

# RSA Fellowship

We are delighted that you are interested in becoming a Member of the RSA Fellowship Council. Below are some notes to guide you through the process and details on how the new Council will look and work.

## **Mission and Purpose**

The Fellowship Council will be a representative forum for Fellows of the RSA, with the core aim of ensuring a more effective working relationship between the Society and the Fellowship. The Fellowship Council will actively support, promote and broaden the awareness of the work of the RSA and its Fellows.

The remit of the Fellowship Council will evolve in conjunction with the strategic direction of the RSA, in partnership with and as directed by the Trustees. The Fellowship Council is advisory only.

## **What are the Objectives?**

These include:

- to further the values, aims and objectives of the RSA and its Fellowship
- to ensure an effective working relationship between the RSA and the Fellowship, with mutual communication and accountability
- to raise the profile of the RSA and the Fellowship
- to identify and encourage best practice Fellow network development and activities
- to engage Fellows in the development of, and ensure Fellow understanding and endorsement of, RSA programmes, projects and activities
- to underpin and give additional credibility to the work of the Fellowship

Terms of service will be set and agreed by Council once endorsed but are likely to be between two to three years

## **Why should I be involved?**

As a member of Council, you would be playing a crucial role in transforming the RSA Fellowship into the dynamic, powerful network it has the potential to be. You will be a representative for the Fellows in your region, and work with the RSA in the development of projects and activities at local, national and international levels. As a Council Member you will:

- represent the interests of the Fellowship, within the wider strategic context and direction of the RSA
- work with RSA officers to encourage activities among Fellows which contribute to the RSA's aims and values and discourage those that do not
- act as a consultative body for Trustees and Management to discuss strategy, policy and projects as appropriate
- hold stimulating, constructive and outcome focused discussions on Fellow and Fellowship related issues

- provide recommendations on Fellow-led activities and outputs
- advise Trustees on actions to take in cases where the activities of individuals or groups of Fellows could be damaging to the RSA Fellowship's reputation

Being part of the Council will provide Fellows with a unique opportunity to shape and participate in the strategic direction of the RSA. This network of Fellows will set standards and aspirations for, and improve communication between, Council, Fellows and Staff. The Council will reflect both the diversity and breadth of the Fellowship and provide a multi-disciplinary, politically independent approach as well as encourage and demonstrate practical action.

### **What should I expect?**

Membership of the Council will mean more than just attending meetings, although there will be meetings involved. You will be actively involved and engaged, working with Fellows and staff individually and collectively, face to face and online. Council Members will further the interests of Fellows through discussion, ideas, agreeing objectives and actions. This will be one of the major differences between the existing RSA Council and the new representational Fellowship Council.

The Council will meet officially twice a year but Council Members will be encouraged and expected to debate, action and deliver with the core aim of ensuring a more effective relationship and communication between the RSA and the Fellowship. The Fellowship Council will actively support, promote and broaden the awareness of the work of the RSA and its Fellows a true Fellowship body.

The Council will work with the assistance and support of the Society's staff to turn the Fellowship into a powerful network for social innovation. This will involve strengthening the ethos of Fellowship and encouraging a commitment to embrace this in all our international, regional and local branches.

### **What will the Fellowship Council actually do?**

Key tasks and objectives for the new Council will be agreed by the new Council themselves but actions for 2009/10 will include:

- endorsement and implementation of a new code of Fellowship rights, responsibilities and opportunities, in the form of a Fellows' Charter.
- reviewing the RSA current regional framework and exploring Regional representation for the future
- creating and supporting FRSA projects
- mentoring and advising Fellows on specific development and projects
- recruiting new Fellows to the RSA and key projects and activities

### **Nomination and election processes**

The nomination process is explained in full within the Call for Nominations document, but there are two key elements; a personal statement, and the support of other Fellows.

If you would like to nominate yourself, you will need to write a statement which explains how you meet the nominations criteria. You will also need to obtain signatures from 5 other Fellows

who support your nomination. Signatures from supporting Fellows can be from any Region, but voting will be Regionally restricted. You are encouraged to obtain support from Fellows within your own Region.

When you nominate, you are putting yourself forward as a representative for your Region. If you are uncertain about which RSA Region you belong to, please contact us directly. If you are registered at an address outside the UK, for the purpose of this nomination and election processes, your Region will be 'International'.

