

## **BAM Management & History SIG meeting**

**Nov 9<sup>th</sup> 2021, 09:30am, held/attended online via Zoom software**

### **SIG Committee in Attendance:**

*Chairs:* Dr Kevin Tennent (KT, Meeting Chair) and Dr Roy Edwards (RE)

*Secretary:* Dr Alex Gillett (AG)

*Treasurer:* Dr Joe Lane (JL)

### **Associates in Attendance:**

Conference Chair: Dr James Fowler (JF)

Independent Scholars Representative: Dr Ruth Slater (RS)

### **Associates Absent:**

Communications Officer: Dr Mathew Hollow (MH)

### **SIG Member Attendees:**

As recorded in separate spreadsheet

## **Minutes**

### **1. Chair's welcome and outline of agenda (KT)**

KT welcomed everybody to the meeting and allowed approximately 5-10 minutes to begin. There was some confusion about login details, so this pause allowed people time to find the meeting and to be 'let in' from the virtual waiting room.

### **2. Matters Arising**

In a slight departure from the advertised agenda KT began with matters arising from last year's meeting, to address previous actions from 2020 before getting into further discussion. Now discussed a) – i)

#### **a) AG to ask BAM for clarification of SIG membership numbers:**

AG gave an explanation about how he understands membership works, and that there are fluctuations through the year, but there appear to be a couple of points in the year when there is most movement, either side of the conference. AG informed the meeting that he had asked for and circulated the number to SIG committee soon after the last AGM in 2020. There was then a brief discussion about how SIG subscription/sign-up works and when numbers fluctuate. JL stated that he has the latest number, as of yesterday 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021, as 122 members. AG suggested that they might not all be actively engaged with the SIG, some may have just ticked a radio button out of interest, or not have commitment beyond the annual conference.

**Action One:** JL to get from BAM an update on membership numbers before the next AGM, in the same way as he has done this year.

- b) **JL to send attendance lists of SIG workshop held in 2020 to JF, to help identify workshop attendees who could be interested in the conference track.**  
Minor point: JL informed the meeting that this was a minor point and that it was dealt with soon after the 2020 AGM. It related to a March 2020 workshop including non-historians organised by JL.

**Action Two:** All to encourage workshop organisers to encourage attendees to enrol in the SIG so that they get info about the annual conference track. Can do this when approving requests for support.

- c) **KT to ask BAM for indication as to when website area will be up and running.**  
KT has asked about this in a recent SIG chairs' meeting. The website now exists and is ready to start using, but it needs populating. There was discussion that the SIG had last year appointed MH as digital person, and that task is within that role.

**Action Three:** AG to email MH and ask him to follow-up with BAM cc AG and KT, and to keep all SIG committee up to date and ask for our help/input as required.

- d) **AG to ask BAM "how long can the 2020 conference website remain online and functional for feedback etc?"**

AG reported that he had asked BAM and they had said they would keep it online for around a year. This info had been shared via email.

**No Actions.**

- e) **SIG election: In 2020 the committee was due for election.**

KT and AG were to ask BAM for the correct process and mechanism to hold the election within calendar year 2020, and how to do elections electronically. This they did in Autumn 2020, and the committee made sure that the election was held democratically and successfully. The election took place last November, and all members were successfully re-elected for another term. KT thanked Neil Pyper for acting as returning officer.

**No Actions.**

- f) **Role description for independent scholars' representative and PhD students' representative to be drafted by SIG committee Chairs**

KT and RE reported that this had not yet been done as it had already been a busy year, but that the two of them would do so in 2021-22 before the next AGM, with input from RS where she is able to help.

**Action Four:** RE & KT with some help from RS to do this ASAP, before the 2022 AGM.

- g) **Chairs KT, RE and Secretary AG to determine voting rights of the positions mentioned above in f).**

It was determined that for constitutional BAM business/activities, such as those requiring funding, it is only the core or constitutional elected SIG committee members who have responsibilities (chairs, secretary, treasurer). However, in terms of non-constitutional work, which will be quite a lot of the operational activity in future (such as writing articles for the SIG website, or suggesting workshop themes) we encourage participation from the others, and for the broader SIG membership to contribute to those.

**No Actions.**

**h) SIG Committee and RS to develop idea and produce a proposal for a document 'Business History teaching outside of history departments'.**

- RS made the suggestion that the SIG website, now operational, could be a good platform for this information, and then signpost or circulate via social media. MH should therefore be involved in this as well. This suggestion was deemed to be a good idea.
- RS was asked to draft a short first draft to get it started: this could be a general introduction paragraph or two about 'why it is important' and on her specialism, HR. Other SIG committee members could then follow suite and produce something similar on their own areas. These could then be compiled.
- Discussion then veered slightly away from AGM/governance issues into the specifics of the sort of content to include.
  - Professor Bogdan Costea spoke about 'units of analysis': histories of phenomena, and of ideas of the phenomenon. He spoke positively about this SIG as very interesting and important in this regard, specifically "how valuable and precious the SIG is and that Ruth is excellent in the history of HRM".
  - Dr Simon Mollan replied that this idea could be broadened to explain what good research topics and approaches would be to be presented in the conference track, and how outside topics dovetail. It could include a scoping of the forms that management and business history can take. This could even be the topic of a workshop perhaps at conference event. The idea was met with approval from attendees.
  - Professor Bogdan Costea then discussed how primary research is very time consuming. He asked, therefore, whether there is another strand to this discussion about how different modes of writing can feed into the field, ie micro histories and so on, or other way round the macro historical process.
  - AG: Agreed and stated that these are the things that belong in the SIG which is a broad church. KT thanked Professor Bogdan Costea for his feedback, and praise of the SIG and its broad remit.

