

**REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION**

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THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, POLICY AND RESEARCH

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Irish Branch of the RSA was held on Monday December 7<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in room 345 DIT.

Apologies were noted.

The minutes of the 2007-08 AGM were adopted and signed.

**Chairman's Report:** Micheál reported that it had a quiet year for the branch with activity occurring behind the scenes and perhaps not as visible as in other years. The newsletter continued to be a successful branch output and continues to receive deserved praise – indeed the international association has since taken on this idea and developed a newsletter of its own. Micheál thanked Caroline Creamer for her work on this since its inception. The branch also worked with James Hopkins during the year; James is writing a history of the RSA and Micheál gave him access to the minutes of the branch from its inception and arranged that James could meet Professor PJ Drudy (TCD), who was involved in the foundation of the overall association and subsequently the Irish branch. In the year ahead the Chairman pointed towards projects such as a joint conference with the Scottish branch, the hosting of some committee meetings as conference calls and the expansion of membership of both the committee and the branch. He also indicated that this will be his final year as Chairman. Micheál concluded by thanking all the committee for this work and support during the year.

**Treasurers Statement:** Tabled and Adopted.

Edgar circulated an updated set of accounts for the branch. A healthy balance was noted.

**Election of Officers**

The Chairman, Secretary, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer were all re-elected to their positions. Declan Cussan (NIRSA) will join the committee as Newsletter officer replacing Caroline Creamer who will continue as an ordinary member on the committee. Three people departed the committee: Gillian Slattery (Enterprise Ireland – Gillian is now based in Shannon and offered to recruit a Dublin based Enterprise Ireland employee to replace her; the Chairman will contact her regarding this); John McDonagh (NUI Galway) and Louis Wildenboer (John Spain Associates). Mark Boyle (NUI Maynooth) was proposed to join the committee. A number of other names were mentioned regarding joining the committee and the Chairman will contact these shortly – if they are interested they may join as *ex-officio* members.

The elected membership of the 2009-10 committee is:

<b>Chairman</b>	Micheál Collins (TCD)
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	Chris Van Egeraat (NIRSA, NUI Maynooth)
<b>Hon. Secretary</b>	Patrick Collins (NUI Galway)

**Hon Treasurer** Edgar Morgenroth (ESRI)  
**Newsletter Officer** Declan Cussan (NIRSA)

***Committee***

Des McCafferty (MI College UL)  
Stephen Walsh (DIT)  
David Hogan (Shannon Development)  
David Meredith (Teagasc)  
Caroline Creamer (NIRSA)  
Ronnie O'Toole (NIB)  
Sean O'Riordain (NUIM)  
Philip O'Connor (Dublin Employment Pact)  
Mark Boyle (NUI Maynooth)

**Any Other Business**

The committee also discussed the following:

- A number of future committee meetings will be held by conference call starting with the next meeting in early February 2010. These will occur at lunch time and have a strict 1 hour time limit.
- The Irish Website has had recent technical difficulties associated with an outside viral attack and has been taken offline. We will now move to keep the address and have it redirect to the international site where there will be a specific Irish branch page. Declan Cussan will assume responsibility for this process and that site will in future also house pdf editions of the branch newsletter.
- The value of paying an annual insurance premium was discussed and it will be renewed by Edgar in January 2010. The issue is to be revisited in advance of the next AGM.
- Edgar was congratulated on his election as vice-chair of the international association.