

Japan Studies Association of Canada (JSAC)

**Minutes: Annual General Meeting (AGM) October 2, 2021**

**Location:** Virtual via ZOOM, due to COVID-19. Hosted by Norio Ota (York) and Tom Waldichuk (Thompson Rivers University)

The AGM, held from 2:15 PM (PDT), Oct. 2 during the JSAC Conference (Oct 1-3, 2021), was chaired by JSAC President Carin Holroyd (Saskatchewan).

The Conference was originally scheduled to be held at Thompson Rivers University (Kamloops, BC). Dr. Tom Waldichuk and his TRU colleagues planned the Conference, applied for and received Japan Foundation support. However due to the pandemic it was necessary to postpone the TRU conference again. Norio Ota stepped up to assume the host role.

**Attendees**

Executive

President: Carin Holroyd (Saskatchewan)

Secretary Treasurer: Norio Ota (York)

Regular: Aya Fujiwara (Alberta)  
Tom Waldichuk (Thompson Rivers)  
James Tiessen (Ryerson)

Owen Griffiths (Mount Allison)  
David Edginton (UBC)  
Maxime Marcotte Bouthillier (York)

Other participants

Audrey Zhang  
Yuko Shimizu (Japan Foundation)  
David Telfer (Brock)  
Millie Creighton (UBC)  
Tim Reiffenstein (Mount Allison)  
Atsuko Hashimoto (Brock)  
Leslie Tkach-Kawasaki (Tsukuba)  
Christopher Satoor (York)

Teru Ikeda  
Brian Pendleton (Langara College)  
Jay Goulding (York)  
Noriko Yabuki-Soh (York)  
Yuko Shibata (UBC)  
Millie Creighton (UBC)  
Yuko Shibata (UBC)

**1. Agenda**

Motion to accept the Agenda as posted. Moved by Brian Pendleton. Seconded Norio Ota. Passed.

**2. Minutes**

Motion to accept minutes as posted. Moved by Yuko Shibata. Seconded by Jay Golding. Passed.

**3. President's Address and business**

Appreciation

Carin Holroyd welcomed AGM participants and thanked organizers Norio Ota, Tom Waldichuk and Cara Cadre for organizing the online conference.

Carin also thanked the Japan Foundation for their continued financial support and Maxime Marcotte Bouthillier for being JSAC's first graduate student Board member.

Aya Fujiwara was also thanked for organizing the judging of student presentations for the Klaus Pringsheim Award. Nine students presented at the Conference.

Carin appreciated the efforts of those who submitted articles for the JSAC newsletter.

#### **4. Princess Takamodo Essay Contest**

Aya Fujiwara announced the Essay Contest and the 2021 Winners. The winners were:

- i. Luca Paolo Bruno from Leipzig University, "Artificial Intimacy: Gynoid and Artificial Intelligence as Visual Novel Game Character Templates"; Yang Siyu from Ritsumeikan University
- ii. "China's Governmental Restriction and Game Players' Countermeasures to it: The Virtual Place Created in Battlefield 4." Bianca Chui from University of British Columbia
- iii. "Eating Your Way Through Sugoroku: Imaginary Travel in a Japanese Board Game"

#### **5. Book exchange**

A JSAC book exchange was discussed at the 2020 AGM. This may be held next year at JSAC 2022.

#### **6. JSAC 2022 Conference**

JSAC 2022 will be hosted at Ryerson University in Toronto. James Tiessen will be the Conference Chair. It will be held in the fall.

#### **7. Treasurer's report**

Norio Ota reported that, due to COVID-19, he is still unable to receive and deposit membership cheques at the University. So, for now we are not asking people to mail cheques.

Norio displayed a financial summary. JSAC has about \$26,673 in cash. JSAC has expenses associated with 2021 conference support and other expenses, meaning the balance is about \$25,086.

There was a discussion on the use of electronic rather than written check payments. The logistics associated with a small Association make moving to online payments difficult.

Motion to accept the financial report. Moved by Owen Griffiths. Seconded by Millie Creighton. Passed.

#### **8. JSAC 2020 Conference Report**

The Conference was held virtually and hosted by Norio Ota (York), due to the COVID 19 pandemic. It was hoped it would be in person at Thompson Rivers University, but this was not feasible. There was no registration fee for the conference.

The online format was successful in terms of attendance. There were 26 presentations, and a keynote session. Overall about 85 people registered and participated.

The sessions were recorded and later posted. This was well received.

## **9. Adjournment**

Carin Holroyd adjourned the meeting at about 3:10 PM.