

Society for Irish Latin American Studies
(ex Irish Argentine Historical Society)
Minutes of the General Meeting
Maynooth, 24 June 2005

President David Barnwell called the Third General Meeting of the Irish Argentine Historical Society to order at 3:00pm. A quorum was established as existing and it was noted that there were five proxy votes.

PRESENT

David Barnwell, Nancy Connolly, Graham Davis, Claire Healy, Ruth Illingworth, Tony Leavy, Edmundo Murray, Sharon Newman.

BUSINESS

1. President's Report

After thanking the Executive Committee members for their support, the President remarked that the Society continues to grow both in members and activities. Although the Society is achieving results in certain areas, there is ample room to support research through publications, grant programmes, manuscript conservation and, particularly, fund raising, as well as co-operation with other institutions.

2. Secretary's Report

The Secretary read last year's minutes noting the successful communications through the website, the grants programme and the contract with Universidad de San Andrés's library as repository of the Society's Manuscripts and Rare Books Collection. Remarked the difficulties to implement "mirror sites" for members in the website due to lack of hosting space, as well as the disappointment over a failed publication of Liverpool papers (panel "The Irish in South America" in ACIS conference) through Universidade de São Paulo, which did not progress owing to lack of papers.

3. Financial Report

The Secretary presented the Financial Accounts for the period 1 May 2004 through 30 April 2005. A 2005-06 Budget in Swiss Francs was also presented. The Auditor Sharon Newman approved both documents.

MOTION: "To accept the Financial Accounts (1 May 2004 through 30 April 2005), as well as the 2005-06 Budget in Swiss Francs "

MOVED: David Barnwell, CARRIED

4. Fund Raising Committee

The President noted the poor performance of this committee and the need of financial support for the Society's different activities.

MOTION: "To appoint Sharon Newman and Ruth Illingworth as new members of the Fund Raising Committee"

MOVED: David Barnwell, CARRIED

5. Change of Society's Name

The Secretary explained the convenience of changing the name of the Society to reflect the broader scope of studies in Latin America. Members engaged in a discussion in which some expressed the convenience of having no hyphen between "Irish" and "Latin American", and others remarked the possibility to enhance the scope of studies in the future to other fields than history.

MOTION: Change the Society's name to "Society for Irish Latin American Studies", and modify articles 1a, 2a, 2b, and 11 of the Constitution.

MOVED: Edmundo Murray

SECONDED: David Barnwell

CARRIED

6. Conference

Claire Healy reported on behalf of the Conference Committee (Claire Healy and Oliver Marshall). The Society's first conference will take place in the last week of June 2007 in Galway, jointly with the 5th International Galway Conference on Colonialism (NUI Galway). A discussion followed about the convenience of a joint conference, and the need of reserved space for our panels. Members also stressed the importance of academic quality for the conference, as well as of providing travel grants.

MOTION: to proceed with the plans proposed by the Conference Committee.

MOVED: David Barnwell, CARRIED

7. Genealogical Services

The need for providing advice and guidance to family history researchers was discussed by members.

MOTION: to offer limited advice to genealogical queries from members and to refer more complex queries to professionals in Buenos Aires and in Ireland.

MOVED: Edmundo Murray, CARRIED

8. Education Pack

An opportunity to raise the awareness of emigration to Latin America in selected areas of Ireland was considered by the members.

MOTION: to develop an Education Pack addressed to school students in Ireland about emigration to Latin America. Ruth Illingworth appointed to develop this programme from Mullingar.

MOVED: Ruth Illingworth, CARRIED

9. First Semester Fee Waive

A proposal was evaluated to waive the first year fee to new members applying in the second semester (they must pay second year in full).

MOVED: Edmundo Murray, CARRIED

10. Adjournment 4:30

MOTION: "To adjourn the General Meeting"

MOVED: David Barnwell, CARRIED