|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| slsa-red80 |  | **Annual General Meeting  Minutes 4 April 2019** |

**Attendees:** Colin Moore, Daniel Bedford, Emily Walsh, Smita Kheria, Fiona Cownie, Anne Barlow, Jess Mant, Rachael Blakey, Rebecca Moosavian, Amanda Keeling, Amanda Perry-Kessaris, Marie Selwood, Roxanna Dehaghani, John Harrington, Jed Meers, Tom Webb, Lucy Series, Phil Thomas, Anthony Bradney, Robert Dingwall, Chris Ashford, Tracey Varnava, Maebh Harding, Annika Newnham, Petros Terzis, Flora Renz, Naomi Creutzfeldt, Vanessa Munro, Antonia Layard, Emilie Cloatre, Jen Hendry, Linda Mulcahy, Sarah Blandy, Philip Bremner, Caroline Hunter, Grace Ying-Fang Tsai, Neil Graffin, Rosie Harding

**1. Apologies**

Ed Kirton-Darling

**2. Approval of Minutes from AGM 2018**

Agreed

**3. Officer Reports**

**3.1. Chair’s Report (RH)**

RH registered formal thanks to the University of Newcastle and the University of Bristol, hosts of the 2017 and 2018 conferences respectively, including their donations, placing the Association in an excellent financial position.

The Annual PGR Conference was held in Warwick. RH extended formal thanks for the organisation of the event. We are looking forward to the event in Edinburgh.

The SLSA co-sponsored the LSAANZ Conference in Wollongong in December 2018. We provided bursaries to three ECRs to support their attendance at the conference. Roxanna Dehaghani wrote a short review of the conference for the newsletter. This was an excellent event and enabled us to reach out further internationally.

Daniel Bedford and Emily Walsh now on executive and will be organising our 2020 conference in Portsmouth. We would also like to extend thanks to the Cardiff team for the conference in 2021.

In the following association year, we will be organising three one-day conferences. We also supported a one-day conference run by Dave Cowan, Ann Mumford and Katie Bales on ‘Rich Law/Poor Law’ in January 2019 at IALS. We are co-organising a one-day conference on ‘Impact and Law Reform’ at IALS on 11 June 2019. This will be an outstanding opportunity to connect with the Law Commission.

Jen Hendry is organising a one-day conference at Humboldt University, Berlin ‘Socio-Legal Studies in Germany and UK: Theory and Methods’ in September 2019.

**Prizes and competitions**

We again received very strong applications for books and article prizes.

This year we have awarded nine small grants (from 20 applications) (success rate 45%) and one PhD Fieldwork grant (from 12 applications) (success rate 8%). As in the previous year, our focus was on the quality of the applications. The total value of the grants awarded was £26,657. We increased the amount available to support grants in recognition of the higher than usual conference donations received this year. It was noted that the fieldwork applications were of a lower quality. We will be assessing the information we provide to PhD students on the website with a view to updating it.

We received 19 applications for the seminar competition; 6 applications were funded to a total award budget of £10,217 (success rate 31.5%)

We made two awards under the Research Training and Mentoring Grants scheme in the 2018-19 year. We have currently closed the mentoring scheme while we review the aims and objectives of that scheme.

**Learned society activities**

We have been busy as a learned society. We receive frequent invitations to contribute or respond to various initiatives in socio-legal studies, legal education, the higher education sector and law reform. We also liaise with socio-legal associations in other jurisdictions. This year these activities included: – • Legal Education and Training issues – we continued to participate in the Law Learned Associations LETR Working Group and to be represented on the SRA’s SQE reference group.

• Postgraduate and doctoral training – RH participated in the third masterclass in Oxford in September 2018.

• The Law Commission – we attended the annual meeting between the Law Commission and the learned societies in Law and have been working closely with the Law Commission of England and Wales on the ‘Impact and Law Reform’ conference. RH also presented to their board on developing relationships between the LCEW and the SLSA and gave a socio-legal methods training seminar to Law Commission research assistants and solicitors.

• The Academy of Social Sciences – we participated in the Academy’s CEO and Chief Officers’ Group and continued to support the Campaign for Social Sciences. A focus of the AcSS learned societies group now is on new open access plans. We are actively engaging with this and a working group of exec members are currently working on refreshing the SLSA information on open access.

**SLSA newsletter, website and blog**

The newsletter and e-bulletin continue to offer events to all members of the socio-legal community.

Posts to the SLSA blog have slowed somewhat in recent months. We encourage members to submit blogs, perhaps showcasing their paper at the conference as a way of reaching out quickly to a wide readership.

Jed Meers plans to step down from his role as webmaster once a successor can be found. He has been invaluable in his role and we would like to extend our many thanks to Jed for his work. We would also like to extend our thanks to Nathan Emmerich for his work as administrator.

**GDPR compliance**

To make sure we are GDPR compliant we needed to do a lot of work and invest some money to make sure we have a fully GDPR compliant membership system – we now have confidence in this. Grateful thanks to Maebh Harding, Nathan Emmerich, Marie Selwood and Jed Meers for all that they have done to introduce this new and improved system.