In the election, Fellows will vote to select the Council representative(s) in their Region.

You then need to send your nomination forms and Candidate Statement to the Chief Executive of the RSA. A copy of the Candidates Statement also needs to be sent to Electoral Reform Services for the Council election which will take place in June 2009. **A useful checklist - to ensure you have completed all of the required steps - is at the end of this document.**

All nominations will be scrutinised by the RSA Nominations Committee of the Trustee Board, to ensure that all criteria have been met.<sup>1</sup> This will happen in June. Nominations which are endorsed will then be put forward for the election process, which will be held in June/July.

*Please note that if you are put forward for the election process, a copy of your personal statement will be published on the ERS website to help Fellows decide who they would like to vote for.*

The Nominations Committee will then meet again in July to approve the outcomes of the election process. They will also make their recommendations for the 20 Trustee Board nominated positions on Council.

The newly formed Fellowship Council will have an initial meeting in September 2009 and will be officially endorsed at the RSA AGM on 7 October.

This is just the start - the real work will then begin on refining and agreeing Council strategy, and priorities for 2009/10.

### **Financial guidelines**

Reasonable expenses for Council Members will be available for attending official Council meetings as per the RSA Region Guidelines and with agreement from the Director of Fellowship. We do not anticipate reimbursing the costs of international travel above £200. Council Members will not receive fees.

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<sup>1</sup> The Nominations Committee is advisory and makes recommendations regarding appointments to the Board, Council and external bodies as well as proposed recipients of RSA medals. Members currently include Naaz Coker (Chair), Gerry Acher, Sean Blair, Luke Johnson, Louise Macdonald and David McCoy.

### **Council membership and governance**

- The Council will be limited to 40 members, all of whom are RSA Fellows
- The Council will have 20 Trustee nominated and 20 Fellow-elected members from Trustee designated regions
- The Fellowship Council will elect a Chair and Deputy Chair from the Council membership, at least one of whom must be a Fellow-elected member. These positions will have a limited term of two years, and both the Chair and Deputy Chair will serve as full members of the RSA Trustee Board
- The Fellowship Council Chair and Deputy Chair may, on completion of their two-year term, remain as standard members of Council if nominated by Trustees or elected by the Fellowship
- The Fellowship Council will meet twice a year with additional meetings as required
- Any member that misses more than 2 meetings in a row will forfeit their place on the Fellowship Council
- The Fellowship Council will work closely with the Chief Executive of the RSA, the Chair of the Trustees and the Director of Fellowship
- The Director of Fellowship will act as secretariat to the Fellowship Council

## Checklist

We welcome your nomination as a Fellow-elected member of Council. You will need to complete the Nomination Form and provide a Candidate Statement (of no more than 300 words). **Your Nomination Form will need the signature of Five Fellows who support your nomination.**

Your Candidate Statement must outline how you believe you meet the nominations criteria, outlined in the Call for Nomination document.,

Completed Nomination Forms and Candidate Statement must be received by the Chief Executive at RSA, 8 John Adam Street, London WC2N 6EZ by **noon on 22 May 2009.**

At the same time, to arrive by noon on 22 May 2009, candidates should send their **Candidate Statement** only to Alex Lonie, Manager of Membership Organisations Sector, Electoral Reform Services, The Election Centre, 33 Clarendon Road, London N8 ONW preferably by email [alex.lonie@electoralreform.co.uk](mailto:alex.lonie@electoralreform.co.uk). ERS will administer the voting process on behalf of the RSA and candidate statements will be available to Fellows via the internet.

Should you require further information at any time, including nomination criteria and details about the nominations and election processes, please visit the RSA website at <http://www.thersa.org/about-us/governance/fellowship-council>. You can also contact us by email [fellowship.council@rsa.org.uk](mailto:fellowship.council@rsa.org.uk) or by calling the Fellowship team on +44 (0)20 7451 6826.

Have you:

- Completed your Nomination Form; identifying your Region and with signatures from Five supporting Fellows
- Completed your Candidate Statement not exceeding 300 words
- Sent your Candidate Statement to ERS (as above)
- Sent your Nomination Form and Statement to RSA c/o Chief Executive.