



Annual General Meeting Minutes
 Sunday April 2, 2023, 11am

Attendees

Name	Role
Marino Unger-Verna	Chair
Ben Warner	Communications Officer
Tabitha Lambie	Training and Opportunities Officer
Matthew Ward-Perkins	Events Officer
Talia Andrea	Digital Media Officer
Jordan Hunter	Scotland Officer
Jem Collins	Trustee
Aubrey Allegretti	Trustee
Geri Scott	Trustee
Anttoni Numminen	Trustee
Juliet Rix	Trustee
Richard Brooks	Trustee
Several member publications & their representatives	

1. Explanation of running the AGM

RB opened the meeting and explained to delegates how voting will be run. The agenda shared with delegates ahead of the meeting can be found in Appendix 1. Each member publication gets one vote and a simple majority wins. There will be an opportunity for questions and deliberation between voting for member publications. RB explained how points of order and emergency motions could be raised.

2. Awards

TA awarded sweets for informal competitions run over the weekend, including best social media presence.

3. Reports to the Membership

- MUV reported to the membership as Chair, with a focus on the SPA building back after the Covid-19 pandemic. This included improving engagement with SPA membership, increasing the number of elected and appointed officers and the biggest SPANC ever.
- JC reported to the membership on behalf of the trustees, with a focus on the financial stability and long-term sustainability of the SPA.
- TL reported to the membership as Training and Opportunities Officer, with a focus on online training events held throughout the year as well as training opportunities at SPANC23
- MWP reported to the membership as Conference and Events Officer, with a focus on the operational delivery of SPANC23 as well as regional activities
- BW reported to the membership as Communications Officer, with a focus on improving transparency and engagement with member publications.

4. Business Motions

There were two motions proposed at SPANC23, both of which can be found in Appendix 2. Motion 1 (Arts & Culture Awards and Speakers) was presented by the Mancunian. There were no speeches against. Several member publications had questions about how this motion would work in practice. It was agreed that the new exec would take on this motion if passed and complete a review of both the arts & culture award and speakers for SPANC24. The exec would then report back to the membership on progress. **The motion passed.**

Motion 2 (Reserves Policy) was presented by JC and BW. There were no speeches against. Several member publications had questions about the current reserves policy and long-term plans for financial stability. It was agreed the exec and trustees would report back on this motion if passed. **The motion passed.**

5. Elections

RB explained the rules of the election. Every candidate was given the opportunity for a 60 second speech. Member publications could ask the same question of each of the candidates, who would then have 30 seconds to respond. The order of speeches and questions were random. RB explained that five executive roles and one trustee role were up for election. These were:

- Chair
- Training and Opportunities Officer
- Conference and Events Officer
- Communications Officer
- Sponsorship Officer
- Charity Trustee

Chair

- Two candidates put themselves forward for Chair: Tabitha Lambie (Training and Opportunities Officer) and Matthew Ward-Perkins (Events Officer)
- Matthew Ward-Perkins was elected as Chair of the SPA for 2023/24

Training and Opportunities Officer

- Two candidates put themselves forward for Training and Opportunities Officer: Rory Buccheri (The Gaudie) and Ella Robinson (The Mancunian)
- Ella Robinson was elected as Training and Opportunities Officer of the SPA for 2023/24

Conference and Events Officer

- Two candidates put themselves forward for Conference and Events Officer: Meg Howe (The Courier) and Jess Walmsley (The Mancunian)
- Jess Walmsley was elected as Conference and Events Officer of the SPA for 2023/24



Communications Officer

- Two candidates put themselves forward for Communications Officer.
- Justine Noble was elected as Communications Officer of the SPA for 2023/24

Sponsorship Officer

- Two candidates put themselves forward for Sponsorship Officer: Rory Buccheri (The Gaudie) and Maisie Outhart (The Mancunion)
- Rory Buccheri was elected as Sponsorship Officer of the SPA for 2023/24

Charity Trustee

- One candidate put themselves forward for Charity Trustee: Geri Scott (current Trustee)
- Geri Scott was elected as Charity Trustee of the SPA for 2023-2026

6. Any Other Business

There was no Any Other Business, and RB called the meeting to a close.



