

Fellowship Council 30 April 2019

Zoom meeting 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Convenor: Nick Parker (Chair)

In attendance: Oliver Reichardt, Laura House, Grace McCole (minutes)

Fellowship Councillors in attendance:	
Pamela Ball	Claire Haigh
Michelle Preston	Kuki Taylor
Jan Floyd-Douglass	Don Mclaverty
Peter Clitheroe	Jim Croxford
Lucy Griffiths	Neil Mclennan
Ann Longley	Enrique Mendizabal
Suzanne Lyle	Lesley Martin
Ann Thorpe	Steve Horscroft
Nick Parker	Maurice Ward
Leonie Ramondt	Hosan Lee
Christine Mclean	
Apologies:	
Sharon Jandu	Marion Lawie
Rachel Sharpe	Jay Singh-Sohal
Bhavani Esapathi	Brian Mcleish
Caroline Clark	

Welcome and Introduction - Nick Parker

Nick welcomed everyone to the first official Fellowship Council zoom meeting and said that feedback about how this has worked will be welcomed.

Oli spoke briefly about the changes that will be made to the Coffeehouse, to solve the issue of people just sitting on laptops and not buying anything. The plan is to change the furniture on the ground floor to make it easier and more attractive to use work and use laptops, therefore freeing up space in Rawthmells to encourage more conversation.

Lean coffee session - Lucy Griffiths

Topics voted on to discuss:

- 1. Inclusivity and diversity***

It was discussed that the RSA need to Improve the diversity amongst the Fellowship. This includes but is not limited to minorities, rural communities, social backgrounds and the LGBT+ community.

It was pointed out that it is not just about diversifying the Fellowship but also about diversity in research and what we engage with. Furthermore, it would be amiss to actively target minorities to get more of a spread into the organisation, it is more about engaging people with great ideas.

Hosan mentioned the RSA USA diversity and inclusivity committee, details of which have been shared around.

Everyone agreed that this is a key priority within the council and that a separate zoom session needs to be had on this. **Action ALL – to create a meeting to focus on diversity and inclusivity.**

2. Planned project collaboration with ARC

How are fellows being engaged and what is the best practice on this?

Oli mentioned that this is about getting the right cohort of Fellows in a project who can further the impact of the project. Laura House will be running a set of three experiments to do with this, her agenda item will be moved forward to fit in with this discussion.

Nick has asked Asheem Singh (Director of EEM) about catalyst projects recently, and he didn't know much about them. It is therefore important to put more emphasis on the EEM space when thinking about this.

ARC engagement experiments (moved forward)

The responsibility for engaging Fellows with ARC projects used to sit with the Engagement team but this has been brought into the Fellowship areas team. This has led to the below experiments that are being trialled to see what we can learn and to apply this on a larger scale. *Laura's presentation was sent out on the day for you to refer back to.*

1. Embedding Fellowship networks into all stages of programme of work – Leveraging the impact that Fellowship can have. Projects include heritage project and making fashion circular project.

If you want to get involved with this then do send a message to Sophie.freeman@rsa.org.uk. Charlotte Bayley will also be leading a networks pilot on how networks can make the most impact.

2. How we fund an ARC project to ensure that Fellowship engagement is costed in at an early stage, to ensure that money is set aside for it. Project in Tees valley network is currently thinking about this.

It is important to note that the cost stated refers to RSA colleagues time to come to events.

3. Developing an engaged process for Fellows to influence and shape a proposal for a programme of work. Representatives (e.g Fellowship Councillors) to have a look at emergent ideas and help to contribute to these and influence this at a very early stage. To enable projects to be stronger and robust and to get more fellows engaged by the time they go to PRG.

If certain people are really interested in this then they can convene with Laura separately.

This was voted as a priority area for the Fellowship council, with a majority. Everyone keen to help input and be involved.

3. Catering for International Fellows

What can be done to provide fellows outside the UK with the same services as in the UK?

Some International Fellows don't get physical interaction with the RSA, so there is a disconnect, i.e the house and receiving the journal late.

- A digital option of the journal would be good, to receive it at the same time as everyone else.
- Greater opportunities for international Fellows to speak in the steps when they come to the RSA House (which is rare).

The creation of an international network was discussed. This could draw resources from the UK and will need to have sustained work. Technology will need to be used for this to improve.

Action ALL: To have a separate zoom call with RSA staff and councillors, involving Lauren Orso (global manager).

4. Review of extant strategic plan of Council/RSA to help inform next steps of this Fellowship council

Was there a plan from previous councils that they were working towards? Shall we use this to inform our one now?

Oli explained that the previous council came up with two projects, the first being change stories and the second one supporting Fellow led projects e.g Regional banking.

A lack of strategic individual purpose was discussed as this is important for Fellows to have when they join. However, we do need to appreciate those Fellows who just give money and don't want to get involved.

If your topic was not discussed in this session then please do contact Nick to set up a meeting to talk about it.

Network leads day - Peter Clitheroe

Interesting examples of specific initiatives came out of this day, that made an impression on people.

Questions posed *'What nature of local/thematic groups are you conscious of in your areas?'*

Local communities and networks is a key theme. It was discussed how Councillors can support networks, as we need to be conscious of what capacity we have as FC in this role. Charlotte Bayley is working on a project to determine what support networks need, a community of practice for network leads.

AOB

Questions:

- Is the growth of Fellowship a key part of the strategy or not?

Oli – FC should have a discussion on this to give formal feedback to the trustee board for the strategic review, as maintaining Fellowship income is vital for the Trustees. Could be growth in partnerships rather than in the Fellowship.

Action Oli - to send out trustee board update to the councillors in future.