

## AIACE - UK BRANCH

### Minutes of the meeting of the Committee on Tuesday 27th September 2022 Held in Europe House and by Zoom Video-conference

**1 Attendance:** Pernille Andersen (PA), John Claxton (JCI), Martin Clegg (MC), Michael Hocken (MH), Robert Hull (RH), Alan Huyton (AH), Tom Kennedy (TK) (Chairman), Brian Porro (BJP), Belinda Pyke (BP) and John Wiggins (JW).  
Apologies for absence were received from Jane Cornelius (JCo) and Emanuela Savoia (ES).

**2 The Agenda** had been circulated and was adopted.

**3 Minutes of the previous meetings and matters arising** - The Committee approved the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 14th June 2022. There were no matters arising not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

#### **4 General Meeting, 28th October 2022**

The meeting approved the draft notification of the meeting, subject to the following changes:

- Correction of the date for submission of nominations to the Committee to bring the text into line with the AIACE UK Constitution.
- References to additional hotel accommodation.
- Reference to attendance by spouses.

In the event of a contested election for the National Committee, the Committee agreed to the following procedure:

- Election by secret ballot of members present, in line with our Constitution.
- The Secretary to provide ballot papers.
- Appointment of scrutineers by the meeting, who would manage the process and announce the result.
- Each candidate to furnish a 100-word statement of why they were standing. To be sent to the Secretary in advance of the meeting.
- Members present would have up to 12 votes to distribute between the candidates: the 12 candidates with the most votes to be deemed elected and in the event of a tie a run-off ballot was to be held.

## **5 AIACE-UK Business**

**5.1 Membership report:** the Committee noted with thanks the written report from JCo (see Annex One).

PA drew the meetings attention to the need for new members' packs to include the most recent version of the Constitution.

**5.2 Treasurer's report:** the Committee noted with satisfaction the Treasurer's report of a sound financial position, notwithstanding some costs to be incurred from the November General meeting and additional travel costs this year. The Committee approved in principle requests from MH (for a £5 monthly subscription for the AIACE

mobile phone) and from AH (for an upgraded Mailchimp account, depending on actual costs).

**5.3 Future Committee meetings** – AH would launch a Doodle survey to establish the optimum date for a November meeting and a further survey for meetings in 2023.

**5.4 Vox** – BP reported the positive news of two UK articles in the forthcoming edition, which awaited printing, thanking TK and RH for their efforts. She urged the Committee to ensure that future editions maintained a strong UK presence.

**5.5 Connect** – the Committee approved the proposal from JCI and BP to revert to the old name 'Connect'. It was noted with approval that the newsletter would be produced quarterly, the next edition being scheduled for November.

On the question of printing obituaries, consensus emerged that Connect would take the following approach:

- Occasional full obituaries of members, especially those who had contributed to AIACE, who had done interesting or significant things in their field – this did not mean a concentration on 'the great and the good' but would include colleagues at all levels.
- Links in Connect to external articles, sites, Facebook pages etc commemorating the deceased.
- A page on our own website which could be a more detailed repository of obituaries that people could refer to.

**5.6 Regions** – the Committee noted the Secretary's report on regional activities, as follows:

- North – a meeting was planned to coincide with the General Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> October.
- South – a lunch was planned for 2<sup>nd</sup> November (Brighton) followed by a Zoom meeting later in the month.
- Wessex – a meeting was scheduled for the 5<sup>th</sup> October.
- Kent – a meeting was scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> November.
- London – a meeting was to be held following the Committee meeting at which efforts would be made to find a new convenor or a group of organisers. The Chairman noted that the London members had to make these decisions.
- The South West, Eastern and Scottish Regions had considered meetings but found a lack of enthusiasm, so far, amongst members.

## **6 PMO Matters**

### **6.1 JSIS**

MH reported on developments, highlighting the following points:

The Heads of Administration had approved the proposal from AIACE, endorsed by the PMO and supported by the Management Committee to roll over the current JSIS 'equality

coefficients' for a further two years as result of a lack of data during the pandemic period which would have rendered them unrepresentative of the real situation.

Discussions on the revisions to the Implementing Provisions were ongoing but MH noted that the pressures on the administrative budget allied to the deteriorating economic situation meant an apparent lessening of ambition and a need to focus on defending the current position.

It would be helpful for ongoing relations with and within PMO if good experiences with PMO staff were notified to the PMO Director.

Screening – while the ad-hoc procedures in place for the U.K. in the absence of any approved centres were working reasonably well, a few outstanding technical glitches needed to be resolved and this would be discussed at a meeting in October.

Hearing aids – PMO had unaccountably started to request prescriptions, which formally speaking were at odds with the practice of audiologist dispensing reports used in UK and IRL. In practice, PMO responded positively on specific cases despite initial rejections. MH asked for any such cases to be notified to him pending resolution (perhaps in the new Implementing provisions or hopefully earlier).

## **6.2 Pensions**

MC reported on the uncertainty over the end-of-year adjustment calculations given the inflation in Belgium and Luxembourg, the impacts and options related to restoring the suspended 2020 increase and the overall political situation. MC noted the pressures on the administrative budget and the forthcoming Commission response to a request from the Council to consider different options to reduce expenditures.

MC also reported the regrettable decision of the Court of Justice to uphold the Commission's appeal against the decision of the General Court to bring the treatment pensioners into line with that of serving staff in relation to eligibility for a survivor's pension following remarriage (1 year for serving staff, 5 years for pensioners).

PA reported that she was pursuing the need to get the pension calculator on My Intracomm corrected.

PA further reported that the life declarations were progressively being sent out to pensioners but that PMO was preparing a new 'tutorial' to help completion. MH reported that a number of pensioners who had telephoned PMO had duly being recorded as alive and well by the PMO and that this had successfully replaced the need for completing the declaration forms. PA would investigate the overall progress on this new process.

## **7 Any Other Business**

AIACE International Management Board – TK could attend for part of the meeting and would liaise with RH on the matter.

27<sup>th</sup> September 2022

## **Annex – Membership team report**

Changes since last committee meeting on 14 June:

New members: 9

Deaths: 9

Retired: 2

London meeting: Numbers reported separately. One new member, Dagmar Vogl, will be attending the meeting.

GM: I will be able to attend the meeting in Newcastle but Emanuela is unable to. Name badges to be prepared, which I will bring from London. Attendance and payments to be tracked once the invitation has gone out.

Emanuela and I will both be visiting the London office more frequently from October, either together or separately.