

UEGA

AGM 2025 MINUTES

Minutes of the UEGA Annual General Meeting held at 11.00 am on Thursday, 6 February 2025 in the Raeburn Room, Old College EH8 9YL. Please find supplementary reports at <https://www.uega.co.uk/agm-2025>

Present: Ann Henderson, Vice-President of the Association, in the Chair; Mr David Lamb, Hon. Secretary; Mr T. Finlay Marshall, Hon. Treasurer; Prof. Stephen Hillier, Interim *Journal* Editor; Mr Peter B. Freshwater, Editor Emeritus; Mr Hamish McKenzie; Ms Elizabeth Owens; Mr Ritchie Walker; Prof. Gavin Reid; Morag MacCormick; Michael Foreman; and Bridget Stevens.

Also present but unable to vote: Mr John R. Sutherland, Production Editor (staff); Kate Stephenson, representing the Edinburgh Graduates Theatre Group (EGTG).

- 1. Welcome:** AH welcomed all present to the meeting and invited them to introduce themselves and their connection to the University and to UEGA.
- 2. Apologies:** These had been intimated from Mr David Gilmour, President; Oognah Gray, Past President; and Donald Morse.
- 3. Minutes of the AGM of 2024 and Matters Arising:** These were approved. The death of Lady Lucinda Mackay, who had served on the committee, was noted with regret. No other matters were raised.
- 4. Annual Report:** This was presented by AH. A copy is annexed hereto. In addition, AH referred to the representation of the Association at the Sports event in the Playfair Library, and arrangements to have representation at General Council Meetings, the forthcoming one due to take place on 15 February 2025. This was important for the profile of the Association. AH called for volunteers in general, especially at the forthcoming GC meeting, but also in UEGA operations. She also expressed thanks to the membership for continued support and donations.
- 5. Finance Report:** The Treasurer referred to the Accounts of the Association for the year to 30 September 2024, which had been circulated, and the Report thereon. Copies of these are attached to the Minute. There were questions about the level of donations, arising from an apparent significant increase in the 2024 figure, compared to that in the Accounts for 2023. The Treasurer explained that there had been in general fairly consistent level of donations, but that the 2023 figure had been lower than the normal. The University of Edinburgh donation in the 2024 accounts, of over £9,000, had been made due to specific problems arising, and to ensure that the publication of the *Journal* might proceed in the usual manner. It was suggested that advertising revenue might be sought, and it was agreed this would be considered by the Executive Committee. AH thanked FM for his report.
- 6. Editorial Report:** SH as Interim *Journal* Editor referred to the Report which had been circulated, and is attached. He paid great Tribute to the Production Editor, whose careful and dedicated work had been essential in the successful publication of the two issues of the *Journal* in 2024. It was difficult in present circumstances, with the manpower and resources available, to cover Obituaries in a manner similar that had been the case in earlier issues. SH stated that all feedback and suggestions are welcome. Discussion from GR focussed on the name of the *Journal* as perhaps being inaccurate described as 'the' *University of Edinburgh Journal*. It was agreed that a strapline would be considered for future cover artwork. JS commented on the ongoing discussion surrounding the *Journal's* possible contribution to the forthcoming Research Excellence Framework in 2029. This would be discussed at future Executive Committee meetings. AH thanked SH for his report.
- 7. (a) Proposed Text Amendments to the Constitution:** AH referred to the paper which had been circulated with a number of constitutional amendments proposed by the Executive Committee. There was discussion about the change of name, with some comments about possible use of the term 'Alumni/Alumnus'; it was considered that this might cause great difficulties in the relations with the D&A department of the University (whose title expressly included the 'Alumni')

designation). Additionally, it was agreed that an appropriate strapline would be considered for future cover artwork to make clear which organisation published the *Journal*. After due debate, it was resolved, by a two-thirds majority of those attending that the following amendments to the Constitution are made :-

New Para 1:

Name: The name of the Association shall be “The University of Edinburgh Journal Association”, hereinafter referred to as “the Association”.

New Para 3 (3):

Associate Membership: Any person who subscribes to the University of Edinburgh Journal, and to the objects of the Association may apply to be granted Associate Membership. Associate Members will have the same standing as full members but will have no voting powers.

New Para 6 (4):

Notice of all General Meetings shall be sent to each enrolled member at least 3 weeks before the meeting or shall be advertised at least 10 days before the meeting in such publications as the Executive Committee may decide. Any General Meeting, Executive Meeting or lecture may be entirely virtual meeting, hybrid meeting or meetings in person, as circumstances allow. A virtual meeting is one where arrangements have been made in advance to allow participants to attend the meeting by means of conference telephone, video link, or similar means of electronic communication at which all participants can be heard and can hear each other without the need for them to be physically present at the same location. A person participating in a meeting by such means shall be deemed to be attending virtually. A hybrid meeting is a meeting which members may attend virtually as above or in person.

(a) Proposed Change to Membership and Subscription Rates: The following changes to Membership and Subscription rates were suggested:

Membership of the Association

Receiving hard copy of the <i>Journal</i>	£40
Receiving PDF copy of the <i>Journal</i>	£20

Associate Membership – subscription to the *Journal* Only

Receiving hard copy of the <i>Journal</i>	£25
Receiving PDF copy of the <i>Journal</i>	£15

These changes were agreed and accepted. These changes would take effect with the next subscription year, beginning at 1 October 2025.

- 8. Election of Office-Bearers:** Mr David Gilmour retires as President at this meeting. It was resolved that Ann Henderson be elected as President. The post of Vice-President is vacant. The Hon. Treasurer was re-elected. The Hon. Secretary had intimated that he did not seek re-election. The Interim Editor would also stand for another year. The Executive Committee would consider the position in due course.
- 9. Appointment of Hon. Accounts Examiner:** It was agreed that Mr Eric Brown be re-appointed.
- 10. Executive Committee Elections:** It was noted that following a recent circular, a number of possible volunteers for assisting in the work of the Association had been identified. This would be discussed at future meetings of the Executive Committee.
- 11. AOCB:** It was noted that intimation of the Constitutional changes would be made to the Patron, and to all members of the Association, including honorary members. The meeting concluded at 12.55 pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair.