

## **Membership of the SLSA Executive Committee**

The SLSA is an unincorporated voluntary association which exists to promote socio-legal studies and to serve its members. Its major sources of income are membership fees and the surplus made from the annual conference. The Executive Committee is the governing body of the association. It meets three times a year, in mid-September, mid-January and mid-May, in central London, and communicates between meetings via a JISCMail email list.

The term of office of Exec members is three years, with a right to be re-elected for a further three years. After serving for a continuous period of six years an Exec member must stand down from the Committee for at least a year (and may then re-nominate if they wish). Some Exec members are co-opted rather than elected, in order to perform a particular function (e.g. the Webmaster) or if we wish to fulfil a particular representative purpose (e.g. representative of the Journal of Law and Society). Co-option is for an indefinite period.

The SLSA will reimburse your travel expenses to attend Exec meetings, but since we are using members' funds to do so, we will only cover second class, advance purchase rail fares. If you need to fly, please book as early as possible. There is an expense form for claiming reimbursement on the SLSA website here: [www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/executive#docs](http://www.slsa.ac.uk/index.php/executive#docs).

The activities of the Executive Committee fall into the following categories:

- 1** Office bearers: Exec members may choose to become an office bearer as positions fall vacant. The officers are: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Recruitment Secretary, Postgraduate Representative (who must be a postgraduate), International Liaison, Publishers' Liaison and Social Media Officer. We also have a permanent Newsletter, web and ebulletin editor, Marie Selwood; Webmaster, Jed Meers; and Administrative Assistant, Nathan Emmerich.
- 2** Sub-committees: each of the SLSA funding schemes for members has a subcommittee to decide on applications received for the award of funding. Thus there are sub-committees for the book prizes, research grants, the seminar competition, and the research training and mentoring schemes. Sub-committees may also be set up on an ad hoc basis to deal with a particular issue. Each member of the Exec is expected to join one or more sub-committees.
- 3** Policy decisions: Policy issues raised at Exec meetings are discussed and decided on by the whole Committee. These might include issues relating to the annual conference, ideas for new funding schemes or requests for funding support from the SLSA, or suggestions for nominations of eminent socio-legal scholars to be Fellows of the Academy of Social Science. The annual prize for contributions to the socio-legal community and the annual article prize are also decided by the Committee as a whole. Since the Executive only meets three times per year, members are expected to prioritise attendance at these meetings.
- 4** Contributing to submissions: The SLSA is invited to or considers it important to make submissions on a range of consultations concerning socio-legal and higher education

issues. If you have particular expertise or interest in a topic, your input into the SLSA's submission will be welcomed.

- 5 Representing the Executive at events and on committees: The Chair receives regular invitations to attend various events. If she cannot attend, she will email the Exec to see if anyone else is available and willing to go on behalf of the SLSA. Less frequently we are asked to nominate a representative to a committee and again, the Chair will email the Exec and ask for volunteers.
- 6 Generally promoting and supporting the SLSA. This might include encouraging colleagues to join the Association, proposing a topic for a one-day conference, contributing to the newsletter if requested, or attending SLSA-sponsored events. Exec members are expected to attend the annual conference unless absence is completely unavoidable.

By engaging in the above activities, you will have the opportunity to gain considerable knowledge of current issues in legal education and higher education generally, gain experience in assessing funding applications and/or research outputs, contribute ideas to the development of the association and what we offer our members, learn about the running of an association, take on a leadership role and pursue networking opportunities. These can be of benefit to your own academic career as well to your institution.

You are probably aware that the SLSA website is a vast trove of information: [www.slsa.ac.uk](http://www.slsa.ac.uk). Any questions can often be answered there. Otherwise, feel free to ask Nathan [admin@slsa.ac.uk](mailto:admin@slsa.ac.uk) or Rosemary [rosemary.hunter@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:rosemary.hunter@qmul.ac.uk).