which would include the solicitor taking a more active role in the negotiations.

SP also made the alternative suggestion was that Publisher 'X' could buy out Cass's share, but this would leave ASGP in a similar situation to the present one. He therefore advised strongly against pursuing this option.

The meeting accepted CJ's and SP's suggestion that the negotiating team be empowered to extricate ASGP from the agreement with Cass, using the reserves to pay for legal advice/ ASGP's share in the title as necessary.

ASGP/GSA affiliation

The meeting accepted CJ's recommendation to confirm the ASGP/GSA affiliation. Dr Welsh, representing a sub section of the GSA, the CGGP, affirmed the benefits she and her members saw in strengthening ties with the ASGP, in particular, strengthening the political science wing of the GSA, which is dominated by members with expertise in literature and history.

Election Trip – September 2002

CJ invited SG to inform the meeting on progress to date on organising the ASGP elections trip. SG outlined plans to take 24 members, including 4 postgrads, and explained how far the DAAD money would go. Members going on the trip would need to cover their travel and subsistence, but the bulk of the hotel costs would be covered by the DAAD.

CJ congratulated SG on gaining financial support from the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung for the postgrads.

SG would publish an open letter to members on the ASGP website on how they should apply for places on the elections trip and the criteria that would be used in selecting members to take part.

The AGM endorsed CJ's proposal to bestow the title of Honorary Vice-President of the Association to Willie Paterson and Geoffrey Roberts.

The Secretary will write to them on behalf of the ASGP.

5. Secretary's Report

Dr Harper (BH) reported that last year's conference at the IGS, Birmingham, produced a small surplus, as predicted by Simon Green in his report to the AGM. She then expressed her concern that the 2002 conference may produce a small loss, owing to the high cost of putting on conferences in London. Although the conference fees were higher than last year (£98.00 compared to £75.00), this barely covered the costs.

BH thanked the Goethe Institute for very generously offering the ASGP the use of their facilities for no charge, and also for the publicity the conference received in their programme booklet as part of their BERLIN-LONDON project and on their website. Overall this strategy had attracted some outside interest.

BH outlined the problems with London as the conference venue: the lack of good value accommodation and the cost of food. She questioned whether it was viable to return on a regular basis – i.e. every two or three years. Should the ASGP decide to return to London for a conference, there would need to be a focused and targeted “advertising” campaign to attract outside interest, since at the moment there did not seem to be enough interest within the Association itself to produce the sort of delegate numbers the ASGP has previously had in London. As to next year's conference, two venues were being investigated by the executive committee: Oxford and Strathclyde.

The graduate conference had, however, attracted an excellent turnout, in no small part due to the excellent work of Tom Dyson and Silke Pottebohm, who were congratulated on their programme as well as their success in gaining sponsorship. The German Embassy sponsored lunch for all delegates on Wednesday. PricewaterhouseCoopers sponsored the hardship fund.

BH raised the issue of retired member concessions, following up the debate from last year's AGM about the possibility of introducing a “retired member” concession.

The executive committee had identified three alternatives:

- Introducing a 65+-membership rate that would cover the cost of *German Politics*;
- Offering a conference discount; or
- Maintaining the status quo.

BH outlined the problems that would ensue with either of the first two options:

- A further membership level would only create more headaches for the Treasurer, who has an extremely hard time getting people to pay the right subscriptions already.
- The introduction of a 65+ membership rate would mean that everyone else would have to pay more.

- Offering conference discounts would again mean that the 'non-discounted rate' would have to go up since conferences were not presently run for profit, but to cover costs.

BH thus recommended strongly that the status quo be maintained for the time being with the option to discuss this issue again once questions such as a publisher for *German Politics* were resolved.

BH informed the meeting that James Sloam, IGS Birmingham, had won the postgraduate essay prize for his essay entitled: "Responsibility for Europe": the EU policy of the German Social Democrats since unification'. It would be published in *German Politics* at the first available opportunity and he had received a cheque for £100 at the annual dinner as well as free attendance at the annual conference.