**Action Five: RS to produce a short first draft in relation to HR, to get it started.**

**Action Six: RE and KT, as SIG Chairs work together to draft an introduction or background outlining the direction and mission of the SIG as they see it.**

**Action Seven: All of the SIG committee AG, JL, KT and RE to also write short pieces on their areas, and JF a short piece about the conference.**

**Action Eight:** AG to mention this to MH when responding to c)

### **3. Financial Statement / Treasurer's Report (JL)**

JL reported that due to Covid/lockdown, from which academia is only just emerging, there was zero account activity in the year 2020-21, since the previous AGM. Therefore there has been no change in SIG financial position.

A balance of £2176 was rolled over in January 2021, meaning that nothing has changed in nearly two years. JL informed attendees that the SIG may accumulate up to £3000, and any unused funds are capped at that by BAM and rolled over.

There was an increase in SIG membership from 106 (Dec 2020 figure), to 122 (as per last week).

JL was pleased with this increase in membership despite Covid restrictions and explained that if membership exceeds 200 people, then event funding changes. Up to 200 members, i.e. the current scenario, every SIG event, apart from the annual conference track, is awarded £300. Thus, smaller cheaper events can make a profit for the SIG. BAM awards us £5 per attendee at our events, so an event realistically could be attended by 40 people meaning  $40 \times £5 = £200$  granted from BAM to the SIG. If we were to exceed 200 members, this per head grant reduces to £1.50 per member, so the same event would generate just £60 although presumably a larger SIG would attract greater attendance at its events, and likely run more events too.

JL concluded that we have money to fund events in future, and the SIG committee encourage members to approach us with ideas for events that could be funded. Attendees were also reminded that to formally apply for funds they are required to complete and submit to committee the funding/event request forms, so that the committee may review and make a decision to approve (or reject) funding, before committing any spend from the SIG.

JL finished his report by reminding attendees that BAM centrally does its accounting for SIGS at two points in the year, specifically January and June, thus the SIG AGM that we are required to hold around the time of the conference in the Autumn, occurs at an awkward time for getting UpToDate financial data. As a SIG we might need to ask BAM for better real-time information, or at least timelier to the AGM.

KT commented that there had been no spend because due to Covid restrictions there was no face-to-face interactions, but now that restrictions are lifting it is becoming more realistic to run events. KT asked attendees to please propose ideas. He reminded attendees that the workshop held at York before lockdown was attended by around 40 people, as per JL's example.

At this point Professor Bogden Costea asked 'How does SIG membership work?'. AG briefly explained the structure of BAM, how the SIGs fit, and that each SIG has an elected committee, but that membership is done when paying annual

subscription. AG encouraged Professor Costea to apply to host an event in conjunction with the SIG in future, and that he might consider running for election to the committee when elections are next held.

***At this point in the proceedings the meeting was called to a halt because a SIG research event was about to begin, which also had to be hosted via the same software.***

**Action Point Nine: AGM 2022 to be scheduled for 2 hours duration and not back-to-back with a research event, although hopefully it will be conducted face-to-face rather than online.**

The remaining agenda items were covered via email and by Chair's Actions:

#### **4. Annual conference (JF)**

JF reported that the annual conference track in 2021 contained 7 papers, these were 3 full papers and 4 developing papers. All were of good quality, but it is a shame that there were fewer this year. This is thought no great surprise though, given that the conference was remote/online, rather than face-to-face.

The following prizes were awarded:

Best full paper: Rasmus Nykvist *et al.* (Stockholm)  
Best developing paper: Kevin D. Tennent and Alex G. Gillett (both University of York)  
Best reviewer: Roy Edwards (University of Southampton)

Next year's conference will be hosted at Manchester – in person. JF is hoping to build up the number of papers again and he sent the draft call for papers back to Lewis at BAM office yesterday (JF thanked RE, KT, AG, JL and RS for their input).

JF commented that the research workshop held after the meeting originally ended went really well, and reported that it attracted a number of new people who have not previously engaged with the SIG or the track.

**Action Point Ten: JF to continue holding termly research workshops in the format of 'mini conference track' online sessions via zoom software to try and maintain/build the Bus&Mgt History community, SIG and Track.**

#### **5. Approval of Previous (2020) AGM Minutes**

The draft minutes were approved by the SIG committee and circulated in 2020, and again prior to the 2021 AGM. As no objections were received during the year these are now formally approved by Chairs' Action. However, if anybody wishes to suggest amendments then please contact the SIG secretary [alex.gillett@york.ac.uk](mailto:alex.gillett@york.ac.uk) before the end of calendar year 2021.

**Action Point Eleven: Minutes approved, AG to now archive the final approved 2020 AGM minutes**

Approved