

Council Courier

28.3.2019

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 noted the list of recently deceased members and resolved to send condolences to next of kin. Particular mention was made of Vivian Uku. A minute's silence was held for all recently deceased members.

Declarations of interest

Roger Shrimplin: an alumni of Jesus College but had played no part in choosing the college as the venue for the Council meeting.

Simeon Shtebunaev: a member of the RTPI's International Committee.

Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed as a correct record subject to minor amendments.

Matters arising from the minutes

Unconscious bias training: having undergone such training in recent months, Council agreed that it should be an annual part of the Council member induction.

President's report

Highlights:

- MHCLG Brexit No Deal roundtable
- Housing policy dinner with James Brokenshire MP and others at the Palace of Westminster
- Fellowship event (FRIBAs, Honorary and International Fellows)
- Labour Planning Commission on Quality

- MIPIM
- Mann Island Biennale panel discussion and exhibition opening

RIBA Board report

The minutes of the Board meeting of 15 November were noted.

Chief Executive's Report

Council noted the report, including the RIBA public affairs team's activity on Brexit-related matters. The RIBA was still conveying a robust message to government on the undesirability of 'no deal'. The profession was being kept updated and advised as far as possible.

After lobbying by the RIBA, the Architect's Act had been amended the previous week to freeze current mutual recognition arrangements in the event of no deal, for EU architects working in the UK/entering the UK.

Ethics and Sustainable Development Commission (ESDC) – update

Council approved a proposal to develop an action plan in response to the recommendations of the RIBA Ethics and Sustainable Development Commission, together with the nomination of member and staff leads to take responsibility for this work.

Social mobility

Council agreed to adopt a proposal for a RIBA Social Mobility Action Plan, subject to budget planning, as a key element of the Institute's activities to address Equality, Diversity and

Inclusion. This would be conducted under the following headings:

- Work with school-age children
- Routes into the profession
- Employers attracting graduates
- Recruitment and selection
- Data collection
- Progression and advocacy

President Elect Alan Jones was thanked for his work on this topic.

Equality, diversity and inclusion strategy (EDI)

Council agreed to a proposed strategy for EDI addressing the four key EDI strategic challenges (Leadership for the profession, Culture of the profession, Image of the profession and Access to projects and the business of architecture).

International presentation

The four international members of Council (Roger Wu, Catherine Davis, Alice Asafu-Adjaye and Tim Clark) gave a group presentation on the opportunities for increasing the RIBA's global reach, and indicated possible ways in which this might be achieved. These included:

- investment in locally active members;
- the development of a broader global offer to attract members
- enhanced relationships with overseas institutes;
- retention of members with UK links;
- the role of the RIBA in promoting lifelong learning.

Council members were invited to submit comments to VP International Chris Williamson and VP Membership Valeria Passetti.

Code of Professional Conduct - final report

Council approved the revised versions of the Codes of Professional Conduct and Practice, Appendix L (Disciplinary Procedures) and Appendix M (Guidance Notes on the Disciplinary Procedures) to the Regulations for publication and implementation. The President thanked the chair of the Conduct Review Task Force, Roger Shrimplin.

RIBA Finance

The year-end management accounts were noted.

Council approved a reserves policy in the light of the large surplus generated by the sale of equity in RIBA Enterprises.

Council approved the appointment of CH&Co as RIBA's catering partner, commencing 1 April 2019.

Investment

Overarching objectives: Council approved the overarching mission, objectives and desired organisational outcomes arising from the five-year investment programme approved by Council in December 2018.

Investment programme 2019 update: Council was updated on investment planning following Council approval in December 2018. Regional consultation had resulted in a reshaped investment programme with planned expenditure of £4.978m in 2019.

Governance

Constitution Review: Council was updated on the work of the Constitution Review Group. Drafts of the new constitutional documents had been submitted to the Privy Council in mid-February and a response was awaited. Council approved the form of the draft amended Supplemental Charter and

new Byelaws and Regulations, appreciating there may be further changes required after hearing from the Privy Council.

Changes to Council election guidelines:

Council agreed to amend Appendix F to the regulations in relation to:

1. enabling the nomination process to be conducted primarily online;
2. removing the right for Regional Councils to put forward nominations for regionally-elected Council seats (to ensure fairness and transparency); and
3. implementing the changes to the RIBA elections guidelines materials, as previously approved by Council in September 2018, replacing Appendix F with guidelines published by RIBA every election year, in agreed form.

These recommendations reflected those made by the Returning Officer report on Presidential and Council elections 2018, as approved in Council in September 2018.

ARB

There was a discussion about the role of the ARB. Roger Shrimplin raised a number of matters which he agreed to pursue via the Education and Practice and Profession committees.

Awards Review

The Chair of the Awards Review Group, Jane Duncan PPRIBA, attended to present this item.

A member consultation on the RIBA's awards system had been undertaken and Jane Duncan outlined progress to date with the review. She explained the distinction between changes to the current system with a quick lead-in time, most of which could be or had been implemented in the 2019 round of

awards, and changes to the system that required additional scoping, research and testing.

Each proposal was discussed in detail and Council members were asked to submit any additional comments to Jane Duncan via Maxine McKenzie.

Expert Advisory Group on Fire Safety

Council received a presentation from the Chair of the EAG, Jane Duncan PPRIBA. It approved two practice notes for release on 1) restrictions on combustible materials - building and 2) sprinklers.

After discussion, a further presentation for Council members was requested.

Questions

Council noted questions from Abigail Patel (Student representative), and Simeon Shtebunaev (joint VP student/associate). Simeon Shtebunaev proposed to submit further questions in written form.

Interim appointment of VP student/associate

Council voted to appoint Abigail Patel as a joint Vice President Student/Associate on an interim basis for the remainder of the 2018-19 session.

Outgoing joint VP Simeon Shtebunaev was warmly thanked for his contribution in the role.

Membership Reinstatements and resignations

Council noted the election of

- 473 new chartered members;
- 204 new associate members;
- 79 new affiliate members
- 423 new student members

including readmissions, together with resignations.

Professional Standards report

Council noted the report

AOB

Simeon Shtebunaev raised the matter of unpaid internships, in particular the practice of Junya Ishigami which had obtained a high profile commission from the Serpentine Gallery and which recently had advertised an unpaid internship.

Reports for information:

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

*SW 4.4.19
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