

BAFTSS Executive Committee Meeting
Draft Minutes
13:00 – 16:00 Friday 15th September 2023
Hybrid meeting hosted by University of Sheffield

Attending online: Liz Watkins, Billy Errington, Emma Morton, Eve Benhamou, Christina Wilkins

Attending in -person: Kate Taylor Jones, Bella Honess Roe, Gábor Gergely, Johnny Walker, Shreepali Patel

Apologies: Louis Bayman

- 1. Minutes of the recent EC meeting (20th July 2023) read and agreed.**
- 2. Chair's report (Liz Watkins)** Thanks to Maohui Deng for the work that he contributed to BAFTSS as PGR Rep and then elected member in organising the Mentoring Scheme, co-organising the Publications Awards and as Social Media Rep. Thanks to Sanghita Sen for collaborating on Facebook and to Davina Quinlivan for their work as they leave the committee.
BAFTSS 2024: Conference theme and proposed key notes and Outstanding Achievement Award nominees discussed.
The Conference Organising Committee at the University of Sussex and BAFTSS EC to meet online once the Draft CFP has been received as discussed at the July 2023 EC meeting and via email. **(LW)**
- 3. BAFTSS EC working relationship (All BAFTSS EC)**
 - 3.a** EC discussed a move from online to in-person/ hybrid meetings following the entirely online meetings that began during the covid pandemic. The EC notes that online/ hybrid meetings enable the Committee as representative body of BAFTSS as a national subject association to include a broad geographical range and career stages (fractional contracts, caring responsibilities etc). Hybrid/ in-person meetings to be held in September and April at the BAFTSS Conference. This topic was discussed at the July 2023 and September 2023 EC meetings. Vote saw EC in agreement: 10/10
 - 3.b** The EC agreed to vote on topics and decisions discussed during EC meetings (10/10)
 - 3.c.** All BAFTSS EC members to copy key communications and conference information to all EC members. (10/10).
- 4. BAFTSS EC consists of 14 Members (4 officers, 7 EC members, 3 co-opted members).** The BAFTSS EC needs to agree and invite two or three members of BAFTSS to join the EC until the next AGM/ Election in April 2024.
 - BAFTSS EC** discussed the process and nominations to identify new members to join the BAFTSS EC as co-opted members until the next full election at the AGM 2024. Call to be drafted and circulated too EC with particular attention to: EDI, Practice Research, Job Search Community, and Social Media Rep. Call is to include link to

current Role Description, note that EC members attend EC meetings (hybrid/ in person) **(LW)**

There are criteria that we need to consider in finding BAFTSS Members to join the EC as co-opted members including:

- the constitution asks that the committee includes representation as many Universities as possible
- BAFTSS Inclusivity Statement.
- all nominees must hold current BAFTSS Membership
- Chair's note: the BAFTSS EC has previously discussed the need to give careful consideration of any potential overlap between the three entities of BAFTSS EC and the Advisory Board (we have tried to keep the membership of Open Screens, the BAFTSS EC and BAFTSS Advisory Board separate from each other, although some overlap remains).

5. Organisation of specific projects and roles held by BAFTSS EC Members (all BAFTSS EC).

5.a BAFTSS Publications Awards – JW and LB (10/10)

5.b BAFTSS Practice Research Awards - KJT and SP (10/10)

5.c BAFTSS Job Search Workshop – co-organiser – KJT (10/10)

5.d BAFTSS Mentoring Scheme – GG (10/10) - **LW to forward info from MHD to GG**

5.e Social Media – Facebook (new co-opted member?) **LW and CW Twitter/ X to be joined by new social media rep (10/10)**

6. Publications Awards and Practice Research Awards: Further discussion is required on the following topics at next meeting (all BAFTSS EC)

6.a. open communication between Publication Award and Practice Research Award and EC.

6b. number of shortlisted works and scope for flexibility in the number of named shortlisted works **(all BAFTSS EC)**

6c. deadlines (all BAFTSS EC)

6d. constitution of assessment panels (all BAFTSS EC)

7. Nominations for new PGR Reps and time frame for a handover. (Emma Morton and Billy Errington)

7a. PGR Rep Candidate statements circulated and read by BAFTSS EC who agreed to invite the following candidates:

Ocean Xu (Salford)

Mathew Bruce (Birmingham)

7b. Timeline for handover: Billy and Emma will contact Ocean Xu and Mathew Bruce and invite them to join the EC at the November 2023 EC meeting.

8. BAFTSS Conference 2023 profit of £1500 without the £1500 BAFTSS and a registration fee waiver for the BAFTSS EC:

8a. LW raised the question as to whether the profit could have been used to reduce fees or fund additional travel bursaries for PGRs, ECRs and Precariously Employed BAFTSS Members?

