

Minutes of the 2016 ASDC AGM

27th September 2016

Hosted by The Royal Society

3.30 - 5.30 pm Chaired by Chas Bishop, ASDC Chair

<p>Welcome and Thanks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ASDC Chair Chas Bishop welcomed all members to the AGM, and thanked The Royal Society for hosting the conference. • Chas Bishop invited all delegates to ask questions during the AGM. • Chas Bishop thanked the ASDC CEO Dr Penny Fidler, the executive team and ASDC trustees for their work over the past year.
<p>CEO's summary of the year by Dr Penny Fidler</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Penny Fidler thanked everyone for attending, and introduced the ASDC team. • Dr Penny Fidler thanked all of the trustees for all their work over the year and delivered the CEO summary of the 2015/16 year and reported on the following highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASDC successfully secured £30 million for UK science centres through the Inspiring Science Capital Proposal to Government, now set up as the Inspiring Science Fund. • ASDC is currently running six national strategic programmes: <p>National Astronaut programme – Destination Space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great national reach with 20 science centres. • 491,244 participants of which 73,174 were school children. • Two training academies. • Space Agency capital funding awarded to centres. • Penny Fidler passed on Tim Peake's thanks to all centres delivering Destination Space. <p>The Crunch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nine Centres taking part • A year of activities to engage audiences with Our Food, Our Health, Our Planet. • Aardman game was developed and has now been nominated for an award. • The aim was to engage hard to reach community and family audiences. <p>Hypatia (EU Horizon 2020 Project)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspiring girls into science. • ASDC are the UK lead partner. • Penny Fidler invited delegates to speak to Shaaron Leverment if they wish to take part. <p>Cimulact (EU Horizon 2020 Project)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens Dialogue on their visions for the future, to inform funding of EU Horizon 2020. <p>Explore Your Universe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 centres delivering the programme. • The focus is inspiring audiences with physics, and engaging people with innovative STFC science. • Phase 3 has just been agreed with STFC. • Techniquet Glyndwr join the Explore Your Universe family. <p>Other activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museum of the Moon has been developed by Luke Jerram in partnership with ASDC. • ASDC are in discussions to create and run two new national programmes. • Penny Fidler highlighted that ASDC main source of income is through Programmes

Lobbying and Advocacy for the UK Science Centre and Engagement Sector

Inspiring Science

- In January 2016 it was announced by Jo Johnson that the ASDC proposal to BIS to create an Inspiring Science Capital fund for Science Centres was successful.
- This would enable science centres for the first time for a decade to apply for capital funds to enhance what they could do.
- BIS (BEIS) will contribute £20 million
- The Wellcome Trust would contribute £10 million
- The Wellcome Trust would administer the fund.
- 14th October 2017 is the deadline for the preliminary applications

Parliamentary Select Committee Science communication inquiry

- The Parliamentary Select Committee inquiry was held. ASDC submitted written evidence.
- Dr Penny Fidler was invited to give evidence on the panel of experts.
- An interesting question was asked by the Committee Chair 'do we have the policy of 'First do no harm'?

Penny Fidler thanked the ASDC team and funders and asked members if they had any questions.
No questions were raised

Approval of minutes of last AGM

- Terry O'Connor proposed that the minutes be approved
- Bryan Davies seconded
- Minutes approved

Presentation and consideration of annual accounts for 2015/16

- Phil Winfield (ASDC Treasurer) presented the Treasurer's report and annual accounts 2015-16.
- Phil Winfield asked everyone to look at their delegate packs for the accounts and treasurer's report.

Income

- Phil Winfield noted that the total income for 2016-17 was £995,063
- Phil Winfield highlighted that project funding is the only way forward at present
- That there has been no core funding for ASDC for many years, with the exception of a small proportion received in membership fees
- Subscriptions have dropped however the ASDC are working to improve membership.

Expenditure

- Phil Winfield noted that the total expenditure for 2016-17 was £783,779.
- This directly correlates to an increase in project funding and delivery.

Reserves

- Total reserves for 2016-17 are £372,638.
- Phil Winfield highlighted that this was a year-end number and some of these funds are from projects that will continue in the following financial year.
- Reserves are monitored by the ASDC Board during quarterly Board meetings.
- The main reason the reserves are high at the moment as there is project money that has yet to be spent
- The ASDC Board look at the uncommitted reserves which look healthy

Phil Winfield noted that the ASDC team have a lot of work to do, and that none of this is covered by core funding. The project work enables this work to take place, however it is always an area that requires attention.

