

Royal Society of Biology South Wales Branch AGM Agenda

18:00 on Monday 16th November 2020
Online via Zoom
All welcome. Only members may vote.

Those in attendance: Henrietta Standley(m), Rowena Jenkins(m), Nigel Brown(m), Claire

Morgan(m), Samantha Hill(m), Jason Williams James(m), Lisa Whittaker, Christopher Wills, Almero Barnard, Catherine Hogan, Karen Patel(m), Angharad Stable, Charlotte Boyd, David Owen, David Powell(m), Eleanor Welsh, Fabio Massimo (m), Kelvin Agboh, Neil Patel(m), Rachel Coombe (m), Sanskirtit Sangal, Sian Acton, Yasmin Stone, Hannah Thomas, Jill Williams (m), Karen Reed(m), fernallea(I think this was an email name).

1) Introduction and welcome

Welcome to the 2019-20 AGM by Henrietta Standley reminder that it would only be 20 minutes and people can communicate via chat function.

2) Apologies for absence

Hefin Jones, Claire Price.

3) Review of committee roles

Henrietta Standley as Chair, Rowena Jenkins as Secretary, Claire Price as Treasurer,

Jason Williams-James as School and Public Engagement Officer,

Almero Barnard as University Engagement Officer, and

Sam Hill as Diversity and Inclusion Officer.

All are staying in their current roles, although expressions of interest were invited to take on the lead in managing our social media presence, which has so far been ably managed by Sam with input from Jason. Also expressions of interest are being taken for the University Engagement Officer role. People invited to comment in the Q&A or email us later through the branch webpage.

Lucy Jenkins, our student committee member, has graduated from Cardiff and started a Masters in London, so will be leaving the committee. Thanks to her for her input over the last few years.

4) Election of new committee members

Hannah Thomas proposed by Henrietta and seconded by Almero and Jason.

5) Minutes from AGM 2019

Accepted as a true record of the 2019 AGM.

6) Report from Chair

The South Wales branch has been running now for 6 years and this year has held 9 meetings this year with a committee of 10 members.

We now have an established social media presence on both facebook and twitter, which has helped bring more attention to branch activity, in addition to our online presence via the branch website.

We exceeded our target of two events every 6 months, including managing the switch to online-only events mid-year in light of the COVID-19. The events run by the branch have attracted a diverse audience.

Lecture/panel events 2019-2020:

November 2019 RSB AGM and panel event *Dementia: Science and Society*

June 2020 lecture *Wallace and the Caterpillars: A Colourful History of Discovery* (Eleanor Drinkwater)

July 2020 panel event *Pandemic - real stories from the COVID-19 frontline*

August 2020 digital education event *Online education masterclass - top tips for online teaching & learning delivery*

October 2020: *Golden and White-tailed Eagles in Wales: Restoring our historic eagles The Eagle Reintroduction Wales (ERW) project* (Sophie Lee Williams)

In-person events and visits have been postponed until guidance recommends that these can be restarted.

7) Report from Treasurer

Finance report given provided by Claire and read out by Rowena: The South Wales branch was awarded a budget of £750 for the year 2019-20. Due to the number of events we held during the year, a top-up of £320.33 was applied for and granted. However, the branch ended with an overspend of £95.59. This was due, in part, to the timing of the coronavirus pandemic hitting. The committee had already covered the expenses for a joint event for the Linnean Society, but did not receive any reimbursement from them (as we usually do).

Looking forward, we have been awarded a budget of £1000 for the year 2020-21.

Expenditure Breakdown

Income	
Basic Allocation	£ 750.00
Grant for Wallace & the Caterpillars	£ 320.33
TOTAL	£ 1,070.33
Expenditure	
Travelling	£ 457.28
Hotels	£ 53.33
Gifts	£ 65.08
Hire of Facilities (Security costs)	£ 94.55
AGM (refreshments)	£ 495.68
TOTAL	£ 1,165.92
END OF YEAR BALANCE	-£ 95.59

8) Report from other Officers

Jason Williams-James as School and Public Engagement Officer – Working hard on events for next year and may change to increased COVID restriction. On target for events every month next year. Members can see upcoming events on the RSB branch web page.

Almero Barnard as University Engagement Officer - It has been challenging to run visits due to COVID but Almero will continue to take on role and support the branch. Aim to start with networking and visits when restrictions are lifted.

Sam Hill as Diversity and Inclusion Officer – Events moving online has increased the diversity and inclusion participation in our events and it would be beneficial to keep an element of online or blended events in the future once restrictions are lifted.

EOI for Social media Officer would be welcome as Jason taking on a lot of the work at the moment supported by Sam. RSB members Stephen Walden from University of South Wales might be interested in taking on University Engagement Officer. Will speak to him after the meeting

9) Future events

We are planning a number of online lecture events targeted at different audiences, and if possible will schedule some in-person events and visits next summer.

10) AOB

Report from Prof. Nigel Brown, Chair of the College of Individual Members

Oversight of all the branches of RSB, opportunity to attend all AGMs (as on zoom)

1. Message from RSB:

Structure of Council: Honorary Officers elected by council for skills and diversity, College of individual members, College of organisation members and others. Two main committees, membership and professional affairs and the education committee. Branches relate to this through the branches working group and are supported by the regions group (Karen and Beth).

There is a new collaborative workspace on RSOB webpage, for members under 'me and RSB' on miSociety.

Staff at RSB working from home and not be office for foreseeable future but have been doing and excellent job. Has slowed down some decisions as it requires phone calls and meetings but staff are very busy so require 6 weeks notice for events so checking and advertising can be carried out. HQ keen for activities to continue and recognise that it allows speakers from far away and for non-members to come to events. All physical events to be deferred until end of April, pending any changes in guidance.

Anniversary celebrations have been successful but the pioneer's events have been postponed till 2021 (blue plaques). Policy newsletter gives advice to government and would like input from people in branches who have relevant expertise. Membership and committee are looking at requirement for chartered biologist award. EDI across activities is being monitored all committees have a representative.

Can feedback to HQ from members has provided his email in chat nigel.brown@ed.ac.uk

11) Close AGM (by 18:20; *Cancer: Challenges in Science* online panel event starts at 18:30)