

IALS, Russell Square, London, Room Room L101

<p>Present: Diamond Ashiagbor, Charlotte Bendall, Lois Bibbings, Kevin J. Brown, Emilie Cloatre, Dave Cowan, Jess Guth, Rosie Harding, Maebh Harding, Lydia Hayes, Rosemary Hunter, Francis King, Marie Selwood, Tom Webb.</p>	
<p>Agenda item</p>	<p><i>Action</i></p>
<p>1. Apologies</p>	
<p>Sarah Blandy, Mark O'Brien, Helen Carr, Nwudego Nkemakonam Chinwuba, Carla Crifo, Naomi Creutzfeldt, Jonathan Garton, Jen Hendry, Ben Mayfield, Jed Meers, Gethin Rees</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of 15.01.15</p>	
<p>The Minutes were approved.</p>	
<p>3.1 Chair</p>	
<p>See Chair's report for further details.</p> <p>Rosemary Hunter welcomed new members to the executive.</p> <p>It was AGREED that Sharon Cowan be co-opted on to the executive for one year as the Scottish representative. Rosemary Hunter to write to Sharon.</p> <p>Rosie Harding was elected as the new Vice Chair.</p> <p>Nominations were invited for the role of Recruitment Secretary. None were forthcoming at the meeting so an email will go out to all members of the executive inviting nominations.</p> <p>Rosemary Hunter reminded the committee that all members are invited to play a full part within the executive.</p> <p>Rosemary Hunter confirmed that Nathan Emmerich has accepted the role of SLSA Administrator. The email address accompanying the post is: admin@slsa.ac.uk.</p> <p>It was AGREED that Dave Cowan, Lois Bibbings, Maebh Harding, Naomi Creutzfeldt and Rosemary Hunter (chair) would form the membership of the new sub-committee on mentorship and research methods training.</p> <p>The nominations of Richard Collier, Martin Partington, Hilary Sommerlad and Stephen Whittle to be Fellows of the Academy of Social Sciences were all successful.</p> <p>Rosemary Hunter confirmed she has sent a list of 29 socio-legal experts to the ESRC as potential new members of the Peer Review College. No acknowledgement had yet been received. Rosemary to send the list to Diamond who can follow up with the ESRC.</p> <p>BIS – PG Loan scheme Consultation – It was AGREED to respond. Lois Bibbings, Dave Cowan and Rosie Harding will draft and circulate to the executive a response to the consultation.</p> <p>The Law Commission didn't take up offer of free place at SLSA conference although</p>	<p>Rosemary Hunter</p> <p>Rosemary Hunter</p> <p>Rosemary Hunter Diamond Ashiagbor</p> <p>Dave Cowan, Lois Bibbings, Rosie Harding</p>

<p>they did participate in a successful session. It was AGREED that next January the executive will consider renewing the invitation for one free place for the 2016 conference.</p> <p>The next Law Commission meeting with Law subject associations will be held on 8th June – Rosemary Hunter and Rosie Harding to attend.</p> <p>LSA – The incoming president of the LSA has expressed interest in forming closer ties with the SLSA. Rosemary is going to Seattle for the LSA Conference where she will meet with the current president, executive officer and president=elect. Rosie, Tom and Charlotte are also attending the LSA conference. Rosie will join Rosemary in the meeting with LSA. Rosemary to email Rosie details.</p> <p>Retention policy – Rosemary Hunter put forward a draft retention policy for consideration by the executive. It was AGREED to revisit the policy following further consultation, particularly on the issue of data protection. Tom Webb to seek advice on how best to frame the retention policy from a colleague with expertise in the field. Meabh Harding to investigate how a member of the executive would go about training as a data protection officer and report back to the executive.</p>	<p>Rosemary Hunter and Rosie Harding</p> <p>Rosemary Hunter</p> <p>Tom Webb Meabh Harding</p>
3.2. Vice Chair	
No report as position vacant. New Vice Chair Rosie Harding.	
3.3 Treasurer	
<p>No report presented. Forthcoming.</p> <p>Rosemary Hunter noted the apparent discrepancy between money collected in membership fees and the number of people we have on our records as members. Mark O' Brien will investigate and report back to the executive at the meeting in September.</p>	Mark O' Brien
3.4 Membership	
<p>Sarah Blandy provided a written report.</p> <p>Marie Selwood to review the website and add suitable text instructions on how to renew membership if paying annually rather than by standing order, in addition to the proposed video.</p> <p>Problems with accessing funds from PayPal continue. This will require resolving issues around electronic banking.</p>	Marie Selwood
3.5 Recruitment	
No report as position vacant.	
3.6. Newsletter and Web Editor	
<p>Deadline for submissions to next edition of newsletter is Monday 18th May 2015.</p> <p>Meabh Harding to email Marie pictures of the SLSA Conference so they can be added to the website.</p> <p>Marie Selwood invited submissions for a new banner photograph for the website.</p> <p>Marie Selwood invited suggestions for advertising on the back of the newsletter. Dave Cowan to inquire into possible placing of an advert for the Palgrave Macmillan socio-</p>	<p>Meabh Harding</p> <p>Dave Cowan</p>

<p>legal series.</p> <p>There was consensus among the executive that there should continue to be no advertising on the website. We should instead encourage advertising in the newsletter, including half-pages and smaller advertisements.</p> <p>Francis King reported that some publishers have expressed an interest in having access to the contact details of conference delegates. After discussion the executive AGREED not to permit the providing of contact details or email lists to publishers.</p> <p>It was AGREED to permit the trial of the SLSA emailing delegates on behalf of publishers. This would enable the SLSA to maintain control of the contact information and avoid conference delegates being spammed in future by publishers. Tom Webb and Francis King to examine how this could be implemented for next year within the sponsorship packages for publishers.</p>	Tom Webb and Francis King
3.7 PG Student Representative	
<p>Charlotte Bendall reported that she had been using social media, in addition to her postgraduate list, to promote the calls for papers and posters for the SLSA conference, and has been using the postgraduate list to circulate details of events taking place that might be of interest to the postgraduate community.</p> <p>Charlotte organised the 'buddy up' scheme at Warwick. Five postgraduates were 'buddied up' with an academic this year, and one is presently in the process of writing a report for the newsletter.</p> <p>The Executive will begin the process of finding a replacement for Charlotte after the January meeting.</p>	
3.8. Webmaster	
<p>A written report was provided.</p> <p>Stream webpages are available to stream convenors. Rosemary Hunter will check with Jed Meers as to when these web pages are to go live, and also to find out about progress on the blog.</p> <p>Meabh Harding to provide list of theme convenors from the Warwick Conference to Rosemary Hunter, who will contact them to ask if they would like to set up web pages as well.</p>	<p>Rosemary Hunter and Jed Meers</p> <p>Meabh Harding</p>
3.9 International liaison	
KJB to contact BL to ascertain his continuing interest in the role.	Kevin Brown
3.10 Social Media	
<p>A written report was provided.</p> <p>Dave Cowan to provide another book prize for the 2,000th SLSA twitter follower.</p>	
4.1.a Warwick 2015	
<p>Meabh Harding confirmed there was a record 450 delegates in attendance.</p> <p>She confirmed that final figures should be signed off by the end of the month.</p>	

4.1.d Future Conferences	
It was AGREED that the association will put out a call for conference hosts for the conferences in 2018 and following. Rosemary Hunter to draw up the specification.	Rosemary Hunter
4.2. Postgraduate Conference	
To be hosted by the Oxford Centre for Socio-Legal Studies on 7 th and 8th January 2016. Marie Selwood to advertise dates in the e-bulletin. Further details after September.	Marie Selwood.
4.3 One Day Conference	
Speakers have been invited for the joint IALS/British Library/SLSA/BSC national socio-legal training day on criminology and criminal justice, and the programme is almost complete. It will be held on Friday 20 November 2015. It was reported that there was a small raise in fees in order to be able to cover speakers' travel expenses. Any small loss on travel expenses will be defrayed between the sponsoring organisations. A call will go out for applications for future one-day conferences in the e-bulletin and newsletter with ideas in time for September meeting. Marie Selwood to organise	Marie Selwood.
5.1 Book prizes	
Application closing date for book prizes is the first Monday in October. It was AGREED that Diamond Ashiagbor and Lois Bibbings would join the book prizes committee.	
5.2. Article prize	
Application closing date for article prize is the first Monday in October. All members of the executive are invited to participate in the judging of this.	
5.3 Contributions to the socio-legal community	
Application deadline first Monday in September.	
5.4 Grants	
Application closing date for grants and Fieldwork Scholarships is towards end of October. It was AGREED to add the following new members to the committee – Dave Cowan, Emilie Cloatre, Lydia Hayes, Gethin Rees.	
5.5 Seminar	