- Full accounts are available online
- Phil Winfield thanked Penny Fidler and the ASDC team

- Phil Winfield thanked Chris and Gill Godden
- Phil Winfield thanked auditors

Phil Winfield asked the members for any questions

- Bryan Davies asked about uncommitted reserves
- Phil Winfield said they are 20K up from 2014/15 and continue to grow.
- Bryan Davies asked as the reserves have grown, where do you put your reserves as interest is so low?
- Terry O'Connor noted that there is a limit. When reserves drop to £100,000 a trigger point is reached which as a result the Board has a special focus on reserves.

Approval of the 2016 - 2017 ASDC Accounts

- Dr Anita Shaw proposed the accounts should be approved
- Liz Hodge seconded
- Accounts Approved

Thanks to Corrigan Associates. Approval to go out to tender for auditors for future years.

Phil Winfield proposed ASDC to go out to tender for auditors.

- Leigh- Anne Stradeski proposed this motion
- Terry O'Connor and Karen Davies seconded
- Proposal approved

Introduction of the current Trustees

Current ASDC Trustees introduced themselves to the members present

- Anita Shaw, Techniquest
- Karen Davies, Science museum
- Leigh-Anne Stradeski, Eureka! The National Children's Museum
- Bryan Davies, Catalyst Science Discovery Centre
- Liz Hodge, Aberdeen Science Centre

Elections to the ASDC Trustee Board

Each year elections are held for members to stand for the ASDC Trustee Board. The term is three years, and each year approximately a third of current trustees retire or stand for re-election. All those standing for election had their manifestos displayed on-line in advance and circulated to members. There are 16 spaces for ASDC Trustees, meaning that voting was not required by members.

Chas Bishop asked all delegates standing for election and re-election to present their biography to the AGM delegates. Each of the following candidates presented their election statement.

The following members stood for re-election* and election to the ASDC Board:

1. Terry O'Connor, Head of Communications, Science and Technology Facilities Council*
2. Scot Owen, Education Manager, Techniquest Glyndwr*
3. Linda Leuchars, Interim Chief Executive, Dundee Science Centre
4. Adrian Lutton, Head of Exhibitions, Design and Marketing, W5

For details see online biographies.

Scott Owen, Techniquest Glyndwr stood for re-election and introduced himself to the delegates

- Bryan Davies nominated
- Terry O'Connor seconded
- Scott Owen was approved as a member of the ASDC Board.

Terry O'Connor, STFC is standing for re-election and introduced himself to the delegates

- Anita Shaw nominated

- Leigh-Anne Stradeski Seconded
- Terry O'Connor was approved as a member of the ASDC Board.

Linda Leuchars, Dundee Science Centre, standing for election and introduced herself to the delegates

- Terry O'Connor nominated, added that as acting CEO she has had to take over in difficult circumstances and brought a lot of experience to the board
- Scot Owen seconded
- Linda Leuchars was approved as a member of the ASDC Board.

Adrian Lutton, W5 is standing for election and introduced himself

- Karen Davies nominated
- Liz Hodge seconded
- Adrian Lutton was approved as a member of the ASDC Board.

Chas Bishop noted that he was extremely grateful for being chair of ASDC with an excellent board.

Penny Fidler provided a Thank you gift for Louise Smith and Verena Cornwall, former ASDC Board members.

Member Discussion: AOB

Chas Bishop asked the group for questions

Hermione Cockburn, Dynamic Earth

Core funding: How far has ASDC got in identifying any core funding and how likely is it?

- Penny Fidler responded that there was a core funding of £57,000 by BIS which ended in 2009
- Penny Fidler noted that it was relatively easy to get project funding compared with core funding and that if anyone knew funders that may be interested in providing core funding, she would be delighted to discuss this with any member.
- Penny Fidler noted that ASDC is in a good position with a very strong reputation for national delivery, and with, on occasions, funders approaching ASDC for projects.
- Chas Bishop noted that the current model currently works well but it is noted that if project funding does not come in it causes a concern.
- Bryan Davies, Catalyst suggested that during good times, ASDC should increase marketing and communications budget to try and highlight ASDC to future core funders.
- Chas Bishop recommended putting it on the agenda for the next board meeting.

Terry O'Connor, STFC

Membership criteria: If the market is tight should we look at mergers and acquisitions of other membership organisations in order to deliver a single voice.

- Terry O'Connor suggested that we should be trying to help other organisations.
- Penny Fidler noted that Shaaron Leverment is now deputy CEO. The ASDC contact database is being revamped and we are now able to look at improving new relations and extending memberships. Shaaron Leverment is also the past BAP President.
- Shaaron Leverment noted that there are many smaller centres, and ASDC wants to address what the membership of ASDC means for them.

Formal Thanks

- Terry O'Connor noted that the AGM should extend their appreciation to Dr Penny Fidler and the ASDC team for the excellent work that they do.
- Chas Bishop seconded.

The formal proceedings of AGM were closed and this was followed by an informal members questions and answers session.