

THE SOCIETY FOR OLD TESTAMENT STUDY

Minutes of the Business Meeting held on 8th January 2026

at the Online Winter Meeting on zoom
under the Presidency of Prof. Stuart Weeks

Welcome and Apologies

The President (SW) welcomed Members to the Business Meeting of the Society.

There were approximately 85 people present.

The Secretary (ZS) noted that apologies had been received from Katharine Dell, Nathan MacDonald, Holly Morse, Pieter van der Zwan.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous Business Meeting (23rd July 2025, Durham), which had been previously available online and corrected in the previous day's Committee Meeting, were approved by the meeting. A physical copy will be signed by the President when possible.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. SOTS Essay Prize

SW announced the winner: Moritz Franz Adam.

SW also noted that some lessons had been learned from the process. Most importantly, the Committee will in the future select two additional SOTS members alongside the retiring, current, and incoming presidents, to form a five-person panel to select the winner. This will ensure greater diversity in terms of expertise and other factors.

SW also announced that entries were now open for the next round of the SOTS Essay Prize, with full details available online. See: <https://www.sots.ac.uk/publications/sots-essay-prize/>

4. Proposals for New Members

The following eight people were proposed and elected into membership of the Society: Dr. Manfred Hedley, Dr. Annie Calderbank, Ms. Molly Drake, Ms. Shui Ki Fong, Ms. Ruth Givan, Dr. Ihor Kuryliak, Ms. Ziwei Lin, Dr. Yannis Wing Yan Ng.

5. Proposal on Posts and Remuneration

Richard Briggs's proposal to extend the range of officers whose conference attendance is subsidised was briefly discussed. James Patrick asked if people could simply apply for a bursary under the current rules. Heather McKay noted that we are unaware of the stress and difficulties experienced by some officers and committee members, and that the proposed changes would alleviate such unacknowledged pressures.

The Business Meeting agreed to trial the proposed system informally so that the next Business Meeting can make a more informed decision.

6. Election of Future Presidents at the Summer Business Meeting

John Jarick noted that the Committee proposes bringing forward the election of presidents by 12 months. This could result in two presidents being elected for the 2028-29 and 2029-30 terms at the next Summer Business Meeting. SW added that while this is indeed a possibility, we do not yet know if there are two candidates willing to be nominated.

7. Honorary Members Nomination

Susan Gillingham noted that the Committee would like to invite further nominations for Honorary Members. Nominations must be submitted on the proposal form (<https://www.sots.ac.uk/members-space/nominating-honorary-members/>).

8. EDI

In her absence, SW explained that Holly Morse, the SOTS Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) officer, is hoping to establish a SOTS EDI working group. HM anticipates holding 2-3 meetings online annually. Members, including younger generations, are all welcome to be in touch with HM if they would be interested in being a part of such a group:

holly.morse@manchester.ac.uk

8. Future Meetings

Currently planned as:

Summer 2026 – Nottingham, Mon 13th – Thurs 16th July 2026.

Winter 2027 – Online day – Thursday, 7 January

Summer 2027 – provisionally at Oxford in the 1st week of September, with confirmation of details to follow.

8. AOB

There being no further business, the President declared the Business Meeting closed.

Signed:

Date: