|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| slsa-red80 |  | | **Executive Meeting  Minutes**  **14.09.16** | |
|  | | IALS, Russell Square, London, Room Room L101 | | |
| Present: Diamond Ashiagbor, Sarah Blandy, Kevin J. Brown, Emilie Cloatre, Naomi Creutzfeld, Jill Dickinson, Jess Guth, Rosie Harding, Lydia Hayes, Jen Hendry Rosemary Hunter, Petra Mahy, Jed Meers, Marie Selwood, Nathan Emmerich | | | |  | |
| Agenda item | | | | Action | |
| 1. Apologies | | | |  | |
| Lois Bibbings, Nwudego Chinwuba, Dave Cowan, Sharon Cowan, Natalie Corbett, Carla Crifo, Kevin Crosby, Jonathan Garton, Nikki Godden-Rasul, Neil Graffin, Maebh Harding, Francis King, Mark O’Brien, Michael Thomson, Tom Webb. | | | |  | |
| 2. Minutes of 19.05.16 | | | |  | |
| The Minutes were approved. | | | |  | |
| 3.1 Chair | | | |  | |
| RH offered congratulations on behalf of the executive to Diamond Ashiagbor who has been appointed to a Chair at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies with responsibility for overseeing its research programmes.  RH announced that with regret, Natalie Corbett has tendered her resignation as the SLSA postgraduate representative. A call has gone out for expressions of interest in taking over tis role. The deadline is 30th September.  RH announced that Marie Fox has agreed to join the Exec at the next AGM with a view to succeeding Mark O’Brien as Treasurer. She will shadow MOB prior to taking on the role.  RH reminded members that her second term as Chair of the SLSA will come to an end at the next AGM. It was AGREED that the Executive will nominate Rosie Harding as the next chair at the AGM.  RH introduced Nathan Emmerich (SLSA administrator) to the Executive and thanked him on behalf of the executive for his continuing work.  RH raised the issue for further nominations for the Academy of Social Sciences. Marie Selwood to put a call for AcSS nominations in the e-Bulletin.  RH reported on the annual meeting of learned societies with Law Commission with Rosie Harding. The executive discussed formal and informal meetings and contact between SLSA and the Law Commission.  LSA liaison work reported on by RH. The liaison work at the LSA conference in New Orleans was very successful. RH reported on her attendance at a meeting with members of the LSA’s International Activities Committee which resulted in several new contacts which have been passed on to Sharon Cowan, the International Liaison Officer. RH reported that there was a lot of interest in future SLSA activities and potential joint activities with other associations, including the RCSL, the Asian Law & Society Association and the Israeli Law and Society Association. RH reported that the drinks reception hosted by the SLSA at the LSA was very well attended and received  appreciative feedback.Longer-term relationships with the LSA, however, remain unresolved. The International Activities Committee submitted its report – to which we contributed – to the LSA Board of Trustees at its meeting held in New Orleans, but their response has not yet been notified. There will be a new Executive Officer and new Chair of the LSA next year.  RH reported that she and Michael Thomson attended the start of the Planning Committee meeting for the 2017 Mexico City conference, however they both had to leave to catch flights before much progress had been made through the agenda.  As notified by email, the association has been asked to write a short piece (500-1000 words) for the next RCSL newsletter on the effects of Brexit on socio-legal scholarship. It should include reassurance that we are not about to cut off international links, and could also include a substantive argument about Brexit and socio-legal studies. Potential authors were discussed. RH to co-ordinate this. 500-1000 words. Due mid December. | | | | RH  MS  SC  RH | |
| 3.2. Vice Chair | | | |  | |
| RosieH reported on her attendance on the annual meeting of the Law Learned Societies and the Law Commission with Rosemary Hunter on 8 June. There was an extended discussion of the function of the Law Commission, statute law repeals and consolidation. The Law Commission are currently consulting on their 13th Programme of Law Reform, and would welcome suggestions for (non-political) law reform projects to include in that programme.  RoiseH reported her exploration whether an SLSA response to the TEF Technical Consultation and/or HE White Paper would be appropriate. On balance, RoiseH proposed to the Exec committee via email that the executive should not respond to this consultation, as the proposals did not have specific implications for law or socio-legal studies. Those who responded were in agreement. When a consultation is published that involves subject-specific TEF proposals, however, it was AGREED that a coordinated response is made by the Law subject associations. It is anticipated that such a consultation may be published in 2017.  RosieH reported that the Stern Review of REF was published in July and that a Government response and consultation is expected later this year. It was agreed that some of the recommendations were somewhat challenging to individual academics and it was AGREED that the executive should respond to this. | | | | RosieH  RosieH | |
| 3.3 Treasurer | | | |  | |
| RH reported on behalf of MOB who was unable to attend.  It was reported that the executive, through the treasurer, now has access to the Lloyds Bank Account.  Progress has been made with gaining access to the funds in the Paypal Account. It is hoped that this will be resolved by the January meeting.  There is no final out-turn yet from the Lancaster conference but this is expected soon.  Some membership fees are still being paid into the Lloyds account. Although we notified members not to use the PayPal facility, 37 people have renewed their membership via PayPal since 30 Jun. The majority of membership renewals have been paid into the Co-operative account.  Significant sums (amounting to several thousand pounds) owed to the Association are still outstanding from some publishers and Universities (these were cheques sent to incorrect addresses etc that needed re-issue, as discussed in previous Exec meetings.) | | | | MOB  RH, MOB, TW.  NE, MOB | |
| 3.4 Membership | | | |  | |
| It was reported that we currently have 829 paid members on the system (of which 289 are postgraduates).  There are currently 616 expired accounts where payment has not yet been received for this year. Many of these members may have paid by standing order. Members cannot register their own renewals on the website unless they pay by PayPal. This means that members who pay by standing order, invoice, cheque or institutional membership do not interact with the online system at all and their membership status on the database has to be updated manually. This can be difficult or indeed impossible where they have not provided sufficient details.  This year, Nathan has been prioritising contacting members who have paid the incorrect amount by standing order and a large number of these members have now been contacted. MOB to scan provide NE with copies of Lloyds statements so that NE can see members paying in.  We are checking that those who paid discounted conference rates were actually members. Lancaster to provide list and send to NE.  MH has looked at some of the data protection issues that relate to our membership books. As we not a profit making institution we are not bound to apply mandatory practices. It was AGREED that it would be a good idea to adopt best practice but this will have to wait until after the rebuild of the JOOMLA database. | | | | NE, MOB  TW, NE  MH | |
| **3.5 Recruitment** | | | |  | |
| LH to get in touch with Marian Duggan in Kent (predecessor) to discuss the role.  It was AGREED to reinstate use of the recruitment flyer used in the past by previous recruitment officers. This can be distributed to relevant university departments. Other Exec members asked for a copy of the recruitment flyer. Marie Selwood agreed to email a copy to the Exec. | | | | MS | |
| 3.6. Newsletter and Web Editor | | | |  | |
| Marie Selwood reported that the summer issue of the Newsletter was published on 27 June with lots of post-conference information, including a report from the organisers and summaries from a good number of stream and theme organisers too. There were also summaries from new grantholders along with the usual regulars of publications, events and so on.  For the autumn newsletter MS has been including the call for contributions in the ebulletin since the beginning of the summer and material is starting to come in. MS is planning to contact stream and theme organisers (once these have been approved) as we did last year to see if they would like to include short descriptions of them alongside the call for papers. The deadline is **17 October 2016**. The newsletter will be published on **21 November 2016**.  It was AGREED that adverts for the forthcoming annual conference would be included in the next two Newsletters.  It was AGREED that the executive would NOT re-institute indexing of the Newsletter as there has been no demand for this service since it was suspended in 2011.  It was AGREED that in future newsletters to international addresses would be sent via PDF rather than hardcopy.  MS reported that she has issued also a call in the ebulletin (Friday 9 September) to encourage members to visit the research centre area of the website to check that information is accurate or to contact me with details of new centres.  The area of the website that now needs some work is the streams area. Once the final list of streams has been decided, MS will look at this and see what needs doing.  MS reported that ebulletin is still very popular and remains the main point of contact with members. The new ebulletin template that we are hoping to introduce will be handled through the new website, hence the delay.  MS reminded members that if they notice anything untoward with the website or have ideas for improvement to let her know. | | | | MS  MS  MS  MS  MS | |
| 3.7 PG Student Representative | | | |  | |
| A new PG representative is to be appointed in due course – see the Chair’s Report (3.1). | | | |  | |
| 3.8. Webmaster | | | |  | |
| Jed Meers confirmed that the SLSA Blog is now available at: www.slsablog.co.uk. As of the date of executive meeting the site has now passed 800 visits to posts pages.  The executive AGREED to get rid of the mailing list for the blog-site as very few people have signed up to this. We would publicise new posts at the top of the e-bulletin. We will provide an RSS feed for those who would like one, but not a separate mailing list.  It was AGREED to introduce a new schedule for posts. We will transition to uploads on Friday mornings (probably once every couple of weeks or so on current post load, but maybe eventually once a week), with the top line of the e-bulletin plugging the new post.  It was AGREED to change the SLSA website to incorporate links to the blog.  JM updated the executive on progress towards the JOOMLA installation process. The executive AGREED to template two.  JM confirmed that he and Sarah Blandy have met with Maebh Harding in Warwick to discuss the membership processes and the database. Maebh has been set-up with a login on the system. Many of the ongoing problems cannot be sorted until the new JOOMLA installation is up-and-running (most notably the problems with people re-setting passwords).  JM updated the executive on the use of PayPal as gateway for collecting membership fees.  JM reported that he hoped to make progress with introducing the new SLSA E-Bulletin Template in the near future.  JM thanked Sarah Blandy for her time as membership secretary and her constructive support to JM during this time. | | | | JM  JM  JM  JM  JM, MH  JM, MS | |
| 3.9 International liaison | | | |  | |
| RH reported on behalf of Sharon Cowan.  SC to follow up with contacts made at LSA and to work towards making further connections with LSA.  RH reported that we have not received any recent updates on the Sydney conference but expect that we will receive further information for our next meeting. This conference is intended to be a joint meeting of AUS/NZL, Canada and UK associations in Sydney Dec 2018. JH and SC are on the organising committee. | | | | SC  JH, SC | |
| 3.10 Social Media | | | |  | |
| Jen Hendry reported that as of 07/09/16:  Facebook official page: 792 likes  Facebook closed group: 782 members  Twitter: 2287 followers  JH reported that now we have set deadlines for grants and prizes she can start tweeting those with more regularity. As always, RTs and general engagement is much appreciated.  JH reminded members to tell her if there are upcoming events that you would like to advertise (even doing this via DM to the SLSA accounts is fine).  JH reported that a decent number of our followers on these various accounts are from outwith the UK, so it would be interesting to see if this is being translated into conference attendance, for example, or membership applications.  It was AGREED that the hashtag for the forthcoming annual conference would be #slsa2017 (building on the success of #slsa2015 and #slsa2016).  It was AGREED to promote the Mexico LSA conference. Deadline is October 18th for submission of abstracts. | | | | JH  JH  JH | |
| 4.1.a Newcastle 2017 | | | |  | |
| Following discussion it was AGREED to leave it to the organising committee as to whether or not they wanted to have a band/disco after the dinner.  It was AGREED that charity bursaries should be retained.  It was noted that the call for papers will be included in the next Newsletter, which will be published on 21 November. This call will also be promoted in the e-bulletin and social media.  It was AGREED that the call for themes would need to go out as soon as possible.  The organising committee were reminded of the need to have paper submission services available via EasyChair and the conference website up and running by 21st November.  It was AGREED to keep the proposed difference in fees between members and non-members.  It was AGREED to ask Newcastle to amend their budget to remove the site visit costs and executive costs.  It was AGREED to only print the 70 page booklet for delegates (all basic information on the programme, title for each presentation, etc., but no abstracts). Abstract booklets would be available electronically.  Newcastle were asked to confirm further details concerning food costing, the wine reception and room bookings. | | | | KC, NGR  KC, NGR  KC, NGR, MS, JH  KC, NGR, MS  KC, NGR  KC, NGR  KC, NGR  KC, NGR  KC, NGR, RH | |
| 4.1.b. Bristol 2018 | | | |  | |
| No updates. | | | |  | |
| 4.1.c Leeds 2019 | | | |  | |
| It was reported that the dates are not yet confirmed.  The executive asked the Leeds organising committee to confirm the dates by 30th September 2016.  UPDATE – The dates are now set: 3-5 April 2019 | | | | RH, MT | |
| **4.1 d Future Conferences** | | | |  | |
| Nothing to report. | | | |  | |
| **4.1 e Review of Streams and Themes** | | | |  | |
| The Executive reviewed the submissions from stream and theme convenors concerning proposals for the continuation or deletion of their streams and themes. Following discussion the executive AGREED on the streams to be maintained for future annual conference. RH to inform convenors of the outcome.  The executive sought further clarification on a number of the streams with RH to approach the respective convenors.  RH also to contact several stream and theme convenors who had not replied to the call for renewal applications. | | | | RH  RH  RH | |
| **4.2 Postgraduate Conference** | | | |  | |
| Nothing to report. | | | |  | |
| **4.3 One Day Conferences** | | | |  | |
| Emilie Cloatre has provided a budget of around £4000 for the proposed one-day conference on ‘Socio-legal studies/sociologie due droit: methods, traditions, theories in France and the UK’. It was AGREED that the association would part fund this conference. An application for funding has been made to the JLS. Details of the level of funding will be determined at a later date.  RH to send email to executive asking if executive members would like to be involved in taking any new ideas for a one day conference forward. | | | | EC, RH, MOB  RH | |
| **4.4 LSA Mexico 2017** | | | |  | |
| It was AGREED, subject to the treasurer’s approval, to provide up to five travel scholarships of £500 each for PGR SLSA members attending the Mexico conference to give a paper. A condition of the scholarship is that the student should not be in receipt of RCUK funding or another source of full funding.  It was AGREED that the SLSA would not organise panels at the conference but members could of course organise panels themselves.  It was AGREED that in principle it would be a good idea to have an SLSA drinks reception at the conference to raise awareness of the association. The budget for the reception would be decided in consultation with the treasurer.  It Was AGREED that the SLSA should encourage members to attend the conference by promoting it on social media and the e-bulletin.  IT was AGREED that NE should construct a mailing list of SLSA members who will be attending the LSA conference – to be advertised in the e-bulletin in due course. | | | | MOB, MT, RH  MT, MOB  JH, MS, MT  NE | |
| 5.1 Book prizes | | | |  | |
| Lydia Hayes as JLS representative asked for clarification on the book review component of the new structure for the book prizes. It was agreed that the JLS would be asked to review a maximum of three winning books per year. | | | |  | |
| 5.2. Article prize | | | |  | |
| No updates. | | | |  | |
| 5.3 Contributions to the socio-legal community | | | |  | |
| Two nominations were received. After discussion, it was AGREED to make this year’s award to Linda Mulcahy in recognition of her groundbreaking socio-legal scholarship, her longstanding contributions to the postgraduate conference, and her support for postgraduate students more generally, including through the recent ESRC DTC initiative. | | | | RH | |
| **5.4 Grants** | | | |  | |
| No updates. | | | |  | |
| **5.5 Seminar** | | | |  | |
| The Seminar Competition for this year is now open. The closing date for applications is 12 December 2016. | | | |  | |
| **5.6 Research Training and Mentoring Awards** | | | |  | |
| No applications of late. It was AGREED to maintain them for now. | | | |  | |
| **6. Reforms to Legal Education** | | | |  | |
| Nothing new to report over the summer. Jess Guth will attend the next Learned Associations meeting in late September and provide an update. It is the SLSA’s turn to organise the following meeting. | | | | JG | |
| **7. Next Meeting Dates** | | | |  | |
| The next meeting is Thursday 12th January.  Kevin Brown to co-ordinate with Naomi Creutzfeld to see if a room can be booked in the University of Westminster.  The date for the post-conference meeting is Thursday 18th May. | | | | KJB, NC | |
| **8. Any Other Business** | | | |  | |
| None | | | |  | |