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## Council Courier

28.09.2017

*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 Zoe Smith, Tarsem Flora, Bryan Avery and Harsha Fernando.

### Declarations of interest

Richard Parnaby: his wife is a member of the staff pension scheme.

Anthony Lloyd: is chair of the board of trustees for the defined benefit pension scheme.

### Minutes of previous meeting, 6 July

Agreed as a correct record subject to one small amendment.

### Matters arising from the minutes

Live streaming of RIBA events: it was queried why this was still not possible when regional activity urgently needed it. This would be looked at separately by the staff lead and members concerned. The RIBA was still trying to deliver some fundamental operational requirements and to address legacy issues with established programmes.

Brexit Advisory Group: this would next meet in October under the ex-officio chairmanship of the new President.

Professional Conduct Panel: Points about diversity of panels had been noted and certain requirements for panel members would be reviewed. In the meantime, two further expressions of interest had been received from members. Council members were again encouraged to come forward to join (contact Council Secretary).

### Royal Gold Medal and Honorary and International Fellows 2018

Council supported the recommendation to award the 2018 Royal Gold Medal to Neave Brown.

The following honorary fellows were elected:

Maria Balshaw CBE, Pablo Bronstein, Dinah Casson, Evan Davis, Ian Firth, Hattie Hartman, Catherine Ince, Wasfi Kani OBE, Sadiq Khan, Ruth Lande Shuman, Robert Powell, Tom Stuart-Smith, Tamsie Thomson, Harsha Pravin Tia Kinsara.

The following international fellows were elected:

Farrokh Derakhshani, Jeanne Gang, Antonio González-Capitel Martinez (Anton Kapitel), Andreas Heller, Sebastian Irarrazaval, John Lin, Willem Jan Neutelings and Michiel Riedijk, Shane O'Toole, José María Sánchez García.

The process for appointing fellows was referred to the constitutional review.

### Appointments

Honorary officers and vice presidents: The following were appointed for 2017-19:

- Honorary Secretary – Kerr Robertson
- Honorary Treasurer – John Assael
- Vice President International – Chris Williamson

- Vice President Education – Alan Jones
- Vice President Student/Associate – both candidates (Selasi Setufe and Simeon Shtebunaev) would share the role under an agreed title, pending necessary constitutional refinements and changes to the Byelaws.
- Vice President Research: Council agreed to the creation of this new role at the initiative of the President.
- Sincere thanks given to the outgoing honorary officers Geoff Alsop (Treasurer) and Roger Shrimplin (Secretary)

RIBA Board: Ruth McIntosh and Nick Pearce (external members) had their terms extended.

Main committees: members were appointed/reappointed to the following: Education, Membership, Practice & Profession, Communications, British Architectural Trust Board. Also Audit and Oversight and Library committees.

Finance and Operations Committee and International Committee members would be appointed by the time of the next Council meeting (6.12.17).

**Expert advisory group on fire safety:** members were appointed to the group to be chaired by IPP Jane Duncan and updated terms of reference noted. The group would be advising national government. The group's activity was noted.

## **President's report**

Main points:

- Drive for accountability via vice presidents

- First meeting of the RIBA Board chaired 14.9.17
- Board courier to be introduced to keep Council members informed of decisions taken.
- Inauguration speech now on YouTube
- Student hardship fund: £40k raised from inauguration fundraising event

Council Secretary thanked for significant volume of work undertaken to date.

## **RIBA Board report**

The minutes of the 8 June 2017 Board meeting were noted.

## **Chief Executive's Report**

- Budgeting process for 2018 was under way.
- There would be consultation with every staff team on business planning.
- Demonstration available of the RIBA's 'Join Online' initiative which was improving members' joining experience via the RIBA web site.
- Staff survey results noted with following areas of focus for the future: strategy and direction, communication and engagement, recognition, career development, reward.
- Sri Lankan Chapter launched, with Singapore Chapter planned launch in November 2017.
- The report included membership statistics and the document: 'Business priorities, programming themes and scenarios'. Plus updates on Business Transformation activity, statistics for architecture.com and July 2017 management accounts.

**AGM:** Trustees report and financial statements 2016 approved. Sayer Vincent reappointed as auditors.

## **Professional Standards**

There would be a review of the Code of Professional Conduct guidelines for 2017-18. Council noted the report.

Sustainable Development and Ethics Commission: former VP International Peter Oborn presented proposals for a steering group structure and outlined the remit of the group. The group would report to Practice & Profession Committee. A consultative group would also be formed to reinforce the work of the Commission. A draft list of deliverables for the Commission was noted.

## **Defined benefit staff pension**

**scheme:** Council received an update on the RIBA's commitment to the pension scheme.

## **Governance**

- Newly-appointed Director of Governance and Legal, Eve Pienaar, was introduced to Council.
- SGM: Council agreed to call a Special General Meeting to address Byelaw changes; wording of the proposed changes would be reviewed according to comments received from Council members.
- Code of conduct for trustees: an amended code was agreed for immediate adoption, pending a future reconsideration of it by the Constitution Review Group.
- Regulations and appendices: some changes arising from the governance review report of 24 May were approved and the

consolidated and reformatted regulations adopted by Council.

- Constitution Review Group (chair IPP Jane Duncan): terms of reference were agreed for the second phase review of the RIBA constitution. A root and branch review would include the RIBA's governance structure as well as all documentation.

## **Trailblazer apprenticeship scheme**

Helen Taylor (Scott Brownrigg and Council member) and Peter Garstecki (Foster & Partners) gave a joint presentation on the development of the scheme, which was supported by a number of large practices and was already being promoted by the ARB and the RIBA. Council further endorsed the proposals outlined for apprenticeships covering architectural assistant (part 1) and architect (parts 2 & 3).

## **Membership Reinstatements and resignations:**

Council noted the election of

- 349 new chartered members;
- 37 new associate members;
- 37 new affiliate members
- 228 new student members

including readmissions, together with resignations.

## **AOB**

Outgoing Honorary Treasurer Geoff Alsop recommended succession planning for honorary officer roles to ensure continuity; this to be considered by the Constitution Review Group.

Thanking staff: Jennifer Forakis drew attention to the importance of thanking staff members, singling out one of the RIBA's receptionists for special mention.

**Reports for information:**

- Equality and Diversity update
- Membership report
- RIBA Enterprises report
- Visiting Board report

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