Appendix 1

Formal agenda for SPA AGM

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Introductions and explanation of AGM running**
- 3. Reports to the Membership**
 - a. Chair's Report
 - b. Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statement (attached in appendices).
 - c. Training and Opportunities Officer Report
 - d. Conference & Events Officer Report
 - e. Communications Officer Report
- 4. Business**
 - a. Motion 1 - Arts & Culture Awards and Speakers (attached in appendices)
 - b. Motion 2 - Reserves Policy (attached in appendices)
- 5. Elections**
 - a. Election of the Chair
 - b. Election of the Training & Opportunities Officer
 - c. Election of the Conference & Events Officer
 - d. Election of the Communications Officer
 - e. Election of the Sponsorship Officer
 - f. Election of a Charity Trustee
- 6. Any Other Business**
- 7. Adjournment**



Appendix 2 Motions submitted

MOTION 1 - ARTS & CULTURE AWARDS AND SPEAKERS

Proposed by: Joe McFadden; Seconded by: Ella Robinson

We propose the Student Publication Association (SPA) introduces more culture awards and speakers to recognise the breadth of student journalism and different skills required in culture reporting. There are currently limited opportunities for culture journalists at SPANC, particularly within the awards categories and speakers, which fall short of the high standards and variety set for news and current affairs journalism.

We, on behalf of *The Mancunion's* senior editorial team, propose that the SPA takes conscious steps to improve this, making a conscious effort to select more speakers from culture backgrounds during SPANC24 and amending the awards categories to reflect the variety of culture journalism as, currently, one simple 'Best Arts or Culture Piece' is not nearly enough.

We believe that the 'Best Arts or Culture Piece' award category should be split into, at the very least, a 'Best Arts or Culture Review' and 'Best Arts or Culture Feature' to reflect the differences in writing style and journalistic skill required in culture reporting. The former would recognise an excellent review of a specific piece of culture (eg. theatre, film, TV or music, etc.) whilst the latter would recognise an accomplished cultural feature (eg. a well-argued opinion piece, interview, or in-depth look at a specific cultural event or news story).

We also believe that there should be the creation of a separate category for 'Best Culture Writer' or something similar as, currently, the Best Reporter award is dominated by news and current affairs journalists. There is precedent for this, with a separate award existing for 'Best Sports Reporter', so creating a new category specifically labelled 'Best Culture Writer' would ensure the SPA Awards recognise all levels of reporting equally and the different skills required to become accomplished in them because culture writing is a very different skill to news reporting, as is sports reporting.

Finally, the speaker issue can be rectified by, as previously mentioned, making a conscious effort to create several dedicated panels to culture journalism and all its different skills, including music journalists, film critics etc. so student journalists attending SPANC are all given equal opportunities to be inspired and learn from professionals in their craft - an area SPANC is, unfortunately, currently lacking in.

MOTION 2 - RESERVES POLICY

Proposed by: Ben Warner; Seconded by: Geri Scott

The Student Publication Association notes:

- At the 2020 Annual General Meeting of the SPA, members passed a motion which added a Reserves Policy to the SPA Bye-Laws. This set the



long-term target for reserves which the SPA should aim to hold at “the greater of 50% of expected annual turnover, or £7,500, within three years of this Bye-Law’s enactment (FY23).

- At the time of the passing of this motion, the SPA held approximately £4,000 in reserves, and since then has made good progress towards this target. At the time of writing, the SPA holds approximately £6,225 in reserves.
- The SPA requires reserves to ensure its continued operation should events outside of its control result in a serious financial blow.
- The trustees of the Student Publication Association are confident that sufficient progress is being made towards the target.
- Bye-Law 7, which specifies the details of the Reserves Policy, says that at each subsequent Annual General Meeting, the approval of members must be sought to continue the Policy at current levels for another year.
 - Due to circumstances outside of the current Executive Committee’s control, such a motion was not proposed at the 2022 Annual General Meeting in Sheffield.

The Student Publication Association resolves:

- To support the reserves policy at its present level for another year, and to further report on progress to members at the next Annual General Meeting of the SPA.
- To ensure that updates regarding the Reserves Policy, as well as further motions related to the policy will be proposed at Annual General Meetings unless impractical, rather than in General Meetings