
Council Courier

23.03.2018

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 David Bernstein, Jill Lever, Gavin Stamp, Serban Cantacuzino and Peter Davey.

Declarations of interest

Jane Duncan: would be assuming presidency of Architects' Benevolent Society from June 2018.

Minutes of previous meeting, 6 December 2017

Agreed subject to several small amendments.

Matters arising from the minutes

Trustee Code of Conduct and further guidance note: the Honorary Secretary was dealing with this as part of the Constitution Review and would provide an update at the next scheduled meeting.

RIBA's cultural mission: The President thanked members for their comments and input on the draft cultural mission.

Ethics Commission: It was confirmed that Peter Oborn and Indy Johar were the two chairs who had been appointed.

The invitation for the President to visit the South West had been taken up but the visit postponed during the bad weather; a new date had now been set.

Future agenda items for Council: The President would make a proposal to

Council for the scheduling of those discussion items already suggested.

Mutual recognition of qualifications: Adrian Dobson updated Council on a recent meeting with the ARB.

Publication of services contracts: It was hoped to publish these in late May/early June 2018.

UK City of Culture in 2021: It was requested that the RIBA start to plan for co-ordinating its events with the next City of Culture (Coventry), in particular the Stirling Prize.

Regular liaison meetings between the ARB and RIBA: it was agreed to circulate the agendas and notes of these meetings to Council.

President's report

MIPIM: the President attended and contributed to various panel discussions as well as blogging in the AJ and manning the RIBA stand. It was confirmed that most of the practices participating at MIPIM had been London-based in spite of an open call to practices to participate. A wider take-up involving larger practices from outside London should be a goal for next year.

RIBA Board report

The minutes of the 16 November 2017 Board meeting were noted.

Chief Executive's Report

The RIBA's second 'Global by Design' report had been released.

Gender pay gap: the RIBA was not obliged to publish its statistics as did not meet the threshold for the number of employees (i.e. more than 250). However, as an example of best practice it had released the information. The RIBA's workforce in April 2017 was predominantly female (63%) but its senior roles were overrepresented by men, impacting on headline results. The RIBA's hourly rate of pay for women employed was 14.61% lower (mean) and 4.05% lower (median). This was favourable in comparison to the national average (17.5% for the mean and 18.2% for the median) but more work needed to be done. A staff briefing and a press release would be issued the following week.

Adrian Dobson to advise on the practicalities of requiring practices of varying sizes to report their figures, also taking into account what the government's policy would be by 2019. The Small Practice Group to be asked to contribute to any thinking on a mandatory reporting requirement for practices.

General Data Protection Regulation: the deadline of 25 May 2018 for full compliance was intended to be met. A lot of work had already been done on mapping processes, developing policies and rolling out training.

RIBA Finance report

The accounts for 2017 were still in draft – the Audit and Oversight Committee would consider the post-audit report at its meeting on 5 June 2018 and Council would receive the accounts for approval at its meeting on 5 July 2018.

Council noted the report.

Policy priorities 2018

Council members were invited to comment on current plans. The main points made centred on regional collaboration over lobbying and better resources for policy work.

Motion from Lisa Raynes (National Council member)

Council agreed a motion that 'Lisa Raynes should continue her conversations as to protection of title to develop and implement a proactive but cost-effective campaign targeting clients, which highlighted the difference between an architect and a non-architect and promoted the benefits of choosing the former for their project.'

Professional Standards report

A Professional Conduct review task force was being set up, to be chaired by Roger Shrimplin.

Council noted the report.

Constitution Review Group - update on second work stream

Council asked for time to input views into the Constitution Review Group so that the paper could be reconsidered by the CRG and brought back to Council at its next meeting.

Member/staff behaviour protocol

There was currently no process in place to resolve behaviour issues between RIBA members involved in the Institute's governance and the staff with whom they interacted. It was a priority for the organisation that there should be one.

Council voted to endorse the proposed protocol.

Appointment to RIBA Board

Council voted to reappoint Tim Bailey to the role of 'Council member without portfolio' with a seat on the RIBA Board until 31 August 2018.

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Membership Reinstatements and resignations

Council noted the election of

- 15 new Fellows
- 769 new chartered members;
- 285 new associate members;
- 71 new affiliate members
- 1308 new student members

including readmissions, together with resignations.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

Mental health was an area being well managed and integrated across the institute by Virginia Newman.

New members of the Architects for Change committee were about to be appointed and Council would be informed..

AOB

Jane Duncan gave updates on the progress of the Awards Review which would report in July, and the Fire Safety panel's day of events on 12 June.

The President thanked the outgoing RSUA President Paul Crowe for his help in facilitating the Council's meeting in Belfast.

Reports for information:

- Membership report
- Equality and Diversity update
- Main committee reports
- Visiting Board report