**FRIENDS OF THE ACADEMY INCORPORATED**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020**

WAAPA, 2 Bradford Street, Mt. Lawley, W.A. 6050

Academy of Performing Arts, Richard Gill Auditorium

Sunday 8 March 2020 at 2.30 pm

1. **Welcome:** At 2.30 pm all those in attendance were welcomed by Kevin Button.

Professor David Shirley, Executive Dean of WAAPA was introduced and invited to address those gathered about the speculative situation surrounding the transfer of WAAPA from

Mt. Lawley to the City. He took questions from the members. Further information will be forthcoming when any developments are known.

1. Prior to the AGM commencing the audience was entertained by –

Acting Students: Tinashe Mangwana and Delia Price

Music Theatre students: Sarah Monteau, Hamish Pickering

BA (Music) 3rd Year Voice student, Keaton Staszewski-Hose

1. The AGM was declared open by the Chair, Kevin Button, at 3.25 pm.
2. **Attendance:** Thirty eight (38) Members attended as per the attendance list.
3. **Apologies:** One hundred and forty-eight (148) Members sent apologies.
4. **Declaration of Proxy Votes:** One hundred and forty-four (144) Members submitted their Proxy vote prior to the meeting.
5. **Acceptance of the Minutes of the 2019 AGM**:

Dr Heather Rogers moved that the Minutes be accepted. Seconded by Mrs Jill Clarke.

Carried by a show of hands.

1. **Business arising from the Minutes:** There was no business arising from the Minutes.
2. **Chair’s Report:**

**Financial Prediction for 2020:**

* Currently forecasting Student Grant Expenditure of approximately $70,000
* Student numbers of 580 similar to 2019

The committee will closely monitor the financial position through the year and adjust as required

**Investment:**

* Bellwether Financial Group - $100,000 @ 6% = $6,000 PA
* Beyond Bank - $200,948 @ 1.7% = $3,400 PA

[Or an extra 15 Student Grants @ $600 in 2020]

**Membership:**

* 2019
  + Increased member numbers by approximately 6%
* 2020
  + Ideally an Increase in Financial Members by at least 50% [Optimistic] but would be ideal to enable more funding for more students

We don’t have a crisis – BUT there is a dilemma!

The reality is that we have an aging membership. How do we survive!

QUESTION: How do we reverse the trend?

ANSWER: Attract NEW and Younger members

The answer is that we need ALL members to ACTIVELY promote the Friends and help to increase our membership. Talk to your friends and their children!

**What is the Committee Planning?**

2020 will see the consolidation of:

* + Credit Card electronic membership payments
  + Refinement of Electronic Membership form

NOTE: Hard copy forms will still be available for members without a computer. (But not preferred.)

* + Investigation of digital Membership Cards

**What did the Committee do in 2019?**

* The Committee met 12 times during the year
* Distributed 132 student grants – value $58,225

Including a $3,200 donation to Aboriginal Production and a $7,200 grant to Link Dance Company

* Provided supper and drinks at 6 functions
* BBQ at ECU Open Day (profit $1820)
* Hosted 4 Tours of the Academy (profit $3407)

**Facebook and Instagram Pages**

* Have NOT been well maintained BUT
* Will be updated regularly in 2020
* Carry latest FOA and WAAPA news and videos
* WAAPA Graduate news
* Last minute changes to WAAPA program
* Upcoming Friends Events

**Friends Functions:**

* Supper and drinks and afternoon teas are provided free of charge
* Performer interviews are conducted at some functions
* Opportunity to meet the performers and mingle with other Friends of WAAPA

**Academy Tours:**

* Participants 25 people per Tour
* Raised $3,407 in 2019
* Morning tea included
* Free Parking (on Mt Lawley Campus)
* Booking forms available immediately after the AGM.

**Website:**

* Carries latest FOA and WAAPA news and videos
* Membership renewal forms and online renewal
* Booking for WAAPA performances
* Student thank you page
* Contact us by Email section *(To let us know what you think of WAAPA performances)*
* Last minute changes to WAAPA program

**Q&A:** The chair took questions from the Membership

Q: Jill Ann Gout: Suggested that one way of encouraging young people to attend would be to provide access to Master classes and rehearsals. That inside look might get younger members to come along.

