
Council Courier

06.12.2016

This is an informal account of the discussions and decisions most recently taken at Council. Action notes and official minutes will be produced in due course.

Obituary

Council resolved to send condolences to next of kin. Particular mention was made of George Hall, Kazuhiro Kojima, Harold Morris and Mark Savin.

Declarations of interest

There were no new declarations of interest.

Minutes of 29 September 2016

Agreed in part, subject to minor amendments, and with two items to be reviewed for later agreement.

Matters arising from the minutes

Compromise agreements with members of staff: information on this going back five years would be made available to trustees providing this did not conflict with the requirement for staff confidentiality.

Strategy: the RIBA Board would be holding an away day to discuss the five-year plan and would report back to Council.

EU Referendum Sub-committee: would be holding its first meeting later in December.

President's report

A list of new FRIBA members would shortly be made public (8 December).
Annie Spink Medal – awarded to Christine Hawley
Brexit – RIBA asked to attend key meetings with ministers.
Housing: the RIBA had had a positive meeting with the Mayor of London's

deputy James Murray and the RIBA's input was being sought.

RIBA Board report

Council noted the report.

Chief Executive's Report

Council noted the report, including information on international activity and key meetings with overseas members, the membership campaign, governance review, Architecture.com Stage II and business connectivity.
Questions raised on pension liability, the transfer of RIBA Services from Enterprises to the RIBA, the RIBA database and the current absence of research from the CPD core curriculum

Council members requested financial training for a better understanding of the finance papers.

Professional Standards

Professional Conduct Panel: nine new panellists had been approved, but chartered members were still sought to undertake appraisals and sit on hearings. Council members were again asked if they could consider offering their time.
Notices of the introduction of a code of practice for chartered practices in 2017 had been issued.

Update on RIBA response to EU Referendum Result

The RIBA had been represented at a NHBC-facilitated round table on the impact of Brexit on the housing industry.

The need for access to talent and skills had been emphasised.

Other points on RIBA activity concerning Brexit:

- There was a need to gather member input and a RIBA member survey was being undertaken. Large practices were keen to contribute.
- The Chief Executive would circulate letters received concerning the mutual recognition of qualifications.
- Architecture spanned a number of different sectors. The RIBA President had been the only construction institute representative at a recent meeting with the Brexit Minister David Davies.
- The RIBA's political update should be renamed to differentiate it more clearly from other communications (including spam).

Council representation review

Council was updated on work to implement decisions taken at the last Council meeting on voting rights and representation. This would include the appointment of a Vice President for Students/Associates who would take an ex-officio place on the RIBA Education Committee.

Council also received a presentation outlining the shape and make-up of a smaller Council. Council voted by a simple majority to endorse in principle the proposal for the future size/composition of Council (reduction to ca 41 members).

Issues of detail regarding items raised during the debate could continue to be discussed with the VP Membership.

Conservation register

Dawson Stelfox, former RSUA President and Chair of the Conservation Register Steering Group, gave a presentation on the work of the group. He underlined the importance of conservation accreditation in equipping and retaining members and influencing government. The group required 1-2 Council members to assist with its work.

Ambassador updates

1. Chris Williamson, RIBA Ambassador for Business Skills, outlined activities to date to promote and improve member business skills. These included:

- Establishing the web site ArchitectsSkills.com as an information resource with related Twitter feed and LinkedIn account.
- Breakfast seminars
- Involvement in RIBA-wide activities such as Guerrilla Tactics, Future Leaders and regional get-togethers.

Council then endorsed the following recommendations:

- a) Greater emphasis should be given to business skills accreditation within the RIBA CPD programme;
- b) Business skills should be incorporated as part of the key curriculum in all schools of architecture
- c) Greater emphasis should be placed on need for members to acquire business skills, and an adequate budget set so that web site, events and communications were coordinated
- d) Greater emphasis on business skills and a minimum matrix of skills for RIBA Chartered Practices, to be embodied in the Strategic Plan.
- e) business-to-business mentoring

2. Dale Sinclair, RIBA Ambassador for Collaboration and Technical

Advancement, gave a presentation on the challenges the profession faced from a changing world and its use of new technologies. The profession had much to gain from making services simpler, quicker and more user-friendly by embracing technological changes.

Council then endorsed the following recommendations:

- a) RIBA Practice & Profession Committee to consider in greater detail the implications associated with digital trends and related topics and regularly present back to Council
- b) Greater emphasis to be given to digital skills with the RIBA CPD programme (though it was acknowledged such skills were already part of it)
- c) greater emphasis to be placed on need for members to acquire better understanding and knowledge of digital skills with budgeting ahead so that web site, events, guidance and communications could be prepared and coordinated.

International Communities

Governance

RIBA Council endorsed the framework of governance and operating principles for international chapters and delivery of RIBA services in overseas locations. It also approved support to emerging RIBA international chapters in accordance with this framework, including those being developed in Singapore and Sri Lanka.

Anti-bribery and corruption policy

A policy was agreed for the institute (staff and members), subject to some amendments of the draft document.

Changes to byelaws and regulations

These were agreed with the exception of reg. 4.36 (eligibility of presidential candidates), which was deferred.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (ED&I) Report

Diversity survey: Council members were asked to complete anonymous questionnaires to assist with data collection.

Sonia Watson (Stephen Lawrence Trust) had given a talk on transformation to RIBA staff in November which had been well received.

Council agreed to note the report.

Membership Reinstatements and resignations:

Council noted the election of

- 229 new chartered members;
- 83 new associate members;
- 25 new affiliate members
- 993 new student members

including readmissions, together with resignations.

Reports for information:

- President's Diary;
- Visiting Board Report;
- Membership report
- Main committee reports
- President's Advisory Group on Regulation of Architects update
- CPD update

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