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| slsa-red80 |  | | **Executive Meeting  Minutes**  **20.09.17**  **Conference Room:**  **IALS**  **Address: IALS, Russell Square, London** | |
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| Present: Rosie Harding, Jen Hendry, Neil Graffin, Diamond Ashiagbor, Marie Selwood, Jed Meers, Janine Sargoni, Kevin Crosby, Ed Kirton-Darling, Colin Moore, Ilke Turkmendag, Jess Mant, John Harrington, Michael Thomson, Jess Guth, Jill Dickinson, Naomi Creutzfeldt, Mark O’Brien, Devyani Prabhat, Elen Stokes | | | |  | |
| Agenda item | | | | Action | |
| 1. Apologies | | | |  | |
| Vanessa Munro, Jonathan Garton, Kevin Crosby, Maebh Harding, Thomas Webb, Sharon Cowan, Emilie Cloatre, Nwudego Chinwuba | | | |  | |
| 2. Minutes of 18 May 2017 | | | |  | |
| The Minutes were approved. | | | |  | |
| 3.1 Chair | | | |  | |
| RH thanked Elen Stokes for taking her place as the new JLS representative.  It was discussed how we might make suggestions for the REF sub-panel chair – Rosemary Hunter and Sally Wheeler were discussed for nomination. Dave Cowan was discussed as having expressed an interest in being nominated as a sub panel member. It was discussed that we will allow nominations and an open approach will be adopted – no one put their name forward.  It was discussed how there are a number of issues with relevance to the SLSA that have not yet been resolved. These include:   * Number of outputs and approach to non/portability of outputs * Number of impact case studies and non-portability of impact * How institutions should ascertain who is and is not in scope for 100% return   RH has asked for input with regards to the status of criminology in their institutions, and views from SLSA members about criminology in REF. A meeting id being arranged to discuss this.  Views on university non-portability of inputs.  A number of members were in consultations regarding this. The thinking is that there may be hybrid system for a period of time. RH has asked whether it is appropriate to respond to developing ideas on outputs. There was agreement that we had nothing further to add beyond our REF consultation response.  IALS open book service for law.  The SLSA has been invited to nominate a representative to join the IALS Open Book Service for Law Advisory Board. The role will involve participation in the peer review process and attendance at an Advisory Board meeting 2-3 times each year to review progress and to help develop the service.  Naomi suggested that she can be liaison for this. This service will contain 30-40 books on PDF, replicating the idea of university press online. It was discussed how we have different cultural norms from the American example and there is resistance to putting burden on to scholars (publishing charges recognised as a cultural shift in the UK). The IALS are setting up editorial and advisory boards and need representatives – from SLS, ALT, Bailii and other academics. Richard Hart is on the publishing board. They are planning to have a competition prize for PhDs and the prize would be to have thesis published as a monograph – this Autumn.  It was asked whether we have a position on upfront fees. It was answered that we do – we are against publishers getting paid from both ends.  Academy of social sciences  EKD went to last meeting and got information on challenges at the ESRC – they are missing senior staff and a chair and are cut out of high level discussions. There are concerns they may not be having impact over a number of issues, with Brexit being a particular challenge for UK social science. We will be asking for nominations on fellows to the academy in due course.  ESRC  Meeting on the 9 October – CM has suggested he will go.  SRA  RH has spoken to Julie Brannan and Liz Walters regarding their reference group for the SQE. MOB and JG will be representing SLSA on the reference group.  Law Commission  JH and RH attended the annual meeting – notes have been circulated. The LC are keen to promote unpaid academic placements (will include travel expenses). Exec members were encouraged to raise awareness of these opportunities as appropriate within their networks and institutions  LSA and other International Associations  It was noted that there was good UK socio-legal representation. The proposed ANZLSA Conference December 2018 collaboration is going ahead. It was discussed how we would like to have a say with regards to keynote speakers. It was also mentioned that it was proposed a member of the board for the conference should be from the SLSA, but it was noted that this might be logistically problematic. | | | | ALL      ALL      NC  EKD  CM  MOB/ JG  ALL | |
| 3.2. Vice Chair | | | |  | |
| No report from chair.  JH noted that the conference call is open for 2020/2021. If anyone’s institution is interested it is advised that we get in touch. | | | | ALL | |
| 3.3 Treasurer | | | |  | |
