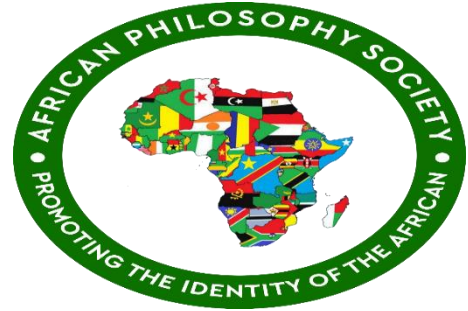


**Minutes of the 5th General Meeting of the African
Philosophy Society (APS)¹ held on Tuesday
September 19, 2023²**

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Preamble

- The meeting was called to order at 15:50.
- The meeting was presided over by the executive of the APS (Ike Odimegwu President) and Edwin Etieyibo, Secretary).
- Prof Wilfred Lajul, the Secretary of the Central Organizing Committee (COC), which stood for the Local Organizing Committee noted that there were over 180 submissions for the 5th Biennial African Philosophy World Conference (APWC) at Gulu University, of which about 150 were accepted, and many unable to attend owing to different reasons — the predominant one being lack of funds/finance.

1. Introductions

- In his opening remarks, the APS President welcomed all the members of APS and intending members to the meeting. Expressing deep joy at the successful conference and the impressive attendance at the meeting, he invited all to participate actively in the discussions of the meeting and the building of the Society.
- Concluding his opening remarks, the President gave special thanks to the following:
 - Gulu University, other collaborating Universities: Makerere and Kyambogo) as well as other partners for successfully hosting the 5th APWC (September 18-20, 2023).
 - the five (5) conference keynote speakers particularly the three that accepted the invitation to attend the meeting of the APS: Prof. Taban Lo Liyong (University of Jabu, South Sudan), Prof. Ebunoluwa Olufemi Oduwole (Olabisi Onabanjo University, Nigeria), and Prof Anke Grannes, University of Hildesheim, Germany).
 - all participants from over 10 counties that attended the conference and meeting including from Uganda, South Sudan, Kenya, Congo, South Africa, Zambia, Cameroon, Malawi, Nigeria, Belgium, and Germany).
- The APS President stressed the need for APS members to help facilitate participation in the APWC by delegates from other countries and regions of Africa and the world.

2. Update from 4th APS Biennial General Meeting (BGM)

- As mandated by the 4th APWC at UNIZIK (October 12-14, 2021), the APS Secretary provided an update on APS website, journal, book series and library.
 - **Website:** A presentation was made on how to navigate the website. The meeting was informed that the website is still under construction due to lack of funds, but that efforts were on to get it completed.

¹ We thank Dr Marian Alike and Mr Vitumbiko Nyirenda for keeping records of this meeting.

² Attachments: Some photos taken during the meeting, and membership forms for those wanting to become members of APS.

- **Journal** (*African Philosophy Journal*): There are ongoing discussions with a couple of publishers (some in Germany) about publishing possibilities. There were discussions around having African publishers, which will be explored further. Delay in launching the journal is due mainly to funds. When it is finally launched it will publish regular issues and presentations from APWC as conference editions.
- **Book Series** (*African Philosophical Inquiries*). Like the journal, there are ongoing discussions with some publishers about publishing possibilities, and when launched the book series will publish manuscripts on African philosophy and help promote younger scholars and early career academics in African philosophy.
- **Library**: The website has made provision for the African philosophy library/repository. The library/repository will give members access to articles and books on African philosophy.
- **Other Matters**: (a) It was decided that presentations at the 5th APWC be published in a suitable forum (special issue of a journal preferably); (b) Mr Vitumbiko Nyirenda (South Africa) was appointed as an interim Information Officer (of the executive of APS) to, among other things, assist with the library.

3. APS Finance

- In the absence of the APS Treasurer, the APS Secretary provided an update on APS finance.
 - **APS Bank Accounts**: The two accounts of APS are based in Nigeria, United Bank for Africa (UBA) Plc; both of which allow members to pay in local currency NGN (1022555086) and foreign currency USD (3002817067).
 - **Conference Payments**: Payments using the payment platform (website and into APS bank account) wasn't user friendly. The difficulty of paying directly into APS accounts was primarily owing to challenge around access to the accounts which was due to the fact that both APS Secretary and Treasurer are not domiciled in Nigeria. These challenges affected members who wanted to pay membership dues and registration fees for the conference. While several people were able to make payments, others were not able to do so. APS executive will look into this and continue to work on the website so as to make payment easier.
 - **APS Financial Report**: Due mainly to late registration and payments (which is still going on at the conference), an account report is not yet available. Currently, APS is owing, and its account is in red — this is from money borrowed to build the website as well as regularise our standing with the Corporate Affairs Commission in Abuja, Nigeria. The website designer is currently managing the website during this transitional period, but has not been paid for this service.
 - **Assistant Treasurer**: Members expressed the need to have the treasurer reside in the country where APS accounts are domiciled in order to facilitate financial operations and accounts. Consequently, the house appointed Dr Marian Alike (who is in Nigeria) the interim assistant treasurer.

4. Report from the 2019 Constitutional Review Committee

- The constitutional review committee was set up at the 3rd APWC in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania with Prof. Wilfred Lajul as the Chairman. The Chair noted that review work has been ongoing and did indeed experience some delays, but that the final review document is almost ready. It was decided that the committee submit the document by the end of December, 2023. Once submitted to the executive of the APS it will be made available to members so that they can comment on it and then at the next (6th) APWC in 2025 it will be deliberated on and adopted.
- The APS Secretary informed members that the draft APS Constitution, which is being worked on by the constitutional review committee is available on the website.

5. APS Membership

- The APS Secretary provided information on how to become a member of APS. The different membership categories/fees were noted, and membership forms will be made available for those who want to become members. Also noted are:
 - one can become a member at any time during the year.
 - membership is for a year and upon payment of membership dues.
 - if membership dues are already paid in the year that APWC is holding, the member only has to pay for the conference registration fees.
 - payment of membership dues for a year does not commit any person to lifetime membership or payment of dues for subsequent years.
 - only members within a particular year can take advantage of the resources that APS offers and through its websites for that year.
- The APS President led the discussions on ways of:
 - *Mapping the African philosophy landscape:* (Regions: Central, East, South, West, North, Diaspora; Universities/institutions/Departments; Scholars).
 - *Growing APS administrative structure:* Among other things the discussions focused on the following: whether there should be a national and regional structure for APS, affiliating APS with some international societies like the International Federation of Philosophical Societies (FISP), APS participation at the World Congress of Philosophy, Rome in August 2024, having APS national representations that will tap into national associations. It was decided that participation at the World Congress of Philosophy, Rome was too soon for APS, that APS executive look into affiliation with FISP, and that work be done on collaborations with national philosophy or philosophical associations with a focus on they being affiliates of APS. To this extent, A committee of three (3) people was constituted to work on the matter of national associations and their affiliation [Prof. Ebnoluwa Olufemi Oduwole (Olabisi Onabanjo University, Nigeria), as chair; Prof. Komakech Daniel (Gulu University, Uganda); Rev Sis. Josephine Nyambedha Apiyo (The Catholic Univrsity of Eastern Africa, Kenya)].
- APS is encouraged to have bursary grants to assist membership of APS and to encourage students and young scholars.

6. Next (6th) APWC

- **Guidelines for hosting the APWC:** Guidelines for hosting APWC are being prepared and will be provided to institutions intending to host the APWC. When finalized the document will be uploaded on APS website.
- **Declaration of interest:** There were discussions and suggestions regarding the host of the next (6th) APWC in 2025. Following the bid by Dr Roger Mondoue, and discussions following this, the unanimous decision was to award the hosting to the University of Doula (Cameroon) under the direction of Dr Mondoue.

7. Any Other Business and Vote of Thanks

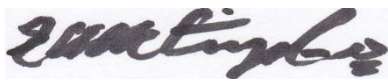
- There was suggestion that APS look at creating a Centre that will make it easier for countries to support APS.
- There are two sets of votes of thanks that were decided on. The first is the one given by the University of Gulu in respect of those involved in the conference. The second is the one by APS, which is to be given after the meeting and during the cocktail party organised by the University of Gulu for conference participants. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Gulu University Prof David Okello Owiny gave the first vote of thanks during the meeting and thanked the University's Vice Chancellor Prof. George Ladaah Openjuru, the five (5) keynote speakers, all those that made the conference a success including those who worked on the various sub committees of the COC, as well as sponsors/partners including Makerere and Kyambogo Universities, the ICT department, caterers, cleaners.

8. Presentation of Certificates

- At the end of the meeting, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the Gulu University Prof Owiny presented certificates of participation/presentation to conference participants and presenters who had not received theirs.

Adjournment of Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 19:05



Edwin Etieyibo, PhD (Alberta); <https://edwinetieyibo.com/>

Secretary of the APS (*On behalf of the executive & members of the APS*)