**SLSA executive committee**

• On behalf of the SLSA RH extended a heartfelt vote of thanks to those members of the Executive Committee who have resigned during the year or are stepping down at the AGM: Jen Hendry and Jess Guth both come to the end of their second term on the exec and are required to step down, Devyani Prahbat and Janine Sargioni come to the end of their term as co-opted Bristol conference reps. Imogen Jones stepped down from the exec during the year, though has continued as a member of the local conference organising team at Leeds.

• Our Honorary Treasurer, Elen Stokes, has also stepped down from her role during the academic year, as she has gone on maternity leave.

• Vanessa Munro has very kindly stepped in as acting treasurer and has signalled her willingness to be elected as Honorary Treasurer at this AGM.

• Diamond Ashiagbor has come to the end of her term as a co-opted member of the exec, as her ESRC role has also come to an end. Diamond has signalled her willingness to be elected to serve on the exec.

• Rachel Blakey (Cardiff) and Tahir Abass (Leeds) are the new PGR representatives on the executive and have been undertaking excellent work since they were co-opted in the autumn.

• Daniel Bedford and Emily Walsh (Portsmouth) have been co-opted onto the Executive as representatives of the 2019 annual conference host institution.

**3.2 Vice-chair’s report**

JH has nothing further to report. Very many thanks to JH for all her work as vice-chair.

**3.3. Treasurer (VM)**

VM has just picked this up – we need to get our accounts formally audited and these will be reported to the exec in due course. Our closing balance is high because the Newcastle donation came through. Finances looking healthy – we have committed £40,000 approx to the grants. Many thanks for VM.

TOTAL SLSA ASSETS:

Opening Balance as 1/3/18 £66,380.86

Total Income £125,023.98

Total Expenditure £77,430.54

Closing Balance as 28/2/19 £113,974.30

Further details can be found in the Treasurer’s report.

**3.4. Membership (MH)**

The new membership database is progressing well, and MH can now check fees every week.

**3.5 Recruitment (FR)**

Nothing to add beyond the submitted report. Membership at the time of the AGM is 1124 persons.

**3.6. Newsletter and Web Editor (MS**)

Nothing to add beyond the submitted report. MS would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who has helped her this year.

**3.7 PG Student Representative (TA/RB)**

RB and TA reported that the session went well yesterday (the first day of the conference). TA has gone through the feedback and overwhelming it has been positive. It was noted that we had a huge number registering and we need to bare this in mind for the future.

**3.8 Webmaster (JM)**

JM extends thanks to MS and MH for all their help.

**3.9 International Liaison (SK)**

Nothing further to add beyond the submitted report.

**3.10 Social Media (JMa)**

It was noted by JMa that there is so much going on via social media channels and this is because we have a lot of PGR students joining and attending the conferences.

**3.11 Publisher’s liaison (NC)**

NC noted that everything is progressing well. NC said she is a position to hand it over the publisher’s liaison role and we will seek a new officer.

**3.12 Data Protection Officer (CM)**

Nothing further to add beyond the submitted report.

**3.13 Portsmouth 2020 Annual Conference (DB/EW)**

Nothing further to add beyond the submitted report.

**4. Elections**

There are several new positions – please note these below and the newly elected members:

Membership secretary: Maebh Harding will stand again. Rosie Harding and Neil Graffin seconded, plus numerous others.

Diamond Ashiagbor: was previously a co-opted member. DA will stand again – John Harrington and Antonia Layard seconded, plus numerous others.

New members

Rebecca Moosavian – Jess Mant nominated and Jen Hendry seconded, plus numerous others.

Philip Bremner – Lucy Series nominated and Anne Barlow seconded.

Election of treasurer

Vanessa Munro - Rosie Harding nominated, and Neil Graffin supported, plus numerous others.

**5. Legal status of the Association**

RH notes that we are a much bigger association and we need to think about working for the public benefit as well as for the benefit of our members, especially given the rising importance of non-academic impact in socio-legal studies. The executive committee have decided that it is time that the SLSA applied to register as a charity and refocus our activities accordingly.

There are a number of options open to the Association: to be an unincorporated association registered as a charity, or a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, or to be a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO).

A working group from the Exec investigated all of the options in detail and propose that registering as an association model CIO would be the most appropriate legal form for the SLSA.

The following resolution was proposed:

**“The members resolve to register the Socio-Legal Studies Association as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO, Association Model), and to transfer the assets of the unincorporated Socio-Legal Studies Association to that registered CIO.”**

The resolution was communicated to the membership on 20 March 2019, in accordance with the provisions of the SLSA Constitution.

A vote was held, and the resolution was passed unanimously by all those present at the AGM.

RH has invited people to look at the draft constitution if anyone is interested.

A discussion was had about the implications of registering as a charity for the SLSA activities. It was noted that we can take positions and express our views as present, whilst also adhering to the requirements of charity law.

It was agreed that we will not embed the requirement to have a ‘Scottish Branch’ in the new constitution, but that we will include powers to delegate.

**6. Any other business**

None

**7. Next meeting**

2 April 2020.