
Council Courier

11.12.2018

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 received obituaries for Vernon Lee, Edward Burd and Chung Wah Nam. Council noted the list of recently deceased members and resolved to send condolences to next of kin. A minute's silence was held.

Declarations of interest

There were no new declarations.

Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed as a correct record subject to a minor amendment.

Matters arising from the minutes

Exchange of correspondence between Elsie Owusu and the RIBA concerning Elsie Owusu's complaint about a fellow trustee: the exchange had not taken place as Elsie Owusu had not responded to the request for the correspondence from her MP. As three months had elapsed, Council agreed to consider the matter closed.

Trustee code of conduct: those non-signatories of the code had been given the opportunity to express their reservations about doing so and comments received had been noted. The Constitution Review Group was considering further changes to the code as part of its work.

The Chief Executive updated Council on the number of settlement agreements the organisation had entered into since the last update provided in March 2017, and the sums involved.

Live streaming of RIBA events: promotional activity of these would increase. Excellent feedback had been received so far on the events which had been streamed.

President's report

The President had made a presentation to the Policy Exchange and the Minister for Housing.

Expert Advisory Group on Fire Safety: the group would be asked to make a presentation at the next Council meeting.

RIBA's fund-raising event for Stephen Lawrence Trust had raised £115k for the trust. The President, Chief Executive and associated RIBA staff were congratulated. The RIBA would continue to work with the trust on matters of mutual interest.

RIBA Board report

The minutes of the Board meeting of 13 September 2019 were noted.

Chief Executive's Report

Council noted the report, including the RIBA public affairs team's activity on Brexit-related matters and its efforts to respond to the ever-changing situation.

National seat on Council

Council noted with regret the resignation from Council of Patrick Lynch (National) and thanked him for his contribution. It welcomed Aaron Chetwynd as the new National member.

Professional Standards report

Council noted the report

Ethics and Sustainable Development Commission (ESDC) – final report

The Chair of ESDC Peter Oborn presented the final report of the commission. Council then approved the following resolution:

1. To reassert the Institute's unequivocal commitment to placing public interest, social purpose, ethics and sustainable development at the heart of its activities;
2. To mandate the RIBA Board to assume responsibility for delivering these commitments and nominate a Board-level member to oversee this work;

Council agreed that, in accordance with recommendation 2 above, the Board should nominate one of its members for approval by Council in March 2019.

Subject to the business case being developed in time for consideration by Board and Council in March 2019, Council also agreed:

3. To nominate a Director(s) to take responsibility for ethics and sustainable development and establishing a leadership group, supported by external experts as appropriate, to develop and implement a plan of action based on the Commission's findings, aligned with the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

The President thanked Peter Oborn and also the two members of the ESDC who had attended to address Council, Mina Hasman and Stephen Hill.

Code of Professional Conduct - final report

Council commented on and approved a revised Code of Professional Conduct, Code of Practice and Appendix L (Disciplinary Procedures). Council member Roger Shrimplin, Head of Professional Standards Carys Rowlands and the rest of the team were congratulated for a thorough piece of work.

RIBA Finance

Council approved the revenue and capital budgets for 2019 and the investment proposals for 2019-23 with some amendments and direction on business planning for review in March 2019, including further regional consultation on strategic priorities to take place at the beginning of 2019.

The September management accounts and 9+3 forecast were noted.

Constitution Review Group

The Charity Commission required the RIBA to continue its modernising of the constitution. Following on from previous work to streamline the governing documents, Council was presented with a new draft constitution to approve, for review by the Privy Counsel and Charity Commission. It also voted to agree that only chartered members should be eligible to stand for the presidency and to vote at general meetings; and to retain the current arrangement whereby the President Elect takes office a year after his/her election.

Future Architects' Network

VP Student member Simeon Shtebunaev and VP Associate member Selasi Setufe outlined plans to establish the foundations of a co-ordinated RIBA student, graduate and recently-qualified architect network and provision.

Council wholeheartedly endorsed the proposed activities. RIBA West Midlands were already sponsoring the network's next annual conference. Sixteen Council members including the Presidents of the RIBA, RIAS, RSUA and RSAW offered to assist in hosting the network's 'Slack' meetings bringing young architects together.

Membership Reinstatements and resignations

Council noted the election of

- 521 new chartered members;
- 136 new associate members;
- 40 new affiliate members;
- 1788 new student members
- 8 new fellows

including readmissions, together with resignations.

Question

Simeon Shtebunaev would submit a supplementary question to those he had already raised, in written form to save time.

AOB

Jennifer Forakis thanked the staff, creative directors and steering group for the recent very successful Guerrilla Tactics conference which this year had improved its accessibility to young people. She also thanked the President and Honorary Treasurer for their sponsorship of the event, and Chris Hampson, who had helped to make the new RIBA member bar available in time for it.

Agenda items deferred owing to lack of time:

- Social mobility final report
- Discussion on the ARB (regulation and practice)

Reports for information:

- Membership report
- Equality and Diversity update
- Main committee reports
- Visiting Board report
- Appointment of Grievance Panel

SW 12.12.18
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