<p>Application closing date is early December.</p> <p>No need for additional members on the committee.</p>	
<p>6. New SLSA Awards</p>	
<p>Rosemary Hunter to draw up guidelines and entry forms and then the schemes can be publicised.</p>	<p>Rosemary Hunter</p>
<p>7. Reforms to Legal Education</p>	
<p>BSB/ Learned society Working Group – Jess Guth to confirm with Chris Ashford if the group still exists and if we need to nominate a new representative.</p> <p>Francis King and Jess Guth reported back to the executive on their attendance at relevant meetings.</p> <p><u>Francis King reported on her attendance at the SRA competency assessment framework consultation</u></p> <p>The SRA's preferred option is centralising assessment - Prospective solicitors can study where they like but then attend an SRA-approved assessment centre to evidence their ability to meet the competency standards. The proclaimed benefits of this option are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum standard • Consistency • Widening participation • Freedom for training and education providers <p>The draft assessment framework consists of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 1 - Functioning Knowledge tests: 3 online objectivity tests of 90 minutes each; questions based on short scenarios; students to have uncapped attempts to get a pass.. • Part 2 - Standardised Practical Legal Examination: assessment of the candidate's competence in 6 areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Interviewing and advising ○ Advocacy/oral presentation ○ Negotiation ○ Writing ○ Drafting ○ Legal Research <p>These to be assessed in 2 out of 5 available practice contexts. The 5 contexts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Civil litigation ○ criminal litigation ○ Property law and practice ○ Wills and probate ○ Business law and practice <p>No limit on the number of attempts.</p> <p>Training contracts may also be replaced by compulsory 'workplace experience' but this proposal is quite vague at this stage.</p> <p>The SRA have set Spring 2015 as the deadline for ironing out all of the fine detail of the assessment framework and producing a technical evaluation.</p> <p>By the Summer there will be a statement on transitional regulations.</p>	<p>Jess Guth</p>

<p>By the end of 2015 they will consult on the new assessment framework.</p> <p>They will introduce the new assessment framework from 2018.</p> <p>They are only guaranteeing qualification under the existing regulations for students starting their academic stage of training in 2017-2018.</p> <p><u>Jess Guth reported</u> that the Bar Council plans for reform are moving at a slower pace. It appears that they are keen to maintain the qualifying law degree as a path of entry,</p> <p><u>Jess Guth reported</u> from the meeting of the Law Subject Associations Working Group that Tony Bradney is preparing a draft of a position paper on the reforms. Jess Guth to circulate once she has sight.</p> <p><u>Jess Guth reported</u> on the QAA consultation on the new benchmarking statement for law. The consultation closes at the end of May. The SLSA has not received an invitation to contribute to the consultation. Jess Guth to send the consultation document to members of executive to permit a response from the executive.</p> <p><u>Jess Guth reported</u> that CHULS, ALT and SLS have agreed to donate £5,000 each for a survey of teaching in law schools. The previous survey was over a decade ago. The purpose of the survey would be to gain a better understanding of what goes on in law schools across the country. It would cover the UK and Ireland. Previous surveys focused on UG teaching. Tony Bradney is preparing a tender document. It was AGREED that the SLSA would like to have further information and input into the project specification before agreeing (how much) to contribute. In particular: will the survey simply duplicate data that is already available from HESA or HEFCE? What form is the survey intended to take? What is the likely cost of data gathering and analysis? Will PGT and PGR be covered as well as UG? What information of value to the SLSA will be gathered?</p>	<p>Jess Guth</p> <p>Jess Guth</p> <p>Jess Guth</p>
<p>8. Next Meeting Dates</p>	
<p>The following dates were agreed: 17th September 2015. 14th January 2016 and 19th May 2016. All meetings to be held in IALS, 12:30pm lunch, 1pm meeting unless informed otherwise</p> <p>. KJB to book venue and lunch.</p> <p>SLSA Annual conference 5th to 7th April 2016.</p>	<p>Kevin Brown</p>
<p>9. Any Other Business</p>	
<p>It was AGREED that the executive should have a crib sheet/welcome letter for new members by way of an induction.</p> <p>It was AGREED that RH would provide further information about what is expected when asking executive members to attend events on behalf of the executive/association.</p>	<p>Rosemary Hunter</p> <p>Rosemary Hunter</p>