

Australian Association for Professional and Applied Ethics

Incorporated in New South Wales, ABN 37 191 313 308

Annual report, 2008-2009

The Annual General Meeting for 2007-08 was held during the Annual Conference at Chifley at Lennon's Hotel, Brisbane, under the auspices of the Queensland University of Technology on 10th and 11th. June 2008. Attendees from universities around Australia and overseas were at the conference plus a small number from the private & public sectors. This report covers activity for the year since then.

The aims of the Association include the fostering of community discussion, organisation of conferences and the development and distribution of publications.

Regular Teleconferencing

The decision was taken at the 2008 annual conference that the conduct of the Association's business would be facilitated by the regularisation of the teleconferences throughout the year at approximately three month intervals. Four teleconferences were held in August and November 2008, and February and April for 2009. They proved extremely useful, and provided the means by which the Association was able to move forward on a number of fronts. Thanks must go to Howard Harrison, immediate Past President, for facilitating the teleconferences

Each teleconference was provided a report on finances and a report on the progress of the Annual Conference and AGM A number of additional issues were discussed and resolved and reported below

Final meeting for this committee was held at Goulburn, prior to the 2009 conference, on Monday 8th June 2009. The results of that meeting will be reported orally during the Conference AGM

Fostering community discussion

The Association's **website** and its **listserver** are key vehicles for both those involved in the academic teaching of ethics and the wider community engaged in practical and applied ethics in the workforce . There is now a wide range of ethics resources and information about the association available on the website. Suggestions and comments for enhancements are welcome.

Stephen Cohen has continued to administer and oversee both the website and listserver. His continued work in this area is invaluable to the Association and is once again acknowledged.

There were 31 paid members and 1 corporate member a week before the Annual Conference An additional but as yet unknown number are expected from the conference.

There were 304 subscribers to the list server.

Timing of annual conference

It was decided unanimously for the conference to be around June during the university mid year break The coming conference was set 8th June 2009 (Queens birthday weekend)

Publication of the Proceeding of the Annual Conference.

AAPAE conference proceedings have been published in a number of Journals including the Australian Journal of Professional and Applied Ethics (AJPAE). Unfortunately the edited proceedings of the 2007 AAPAE annual conference at RMIT University in Melbourne which was due to be published in the AJPAE. The Journal is produced by the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics (CAPPE) at Melbourne and ANU. The proceedings of the 2008 conference were produced by the Electronic Journal for Business Ethics and Organization Studies

AAPAE executive has explored several options, including producing an on-line open access journal. These explorations are still on going, temporarily suspended by the stated willingness of CAPPE to take up publishing the AJPAE

Annual renewal date

Renewal date for membership was discussed and left unchanged at the beginning of the New Year

Annual and conference fees

Annual membership was retained at \$100. The conference fees to include the annual AAPAE membership, thus effectively discounting the conferences to members by the amount of their membership fee plus an additional small fee. For example this year' conference fee is \$400 , but existing members fee is \$290.

Student attendance is \$150, subsidised by AAPAE.

Refereed Stream at Conferences

The Brisbane conference did not undertake to produce a refereed stream. This approach created problems for staff from some institutions that required a refereed paper if they were to fund travel.. The decision was taken for the Goulburn conference that it would encourage a refereed stream, and that it would produce a CD of refereed papers.

Conference refereeing and number of referees

After discussion at both committee teleconferences and email discussions, it was decided that AAPAE papers would require only one referee

2010 conference.

The 2010 conference is to be held in Sydney, at the University of Sydney, under the sponsorship of the Pharmacy Faculty.

The Newsletter.

An informative copy of the newsletter, thanks to Hugh Breakey came out in early 2009.

Payment for Res Publica,

The question of payment for this publication came up at a couple of meetings, Eventually decided that AAPAE would discontinue payment and that it would inform CAPPE , Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics, publisher of this journal

Publicity and attracting new members, including practitioners

Membership has decreased in recent years and has been and still is an issue for discussion and resolution by the Executive Committee.

The Association was also approached by Liquid Learning, a private sector conference organiser to sponsor a public sector ethics conference at the National Convention Centre in Canberra. This it did, and two committee members, Betty Chaar Vice President, and Peter Bowden, Secretary, each chaired a day at the conference, using the opportunity to inform attendances of AAPAE's benefits and activities. The response was small, but encouraging.

Peter Bowden

5 June, 2009