The deadline for next year's essay has been set at 30 November 2002, and all members with postgraduate students are requested to encourage them to submit an essay. Details are available on the ASGP website and from the Secretary.

6. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Annual Report for 2001

1. Introduction

This is the first annual report that I have made as Association Treasurer and the fifth year that the Association's accounts have been presented on a calendar year basis.

2. Association Finances 1997-2001

Period	Income	Expenditure	Balance	Current Account	Transfer to ResAcc	Reserve Account	Interest Earned	Halifax Shares
01.01.97-31.12.97	5816.82	4337.70	1479.12	3838.77	0	6720.38	137.54	2844.27
01.01.98-31.12.98	9981.37	9488.94	492.43	4302.00	0	7004.15	283.77	2213.91
01.01.99-31.12.99	18902.10	14563.66	4338.44	8640.44	0	7442.52	438.37	1927.80
01.01.00-31.12.00	11224.11	7616.92	3607.19	10247.63	2000.00	9442.52	385.6	2265.93
01/01/01-31/12/01	6827.7	5098.40	1729.	12941.44		9828.16	4*	2221.56**

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31

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* 2000 & 2001

** Share value as 8/4/02

A positive balance of £1,729.31 was recorded for 2001 with a closing current account balance of £12,941.44. Of this, £4,000 has since been transferred to the reserve account. The Association's total assets at the end of 2001 amounted to £24,990.72.**

3. Association Annual Accounts 2001

Income		Expenditure	
Membership Subscriptions	3623.50	Frank Cass Subscriptions	
2635.00			
Conference surplus	586.96	Postgraduate prize	
100.00			
Ashgate royalties	89.25	Hardship Fund	
604.00			
Frank Cass Editorial Fee	1000.00	Admin expences	
665.71			
Miscellaneous	1500.00	Executive Committee Expenses	
496.52			
		Bank charges	
	5.50		
		Miscellaneous	
	591.63		
Total	6827.71	Total	
5098.40			

4. Association Membership	2000	2001	April 2002	
Honorary	8	8	8	
Full	127	132		77
Postgraduate Full	39	49	5	
Basic	11	12	5	
Postgraduate Basic		1	2	0
Total	186	203	95	

A sizeable number of members did not renew in 2001, hence both estimated income from membership subscriptions, and estimated expenditure from subscriptions to *German Politics* were lower than anticipated. A major problem continues to be underpayments from members, in spite of letters informing them that this is the case, and members claiming postgraduate status when they are no longer eligible. (The April 2002 figure does not include those who renewed/joined when applying to come to the conference).

7. Publications Report

This was covered under the Chair's report.

8. Graduate Network Report

Silke Pottebohm reported on the success of the Gradnet conference and thanked her fellow coordinator, Tom Dyson, and the ASGP executive committee for all its help. There had been three panels, on foreign affairs, political parties and economic issues. In all, nine papers were given by students from the UK, the US and Germany. There had been 27 participants, but Silke felt that this could be improved, and asked all members with postgrad students to publicise the Gradnet's activities. The new gradnet coordinators are Joerg Baudner (IGS) and Nils-Erik Wergin (LSE).

9. ASGP Website

Dan Hough presented a very quick outline of his 5 recommendations for the future progress of the website. He had written a substantial document on the subject, which would be placed on the ASGP website.

10. Election of Chair

Prof. Emil Kirchner was nominated as new Association Chair until April 2005 and was elected unopposed.

12. Election of Executive

The following nominations were received to serve on the ASGP Executive Committee until April 2003: Charlie Jeffery, Dan Hough, Andreas Busch, Monika

Prützel-Thomas, Astrid Küllmann-Lee, Simon Green, Graham Timmins. Given the shortage of time available at the meeting venue to run a full election for the six places on the committee, the AGM exceptionally agreed that all seven candidates nominated should serve.

13. AOB

There being no other business, the meeting closed, after sincere thanks had again been expressed to Charlie Jeffery for his work over the past three years as Chair of the Association.