

Call for Nominations for Elections to the RSA Fellowship Council (2009)

This year there will be direct elections for 20 Fellows to join the new RSA Fellowship Council. Fellows will be directly elected by the Fellowship for an initial 2 year term.

The breakdown for elected positions by region is as follows: East of England (2), East Midlands (1), Ireland (1), London (3), North East (1), North West (1), Scotland (2), South East (2), South Central (2), South West (1), West Midlands (1), Wales & West (1), Yorkshire (1), International (1).

The election will take place during the summer, and the result, including the number of votes cast in favour of each candidate will be announced at the AGM in October 2009. Calls for nominations will be conducted via the RSA website. Voting will be conducted on a regional basis using Electoral Reform Services. Where Fellows do not have on line access there will be a postal process augmented by telephone voting.

Nominations are now invited for election to membership of the Fellowship Council.

The Council

Fellowship Council members will actively support, promote and broaden the awareness of the work of the RSA and its Fellows – there will be at least 2 all Council meetings a year, but the activity will be ongoing.

A key focus for 2009/10 will be endorsement and implementation of a new code of Fellowship rights, responsibilities and opportunities, in the form of a Fellows' Charter. In addition, the Fellowship Council will work with RSA officers to encourage activities among Fellows which contribute to the RSA's aims and values and discourage those that do not.

Reasonable expenses for attending Council meetings will be reimbursed. These are described in the Region Guidelines. Any expenditure to be incurred in excess of these Guidelines should receive prior agreement from the Director of Fellowship. We do not anticipate reimbursing the costs of international travel above £200.

Council Criteria

The RSA Fellowship is diverse, engaged and influential. Fellows are willing to actively engage and contribute to the capacity of the Society to develop and promote new ways of thinking about human fulfilment and social progress. Members of the Fellowship Council will actively support, promote and broaden the awareness of the work of the RSA and its Fellows.

We welcome your nomination for election as a Member of the Fellowship Council. We would like to hear more about you, your experience and what you – as a Fellow - could offer as a representative and ambassador for the wider Fellowship. We would like to hear how you have:

- made a practical contribution to civil society through voluntary, social or community organisation
- challenged current thinking; shown bravery or innovation in your actions; or pioneered positive change
- used your expertise and enthusiasm to participate in RSA projects or wider work
- demonstrated participation in communities and networks, and shown a generosity in sharing ideas and resources
- reached a high level of accomplishment or expertise and demonstrated leadership in your field
- worked to raise awareness or increase participation in issues of political priority, cultural importance, or scientific merit

In addition, you may have achieved, or show the potential to achieve in the following ways:

- held a position of seniority or influence in their sphere and have the capacity to engage and inspire others
- been recognised or commended in national honours, industry awards or voluntary schemes aligned to the RSA's aims

Nomination forms may be downloaded from the Society's website at: <http://www.thersa.org/about-us/governance/fellowship-council> and will be mailed directly to those Fellows not on line.

Candidates must:

- be a Fellow, and their subscriptions must not be in arrears;
- be nominated by at least five other Fellows. A Fellow may only support one candidate for election. In the event of more than one candidate being supported by the same Fellow only the first nomination received by the Chief Executive will be treated as valid.

Nomination papers must state:

- the full name and address of the candidate being nominated, for which region the candidate is standing, and be signed & dated by him/her; and
- the full names and addresses of the five Fellows who are nominating him/her, with names in block capitals, and be signed and dated by them.

Candidates should also provide:

- a statement of no more than 300 words describing your career to date and your aspirations and qualifications to become a member of Fellowship Council, in line with the above criteria. This statement will be distributed to all the Fellows in the Notice of Election. Only the first 300 words of any statement longer than 300 words will be published. Each statement will be preceded by two sentences inserted by the Fellowship office, the first stating the candidate's name (in the format 'preferred first name, surname', and a title will only be inserted if it is not Mr, Mrs, Ms or Miss), and profession (as previously supplied by the Fellow and recorded on the database); the second stating the year from which he or she (deleted as applicable) has been in continuous Fellowship. The Fellowship office has the right to make minor formatting changes, to ensure consistency between candidates' statements.

Nomination papers and Statements must have been received by the Chief Executive at the Society's House by noon on **22 May 2009**. All nominations will be scrutinised by the Nominations Committee of the Trustee Board before the election process commences. Where any nomination form is incomplete or no candidate's statement is received by the deadline, the Nominations Committee will declare the nomination to be void.

The Notice of Election and individual secure voting codes will be advised to Fellows during June and the ballot will be conducted on behalf of the Society by Electoral Reform Services. Where there is an equality of votes, the Chair shall cast an additional vote.

If the number of Fellows nominated for Council from a particular Region is equal to or less than the number of places allotted, and the Nominations Committee has determined that nominees meet the above criteria, there will be no election process – the nominee(s) will be automatically elected.

The Trustee Board will approve all candidates elected directly from the Fellowship, as well as those nominated by Trustees, at its July 27 2009 Board Meeting prior to endorsement at the October 7 2009 AGM.

If you have any questions about this election please contact Stephen King, Chief Operating Officer at stephen.king@rsa.org.uk or +44 (0)20 7451 6903.

Matthew Taylor,
Chief Executive.

April 2009