| No report.  PayPal remains an issue.  MOB is on sabbatical at the moment but has created email address [theslsatreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:theslsatreasurer@gmail.com) – Mark will look at this once a week.  MOB canvassed views on whether executive members wish to get paid electronically – this was agreed. MOB has asked that we give him our back details on the return of the most recent expenses form. MOB will destroy bank details when they have been set up online.  MOB would like to ask if someone else would like to be treasurer – he explained that he could allow for a handover period of a year. MOB noted that his tenure as treasurer is reaching its end. | | | | MOB  MOB/ALL  MOB/ALL | |
| 3.4 Membership | | | |  | |
| No report  EKB is currently doing this when MH is off on maternity leave  We currently have 979 members – this does not include individuals in last 6 weeks or PayPal members  The number of memberships has gone up by 180 by early August – this includes doctoral students  There are a number of issues keeping track of memberships – e.g. PayPal does not link with memberships. There is also an issue with members paying into an account that does not exist  NE was thanked for his work on in identifying live members.  A question was raised over how many members the SLS have – it was suggested they have about 3000 members. This lead to a discussion about recruitment – see below. | | | |  | |
| **3.5 Recruitment** | | | |  | |
| A number of points were addressed in enhancing recruitment:   * It was suggested we do a round-robin email to heads of school or a poster * It was suggested that the recruitment secretary previously had contacted non-members who came to the conference * We discussed that there is a view that everyone joins the SLS and then specialist groups afterwards – it was asked whether we want to break away from the perception that the SLSA is a niche organisation * Historically law schools have had institutional membership – universities do not like institutional membership * Lots of Law Schools have an SLS rep – should we have an SLSA rep? * Has Ireland been discussed at the SLSA for the purposes of recruitment? A suggestion was made for an Irish conference. * Membership sec should look at different geographical make-ups of membership * Elen volunteered to take on the role of recruitment secretary, to take forward these issues. | | | | ALL  ES | |
| 3.6. Newsletter and Web Editor | | | |  | |
| Everything is going well – MS explained that a call for papers is the main thing for Winter  The changes to the mailing list mean that print will be reduced in the future. This will also mean a significant saving in postage.  Number 83 - the copy deadline is the 23 October  • print run: approx 600 for mailing list plus  pdf to JLS for inclusion as e-insert  • 15 editorial pages  • page 16 Bristol 2018 ad  • no inserts currently booked  MailChimp – sorted out the issues regarding this – planning to launch on 6 October – same layout but will look more aesthetically pleasing. | | | | MS/ JM | |
| 3.7 PG Student Representative | | | |  | |
| Mentioned last meeting (18 May 2017) that we’d be doing something on resilience for this year’s PGR session in Bristol. JMant asked whether we could pay the train and accommodation for Lydia Beasdale and Sarah Humphries to conduct bespoke sessions (or we could seek help from elsewhere in the academic community). This was agreed.  There will be two sessions running at Bristol – one on research methods which is a south west training event, and another on resilience.  The Bristol organisers asked whether the PGR sessions could be moved to Monday to allow more space for other events. It was discussed that this could be problematic given that it would mean that PGs would need to come down the night before the conference and this could have an impact on who can attend.  It was queried whether we need more research methods training when we have a conference that looks at this.  It was agreed that the SLSA resilience training event will take place on the first day of conference and the research methods on the day before the conference, but this will not be badged as being part of the SLSA conference  It was queried whether the block booking of hotels extended to discounts for the night before the conference. The organisers will look into this. | | | | JMant/DP/JS  DP/JS | |
| 3.8. Webmaster | | | |  | |
| JM noted that there was not much to report.  The MailChimp extension has been installed and we are still fiddling with the template and a couple of teething issues on the mailing list migration.  For the November mailing, the hard copy newsletter will only be sent to paid-up members with an address on the JOOMLA system. Those paid-up members who do not have an address on the system have been emailed to request that they add one on along with instructions on how to do so.  We will consider moving to WorldPay after the incorporation issue has been discussed | | | |  | |