Q: Richard Hine. Declared that digital membership would be most welcome.

A: KB. Booking on line is better on the website. Talked to Anton Maz – WAAPA looking at digital tickets, but would not outsource to booking.com as WAAPA wished to keep the box office in house.

Q: Nelly Kleyn: Inquired as to why the FOA was only getting 1.6% instead of 4-6%, stating that ANZ, Westpac and National Bank were offering the higher rates. [KB established by phone that the reference to these rates was for share portfolios].

Q: [Name unclear]: Why don’t students join the Friends?

A: KB. Parents usually join while their child is at WAAPA. Students are time poor and financially stretched.

Q: Chris Firman: Commented on the outdated Facebook and Instagram pages, and pointed out that the Friends must be on line and maintain electronic profiles.

Q: Donna McFetridge: Comment – Third tier ticket price favourable to members; student support via grants, and fundraising to finance those grants. Need to increase membership numbers via Facebook and Instagram and provide online booking.

Q: Geoffrey Suttie. Questions whether the University numbers of overseas students have been affected due to COVID-19?

KB: All the overseas students registered are already here.

Q: St Mary’s Cathedral was packed out for *Rejoice* when last performed. Could the production be promoted so that the Friends could get tickets to the performance?

KB: The Friends of WAAPA do not advertise on behalf of other organisations. With a new director it may be possible and this will be discussed with him.

Q: Jill Clarke. Stated that extra access by the Membership to the students in class would not occur. She pointed out that there were free student lunchtime concerts on a Tuesday for Classical and Jazz and Contemporary on a Wednesday.

The Chair thanked everyone for their contribution.

1. **Treasurer’s Report:** Ms Carol Schembri

(i) Financial Statements and Reports. [See Attachment]

There were no questions regarding the Financial Reports.

K Button moved that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted. Seconded Mrs. Jill Clarke.

(ii) **Appointment of Auditor.**

Adjustment of fees from Shreeve and Carslake from nearly $2k to $990 due to the FOA Treasurer elect being a retired Accountant who provides the approved format.

Ms Carol Schembri moved that Shreeve and Carslake be reappointed as Auditors.

Seconded by Ms Donna McFetridge. Carried by a show of hands.

1. **Special Resolution:** To amend the Rules of the Friends of the Academy Inc. R 18 by changing its name from -

The Friends of the Academy Incorporated to Friends of WAAPA Incorporated (FoWAAPA).

Accepted by a majority show of hands. Carried.

1. **Chair’s vote of thanks**: Ros Jennings is retiring from the Committee after six years. She has facilitated the interviews at the Friends supper events and will continue to do so in 2020. Her contribution in Committee will be missed.

Susie Lim, Judy Lukowiak, Saxon Neate, and the Members who assisted at the ECU open day BBQ are also warmly thanked for their valued support.

1. Election of individual Office Bearers was conducted by Mr Barry Ryall.

In accordance with the Rules of the Friends of the Academy Incorporated each candidate will be elected by resolution en masse, by a show of hands.

It was resolved that all Committee members were unanimously elected by a show of hands -

Kevin Button, Chair

Angela Bromfield, Deputy Chair

Warren Mitchell, Treasurer

Naomi Roy, Secretary

Carol Schembri, Grants Administrator

Lynette Cuthbert, Donna McFetridge, Tanya Tsirigotis and Rasangee Gunadasa

On behalf of the Committee we thank you all for the trust you put into the Committee for the work that we do on behalf of the students. Please join us for afternoon tea in the foyer.

1. **General business:** Donna McFetridge requested that a vote of thanks be recorded for all the work that Angela Bromfield and Carol Schembri had done on the Committee.
2. **Next AGM** will be either the second or third weekend in March 2021. The date to be advised.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 4.07 pm

Signature: ……………………………………………………………….. Date: ……………………………………