**TOEBI**

**COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**Trinity College, Dublin, 10th October, 2015**

Present: Hugh Magennis (President)

Clare Lees (Chair)

Marilina Cesario (Secretary)

Philip Shaw (Newsletter Editor)

Alice Jorgensen (Awards Officer)

Christina Lee (Committee Member)

Richard North (Committee Member)

Tom Birkett (Committee Member)

Patricia O’Connor (Postgraduate Rep)

Eleni Ponirakis (Postgraduate Rep)

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Elizabeth Solopova (Webmaster), Chris Jones (Committee Member), David Clark (Newsletter editor) and James Paz (early career rep)

**2. Opening Remarks**

Clare Lees (Chair) introduced the items on the agenda, and offered her thanks to Alice Jorgensen for hosting the TOEBI Meeting at Trinity College, Dublin, and for what was already proving to be a successful and enjoyable day. CL also acknowledged the growing reputation of TOEBI both in the UK and abroad.

3. **Minutes from Last Meeting**

The minutes from the Meeting in Nottingham, which were kindly taken by Tom Birkett due to the secretary’s absence, were circulated by the Secretary one month prior to the Annual Meeting to the Committee. These were approved by the Committee with no corrections. Agreed to continue to circulate Minutes prior to following Annual Meeting.

**4. WELCOME TO NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The chair welcomed the new members of the Committee: Jennifer Neville, Eleni Ponirakis (Nottingham) and Patricia O’Connor (Cork) as the new postgraduate reps, and James Paz (Manchester) as the early career rep. CL proudly noted that this is the first time that the TOEBI Committee include two postgraduate reps and an early career rep.

**5. Secretary’s Report**

Marilina Cesario (Secretary) reported that at present there are 149 members, 80 of whom regularly pay for their membership. TOEBI recruited 21 new members in the past year, and all of them are young academics. Apart from British and Irish members, TOEBI continues to recruit European and North American academics. International members currently include: 4 from Switzerland, 2 from Russia, 3 from Spain, 3 from Germany, 2 from Italy and 4 from North America. Thanks to Members renewing their membership regularly, TOEBI was able to devote £500 for students bursaries, and £200 to support the Lynne Grundy Memorial Trust.

1. **Newsletter Editors’ Report (Philip Shaw)**

Philip Shaw reported on the TOEBI Newsletter. The Chair thanked both editors (David Clark and Philip Shaw) for their continued efforts, and for the quality of the latest edition. The editors remarked that the publication of the Newsletter had settled into a rhythm of annual publication in the month prior to the AGM. Both Philip and David were happy to continue in the role as editors, and they will aim to continue the annual publication of the Newsletter in September / October.

1. **TOEBI AwardS Scheme**

Alice Jorgensen (Awards Officer) reported that this year eight applications were received. Of these six were funded, awarding £100 each to Stefanie Künzel, Heidi Stoner, Margaret Tedford and Hana Videen, who were all going to Kalamazoo, and £50 each to Kathryn Maude, attending the Leeds IMC, and Eleni Ponirakis, attending MANCASS. It seemed logical to award the higher sum to those who were travelling further and thus incurring greater expense. Of the two which were not funded, one was not giving a paper, and one was working in the Middle English period rather than on Old English.

AJ noted that there were a couple of graduate students whom have received funding more than once during her time as awards co-ordinator, including one individual who has received money in all three years. AJ does not see this as inherently a problem, but may be the result of a greater awareness of the availability of the TOEBI awards in some departments than in others and she encouraged all members to tell their graduate students about this scheme.

Given TOEBI’s healthy financial situation, the Secretary suggested to increase the conference awards to £550. This was agreed by all Members.

1. **Website**

The Chair thanked the webmaster (Elizabeth Solopova) on behalf of the Committee for her commitment and keeping the website updated. Unfortunately, Elizabeth was unable to be present at the Meeting, but is happy to carry on being in charge of the TOEBI website.

1. **NOMINATIONS NEW CHAIR**

Hugh Magennis (President) announced that Clare Lees’ tenure as TOEBI Chair had come to the end. On behalf of the Committee HM offered his thanks to Clare and remarked that we are greatly indebted to Clare for her exemplary commitment to TOEBI, especially for drafting its Constitution and for her efforts, which have doubtlessly contributed to put the organisation on an even keel.

Her role had to be filled and the Committee and the Committee Members: Christina Lee and Philip Shaw were nominated. Given the on-going commitment of both Christina and Philip, after consultation, during which the nominees were asked to leave the room, the Committee was unable to vote for one or other. CL proposed the appointments of both a Chair and a Vice-Chair, and it was agreed that Christina Lee would take up the role of Chair and Philip Shaw that of Vice-Chair.

1. **Future Meetings**

It was agreed that the 2018 TOEBI Meeting would be hosted by Oxford. Clare Lees thanked Francis Leneghan and Andy Orchard for offering to host 2018 Meeting.

1. **AOB**

**The meeting ended at 1.30pm.**

MC