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**13 May 2021**

**Online**

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| **Present**  Rosie Harding (RH), Vanessa Munro (VM), Chris Ashford (CA), Clare Williams (CW), Colin Moore (CM), Vicky Adkins (VA), Marie Selwood (MS), Caroline Hunter (CH), Diamond Ashiagbor (DA), Philip Bremner (PB), Jessica Mant (JM), Emma Milne (EM), Rebecca Moosavian (RM), John Harrington (JH), Huw Pritchard (HP), Daniel Bedford (CB), Flora Renz (FR), Sabrina Germain (SG), Mitchell Travis (MT), Neil Graffin (NG), Smita Kheria (SK) |  |
| **1. Apologies**  Simon Flacks (SF), Ed Kirton-Darling (EKD), Emma Jones (EJ), Beverley Clough (BC), Diamond Ashiagbor (DA) |  |
| **2. Approval of minutes**  Agreed. |  |
| **3. Officer Reports**  **3.1 Chair’s report (RH)**  A very warm welcome to the SLSA Board to our three new trustees elected at the AGM: Bev Clough, Mitch Travis and Sabrina Germain.  Congratulations to Chris Ashford on being elected as Vice Chair.  We have a vacant PG rep role now that Tahir Abass has stepped down. We will take the usual approach and advertise this opportunity through our ebulletin and the PGR email list over the next couple of months. Volunteers for appointment panel – CA, VA, CM, JM, RM, EM  Can all board members think about their PGR contacts, circulate the advert in their home institutions and networks, and encourage those who they think may be good in the role to put themselves forward.  SF is taking a period of parental leave until January 2022 and will therefore not be attending board meetings during that time.  Precarious researcher rep - the board need to decide how to recruit to this representative role (see below).  Charity Commission Trustees Annual Report - this needs to be submitted by October 2021 – RH asks the board whether there are any comments, amendments, or changes? All agreed that it is OK to submit. RH to submit to Charity Commission.  Academy of Social Sciences – RH notes that they are currently not undertaking any projects on law and regulation and has asked that we take forward some work on this. Would anyone like to work on this? JH, SK, CA, PB, VM agreed to take this forward. RH suggested acting as liaison. CA suggested working with the other associations to come up with something.  Member fees – RH suggested that the retired member fee should go up in line with the other increases in fees.  - CM suggests that there may be an issue concerning whether retired members can enter into prizes.  -RH suggests that CM should put forward a proposal for this, working with the EDI committee.  Supporting impact in socio-legal research – RH is keen that we consider ways to support members in developing the non-academic impact of research.  -CA suggested that we should not call this ‘academic engagement’, as it would detract from the purpose – it might lead to a lot of applications for dissemination.  - MT, JM, JH, SG, VM, and CA will work on a proposal for the September meeting.    Many thanks from RH to all those Board members who supported the 14th Law Commission event. It was well attended, and the Law Commission found it a useful exercise.  **3.2 Vice-chair (CA)**  Nothing to report due to it being CA’s first meeting as Vice-chair.  **3.3. Treasurer (VM)**  VM reported that the accounts are looking healthy and there is a good donation coming through from the Cardiff conference in March/April.  RH queried how much money we can put into the grants pot for 2022.  We have agreed to adjust the pots. 5k will be allocated for seminars, and grants will be adjusted to 15k. There is a buffer built into the figures to allow for issues which might arise (considering on-going issues with regards to the pandemic).  **3.4. Membership and data protection (CM)**  Membership numbers have increased by 35% in the last year, and most members are now paying their subscriptions on time.  We can now note who is attending from different countries. Ireland and Australia are the countries with the highest levels of membership outside of the UK.  **3.5. Recruitment (RM)**  RM stated that we are creating an electronic flyer and are investigating means to recruit more individuals in online rooms at conferences. RM suggested if anyone has any comments or suggestions to get in contact.  **3.6. Newsletter and Web Editor (MS)**  MS has nothing additional to add, other than what is provided in the report. It was agreed that we would increase the number of pages in the newsletter back to 16 from the Autumn 2021 edition.  **3.7. PG Student Representative (VA)**  VA suggested that there is nothing additional to add beyond what is in the report, but the PGR activities at the Cardiff Conference went very well.  **3.8. Webmaster (DB)**  DB asked whether we should continue to have an institutional membership tier, stating that five people have selected this option.  -VM suggested that given the few people that have selected this option that we should remove it.  - CM suggests that there may be no point to institutional membership as there is no discount. CM suggests maybe there should be a discount if we go down this route to get institutions to pay.  - RH suggests that we need to look into this more and in the meantime this tier of payment is taken down from the website. RH also suggests no more institutional memberships to be issued in the interim.  DB will check whose membership is due to expire and when and follow-up on this.  **3.9. International liaison (SK)**  In the September 2020 meeting, SK had posed the question about connecting better with socio-legal communities, especially in the Global South. Reporting back, SK suggests that we should organise substantive events, and to use the seminar series as a mechanism to connect with other organisations.  -MT asked whether there are any bodies we could join with to create joint seminars?  -CW suggested we could use the SLSA directory, but it was explained that this was taken down because it was poorly updated. CM explained that CRM would likely charge for a new directory and it would cost a lot of money.  -SK suggested she could have one-to-one chats with other organisations, which RH agreed would be a good idea.  -JH noted that the Global Challenges Research Fund has been abolished and now is a good time to be seeking to try to develop means to support work on-going in the Global South. This, he suggested, could focus on ECRs.  -SK suggested reporting back on progress in September.  **3.10. Social Media (JMa)**  JMa suggested that the blog is going well, with the mini-series proving popular. This is something to consider moving forward.  **3.11. Publisher’s liaison (PB)**  PB reported that the publishers suggested they were happy of their conference experience.  PB suggests it might be possible to offer very cheap rate e.g. £50 for a page in the pdf version of the newsletter but we are not sure whether it would be worth pursuing this further given the time involved and budgetary restrictions. PB would welcome views from board members about whether we should try putting a package together for the publishers or leave this for now.  **3.12. EDI**  At the January meeting, the question of whether members could freeze their membership was raised and the EDI subcommittee was tasked with drawing up a policy.  CW suggested that section 25 of the constitution allows for the creation of additional regulations to allow the construction of a regulation on freezing membership. This will not change the constitution (RH) – it would be a by-law.  In order to be able to respond to requests for information about our members and the socio-legal community, the plan had been to collect five or so categories of data using the membership database. CM suggested that the membership survey is a flexible means of collecting information on members, rather than the CRM, because it gives better flexibility. This will be revised, will go through ethics at Essex and will be sent out in Sept, and then at regular intervals.  We continue to collect statements made by law schools responding to the Black Lives Matter and Decolonize movements, along with statements of best practice. These should be sent to CW.  Precarity representative – in the January meeting it had been discussed that given the rise of precarious employment in the socio-legal community, a precarity representative could be appointed to the board.  -It was discussed whether we want to appoint someone in an advisory capacity, or whether the precarity representative should be a trustee of the Board.  -RH suggested that there is no guarantee that someone on a precarious contract would be appointed in a competitive round when appointing to the Board.  -VA asked how we are defining a precarious contract.  -RH asked if the EDI committee could come up with a descriptor for this role.  -CM suggested that the postgraduate representative should also be involved in this. | CA, VA, CM, JM, RM, EM  ALL  RH  JH, SK, CA, PB, VM, RH.  CM, DA, PB, JH, EKD, JM, CM, FR, CW  MT, JM, JH, SG, VM, CA  DB  SK  ALL  ALL, CW  CM, DA, PB, JH, EKD, JM, CM, FR, CW [VA] |
| **4. Sub-committee membership and officer roles**  Grants subcommittee – two vacancies – BC and HP have agreed to join. The grants committee will need to decide who is to be the next chair.  Book prize committee – one vacancy – MT to join  Research training grants - two vacancies – JM and VA to join.  Future conferences – do we need an active sub-committee on this at the moment? No, remove from website.  Research Ethics working group – two vacancies (see below; MT and SG to join).  **5.1.a. Cardiff conference (HP)**  HP expressed his thanks to the board for their support and encouragement with the Cardiff conference, with particular thanks to MS and PB.  HP stated that, overall, the conference was a success, and although there were some technical difficulties at the start of the first session these were resolved very quickly.  HP reported that there were 765 delegates, including a large increase in international delegates. 22 bursaries were awarded, and overall finances amounted to over 60k.  RH expressed thanks to the Cardiff team and stated that the online experience was as close as it could have been to a face to face conference, and the association are extremely happy with the potential donation.  **5.1.b. York (CH)**  CH states that the York conference are planning on using a different platform for convening the conference – Mosaic – rather than EasyChair. This is because the conference office uses it, and while it is slightly more expensive, it has increased functionality (e.g. an interactive programme can be included). It is also easier to use.  -It was agreed that moving to Mosaic for the conference is OK.  CH asked whether it should be a hybrid conference (online and F2F) as (in the best scenario) international attendees and those with compromised immune systems are likely to be unable to attend.  -SG suggested that in working on the conference for the SLS, most of the delegates want to attend F2F.  -NG stated that we have to work towards a hybrid conference as it is unclear what the position will be next April.  -CM stated that the issue with hybrid conferences is that it is difficult for the online model not being second rate.  -JM stated that setting up rooms etc for audio and video will be complicated.  -RH suggests that hybrid conferences may lead to the doubling of costs.  -RM suggested that some institutions might decide to only allow their staff to go to the online event because it is less expensive.  CH asks whether there should be a theme? RH/VM suggests the impact of Covid would be a suitable theme.  -NG – is this just for the plenary?  -RH – agreed just for plenary.  CH – does RH want to visit York? Yes, this can be arranged with CA, and VM.  **5.2. Future Conferences**  Nothing to add.  **5.3 Postgraduate conference (RH)**  RH suggested we need a group of volunteers to organise the next PG conference. CM, JM, VM, VA, SG to join. SK will act in an advisory capacity. PG conference should be ready to open for registrations after the September Board meeting.  **5.4 One Day Conferences (RH)**  CW and FR have submitted a proposal on how covid-19 affects the conduct of socio-legal research. There will be costs involved for outputs (live scribe to create visual and creative summary of the event and summary for further outputs) and recordings.  VM – can we agree £700? Agreed by the board. | BC, NG, EKD, CM, RM, HP  MT  JM and VA  MS  MT, SG  RH, CH, CA, VM  CM, JM, VM, VA, SG. |
| **6. Prizes and Competitions**  **6.1. Book prizes (CA)**  CA is the new chair.  **6.2 Article prizes (RH)**  Nothing to report.  **6.3. Grants**  Nothing further to add.  **6.4. Seminars (FR)**  Nothing further to add.  **6.5. Research training grants**  Nothing to add (not on-going). |  |
| **7. Charity Commission annual return**  This has been completed. |  |
| **8. SLSA PGR Activities 2021 Recordings/Proposal for informal, online SLSA PGR sessions**  These were recorded and one student has requested a recording. --- VA is happy to provide this but has asked for advice. Consent was provided for the recordings, the terms are that they would be help on Worldspan until the end of April.  -SK noted that these were the terms and we therefore cannot share the recordings outside that agreement.  -Agreed to withhold them. |  |
| **9. AcSS nominations**  The nomination date is 4 June 2021 and one nomination was agreed, if possible this will be completed in time for this round; if not it can be submitted to the next nomination date (Friday 3 December 2021). | VM |
| **10. Volunteering opportunities for members**  NG queried whether we should be seeking to offer more volunteering options to members to allow them to contribute more to the board as becoming a trustee is much more a competitive process than before, and it would allow members to increase their capacity in external engagement.  -RH suggested that there are opportunities through the conference to volunteer currently.  -CA suggested that we want to keep members of the board active.  -Agreed to leave this for the moment. |  |
| **11. Ethics Statement**  There are a couple of outstanding issues that RH has raised via email concerning this that need to be addressed before the September meeting.  SG and MT have been added to the committee. | DA, SG, EM, CM, MT |
| **12. Guidance for convenors/chairs at online SLSA events**  This is to deal with issues concerning contestation and inappropriate comments in online events the future. Can convenors be provided with mechanisms to do anything at the time of the incidents?  -CW suggests risk assessments may need to be completed to mitigate issues. RH explained that these issues lie with the conference organisers rather than the Board.  -VM – is there a benefit of having something in the ethics statement?  -The EDI will take this though and come back with a proposal. | CM, DA, PB, JH, EKD, JM, CM, FR, CW |
| **13. Videos**  EM reported that we are all ready to go to get people to start recording videos with prize-winners. EM suggests we start with 2020 videos and has sent guidance.  -Do we need a release form to say we have IP? SK suggests that an IP form would be appropriate. EM and SK to liaise on this. | EM |
| **14. Future Board Meeting Dates**   * Thursday 16 September [in person, at IALS, with remote attendance possible] * Thursday 13 January [online via zoom] * Thursday 12 May [in person, at IALS] |  |
| **15. AOB**  CW would like to extend thanks to DA for all her hard work in chairing the EDI committee. |  |