8b. these questions continue to be discussed by the BAFTSS EC. The BAFTSS EC is to work with the BAFTSS Conference Committee to balance the need to keep fees low for BAFTSS members as a not- for-profit association with support for the BAFTSS 2024 Conference Organising Committee at the host University. LW to ensure contact/ communications are open and supportive between EC meetings.

8c. GG responded that the conference surplus has been earmarked for a follow-up event to present the outstanding achievement award to Raising Films at Lincoln. GG asked EC members to express an interest in attending.

9. BAFTSS Conference 2024 update (LW)

- Liz Watkins notes that BAFTSS 2024 Conference updates were circulated to the BAFTSS EC via email in August. Updates discussed further at the 15th September 2023 EC meeting.
- BAFTSS 2024 CFP pending **Working toward circulation of CFP** : 1st October 2023.
- **Proposed conference theme**: working title of 'Labour and the Screen' which would include references to film, television, screen studies and practice research in the call itself.
- **Proposed Keynotes and Outstanding Achievement Awards nominee** discussed and agreed.

10. BAFTSS Response to the open consultation on the REF 2028 (deadline: first week of October 2023). As discussed at the July 2023 EC Meeting: LW will circulate a doodle poll for BAFTSS EC members to meet and formulate response. (LW)

11. Amendment to BAFTSS Constitution: the BAFTSS EC discussed the possibility of proposing an amendment to the constitution, which would need to be put to BAFTSS Members at the AGM2024. The discussion was raised due to concerns that some elected members of the Executive Committee have not attended EC meetings or participated in EC activities. Questions that the EC need to discuss in considering this proposal include:

Chair's notes:

BAFTSS Constitution already has a provision for asking members to leave. Provision 6.3.6 states: "6.3.6. Members of the Executive Committee may be dismissed by a vote of no confidence passed by a simple majority vote of those present or by proxy at an EGM of the full membership."

The requirements for this process (6.3.6) to be implemented are rigorous and rightly require the agreement of BAFTSS members as the electorate that appoint BAFTSS Executive Committee members. Is a change to the constitution required.

- The BAFTSS EC has previously invited BAFTSS Members to join the EC on a temporary basis with co-opted status to cover elected EC members who have been unavailable due to specific reasons (caring responsibilities, maternity leave etc). This practice has worked well.
- The work done by the BAFTSS EC is voluntary. It is important that the BAFTSS EC as representative of the Association membership continues to uphold its Inclusivity Statement, Constitution and Mission Statement: this includes working to support each member of the EC as they encounter responsibilities outside of committee work and the challenges of academia and its workloads at all career stages (e.g. full time faculty, newly appointed lecturers, precariously employed, students, retirement).
- The BAFTSS EC has agreed to consider/ discuss a proposal to enable EC members who remain predominantly absent from EC meetings and contribution to EC projects or roles for a sustained period of time to be formally asked to step aside to enable another BAFTSS Member to take their place until the next AGM and election.
- Unintended consequences of the proposal to amend the constitution need to be discussed further at the next BAFTSS EC meeting in November 2023. Unintended consequences could include a negative impact on the career, reputation and well-being of any individual EC member, the BAFTSS EC / members enacting the proposal or what it enables, its impact on BAFTSS members who elect their representatives (if those representatives were then replaced with un-elected co-opted members).
- How do we support and protect EC members who choose to leave the committee before the end of their elected term and those who are asked to leave?
- The BAFTSS Constitution (6.3.6) currently includes an option for any member to be asked to leave via and Emergency General Meeting : the requirements for this

process, which are written into the constitution, are balanced to protect individuals and the association. Would the proposed changes continue to enshrine this balance of interests?

- Would a change to EC Role Description(s) suffice?
- **A proposal is to be drafted and circulated to the full EC prior to the next BAFTSS EC Meeting which will take place in November 2023 (BHR and all BAFTSS EC Members). Carried over until January/ February 2024**

12. New Connections (EB)

12a. The call for applicants to the New Connections Scheme will be circulated in September/October 2023 **(EB)**

12b. Speakers from the 2022-23 presentations will be invited to consider submitting work to Open Screens. **(EB)**

13. BAFTSS Treasurer's report (BHR)

BHR confirmed that BAFTSS has opened a Savings Account which gains interest to support BAFTSS activities. The account has a 30 days notice period for access.

14. Membership Report (JW)

13.a Two enquiries from a retired academic who went onto the unwaged tier. Amend wording of category for clarification (not a new category): 'PhD candidate/unwaged/precariously employed/ **retired**' **(JW)**.

13b. Membership numbers chart inherited from Alex Marlow Mann to be updated: twice a year (recording the number of members in each category in April / November) **(JW)**

15. Any Other Business

Carried over from the July EC meeting: BAFTSS Travel Bursary Scheme for Precariously Employed/Affiliated/ Visiting Researchers to be discuss with regard to the possibility of offering 3 x £150 four times a year (February/ May/ September/ November). This scheme runs in addition to the **(LW and all BAFTSS EC – discuss at next EC meeting)**

Meeting ended: 15:00