| 3.9 International liaison | | | |  | |
| Nothing to report  The question was raised whether members could get bursaries to go to Wollongong for the ANZLSA Conference – it was explained that we do not have the money.  It was discussed how the dates have not been confirmed for the ANZLSA Conference and whether we need a named person. Sharon Cowan and Jen Hendry are leading on this. | | | | SC/JH | |
| 3.10 Social Media | | | |  | |
| No report  Nothing to report on Twitter. JH stated that it was looking healthy – we have nearly 3000 followers – Dave Cowan will offer another book from the Palgrave series to the 3500th follower.  There are also 850 members of the closed group on Facebook  JH suggested that the Facebook page has been policed a bit over the Summer for issues  JH thanked JMant for her help with social media  JH will be stepping away from social media from the next exec meeting. A volunteer is needed to take over. All those without roles to consider it, and volunteer if possible.  MS explained that with MailChimp we can cross post to Twitter and Facebook | | | | ALL | |
| **3.11 Publisher’s liaison** | | | |  | |
| Not much to report – emailed all of publishers on existing list for Bristol  Scheduled to meet with OUP and Hart  By next meeting report will be forwarded of who sent what to, and packages chosen  Question – does anyone have contact with publishers??  Reached out to criminology journals – asked if anyone has any ideas?  Question – is there a space to liaise with series editors? | | | | ALL  ALL  ALL | |
| 4.1. a. Bristol 2018 | | | |  | |
| We have a website for the conference – demonstrated in meeting. This contains details of the conference and steering group. There is one confirmed plenary speaker - Ambreena Manji will speak with a discussant (engaged person who knows her well. Her work is on transnational legal education and the first law clinic.  The question was raised do we need another speaker? If so, who?  It was noted that the plenary on images and law went really well at Newcastle. Different approaches and generations discussed as good ideas.  There were a couple of suggestions from the Bristol organisers if we want to bring in another couple of speakers – both speakers are at NYU, and in particular Brian Stevenson was discussed as an excellent speaker.  JH asked that the speakers should emphasise socio-legal studies – it was explained by DP that they would be socio-legal scholars.  The conference organisation team will finalise details of the plenary over the coming weeks. Twitter to be used for publicity purposes during the conference.  A question was raised over EasyChair licensing – the Bristol organisers will speak to JM about this.  JMant discussed that on the Newcastle website there was a separate section for PGRs. At present, the PGRs can find details under ‘activities’. It was suggested that this should be ‘PGRs’ for ease of reference.  It was explained that a ‘best photo contest’ will be on side bar on the website  A question was raised the date can be more prominent through the website – it was suggested that this could be changed.  A question was asked whether we could add a hyperlink to the SLSA website. This has already been done.  Call for papers – question from MS if this should go into November newsletter – confirmed no because the dates are earlier this year.  16 October – calls for papers and early bird  8 Jan – close for papers  19 Jan – early bird closes  16 Feb – standard reg closes  19 March – late reg closes – 75% refund closes  20 March – no more registrations or refunds  A question was raised over the closeness of close of papers and early bird reg closing as it will be administratively difficult – Bristol organisers explained that they took Newcastle dates. Agreed to change 15 Jan date to the following Friday to allow an extra few days.  A question was raised about the closing of registrations a week before the conference – the previous policy has been to extend to the time of the conference. JS discussed that this might affect catering, but it was agreed that not everyone eats the lunch and therefore this could be amended. [Previously Warwick had closed registration but they had reached capacity due to size of room they were using].  Budget – matches the initial budget – costs of the delegate rate remains the same. £200 for early bird, but without dinner (opposed to £280 with dinner). £100 as opposed to £180 without dinner for PGRs. Day rate - £100 early bird.  A question was raised over whether institutions would pay for dinner if this is under a separate heading? It was asked whether we could roll this into the PGR price. Seen no issue but not for delegates. Agreed we should look at rolling this in for PGRs.  Question from MOB – is dinner appearing as a separate head? It was asked whether we can reconfigure this so it is on a package – conference only/ conference and dinner – two packages.  It was explained that dinner is more expensive because of increase in price of wine. It was suggested that there are 5 bottles per table and a cash bar is available.  There was a discussion over the limit of wine and it was suggested that one glass per person was enough – meaning two bottles per table. Agreed to reduce order to 3 or 4 bottles per table.  A question was raised over admin costs and whether £6000 enough or otherwise. JS/DP to take a look.  Question over hotel rooms – block booking for the first day of conference – question that hotels are warned about individuals booking the night before. Question over honouring discount for 2 days before and after.  Question over what conference office package means – this refers to conference office quote in Bristol – this includes room booking inc. admin component but not all. IT support will be covered.  Student interns – question from Colin – got individuals involved and they attended sessions – these were the helpers. It was suggested that this might be a good idea and for the organisers to chat to JM.  Entertainment is still be decided. | | | | JS/DP/JM  JS/DP  JS/DP  JS/DP  JS/DP  JS/DP  JS/DP  JS/DP  JS/DP  JS/DP  JS/DP/JM | |
| 4.1. b. Leeds 2019 | | | |  | |
| Leeds have a committee and the meeting is on the 2 October. | | | |  | |
| **4.1 c. Future Conferences** | | | |  | |
| Call open to 15 December 2017 for future conference suggestions. | | | |  | |
| **4.2. Postgraduate Conference** | | | |  | |
| Taking place in Belfast on 4-5 Jan – advertising will come out v soon – Sally Wheeler will be hosting. Warwick will hold the 2019 conference, as Edinburgh’s refurb may not be complete in time. Looking to Edinburgh for 2020.  Question over students paying and then being reimbursed. It was explained that they submit a cheque for £30. This is never cashed and they all get their cheque back – dinner, accommodation free. It was discussed how preference is given to students who have not been before and it is aimed at new PhD students. | | | |  | |
| **4.3. One Day Conferences** | | | |  | |
| It was discussed that we do not want seminar series failures to apply for one-day conferences. However, the website implies these are open to everyone – do we want to change this? JH suggested that this is something that we do through the executive. It was agreed that this is something we should control.  An example was suggested by RH that we look at the Horizon scanning from Law Commission and we could advertise thinking from this to members or other contributions.  It was explained that we only underwrite these and we only do 1-2 max.  It was asked whether we could we continue to endorse one day conferences. We had one this year.  Rosie to reflect and come up with draft to circulate to members.  The issue of external review arose, and it was suggested that this would be more important if something was raised by a member within the executive.  Does anyone want to lead on one-day conferences? | | | | JM/ MS  RH  ALL | |
| **4.4. ANZLSA Conference December 2018** | | | |  | |
| Covered above. | | | |  | |
| **5. Prizes and competitions** | | | |  | |
| 5.1. Book prizes (RH)5.2. Article prizes (JH) Nothing to add. 5.3. Contributions to the socio-legal community (RHa) One nomination – Michael Adler – Dave Cowan nominated. Unanimous agreement to award the prize for 2018 to Michael Adler. RH to contact him.  5.4. Grants (JGu)  Noting to report  5.5. Seminar (JH)  Northing to report  5.6. Research Training and Mentoring Awards (RH)  Nothing to report. | | | | RH | |
| **6. The Legal Status of the Association** | | | |  | |
| Having explored all of the options, the working group agreed that if a change was appropriate, the right model would be to become a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO)– we will get legal advice on costs and other implications – benefits include limited liability, ability of exec to be legal person (resolving issues with PayPal), and set up of World Pay – we’d also benefit from beneficial tax, including gift aid. Will also allow us to claim VAT. Some changes will be needed to the SLSA objectives to shift the focus to benefit the public, rather than our members.  EKD explained that there are no additional reporting requirements for incorporated or non-incorporated charities.  A new member was added to the working group – Ilke Turkmendag  Working group to continue by getting advice and putting together a next steps document for agreement at the January Exec Meeting. | | | | RH/JH/EKD/  CM/MO/IT | |
| **7. Any other business?**  PG conference – JMant will go to Belfast – travel and accommodation to be covered as JMant a member of staff – this means not taking up a place as a PGR  Distinguish between Jen Hendry and John Harrington on minutes (JH and JoH). Rosie Harding does not longer need to be RaH. | | | | NG | |