

Fellowship Council 4 July 2017

Tavern Room 11am-4pm

Convenor: Rod Hyde (Chair)

In attendance: Vikki Heywood, Oliver Reichardt, Charlotte Eisenhart, Lou Matter, Rachel Barker, Laura House, Mark Hall, Chloe Mavrommatis (notes)

Fellowship Councillors in attendance

Alan Bec (until 2pm)
Alex Bell
Caroline Clark
Peter Clitheroe
Ian Coleman
Maurizio Fantato
Lucy Griffiths (until 1pm)
Clem Henricson
Tanya Hine
Rod Hyde
Sharon Jandu
Chris Luffingham
Suzanne Lyle
Kieran McGeowan
Pauline Moger
Margaret Morgan
Michelle Preston
Judy Rees
Leonie Ramondt
Steve Trevillion
Eric Woodcock

Apologies:

Edward Boott
Racheal Brown
Hasmita Chavda
Bhavani Esapathi
Lorna Prescott
Amy Pryor

Welcome and Trustee Update – Vikki Heywood

Vikki provided headline updates from the latest Trustee Board meeting on the House Development work, the transformation of our relationship with the RDIs and new model for the Design Advisory Board, and the strategic update for the EEM change aim strand (presentation provided).

The next change aim to offer their strategic update will be PSC. The presentation will be circulated at the Council meeting, to include an introduction and short summary from the thematic Councillors.

This is important as we want the Fellowship Councillors to be able to link Fellows in with the focus of the ARC projects and make sure we are making full use of the Fellowship. There was some discussion of how we could get seminars and events on the project work out in to the areas, if not through staff then by empowering the Fellows to lead these groups. This will be discussed further in the afternoon group sessions.

A future Fellowship Council will have a session led by Rowan Conway on how the Council can support the RDI and Design Board work, and connect the RSA's ambitions for this body with the design networks and top tier projects with design focus.

Task and Finish Group Outcomes: Working Groups session

The task and finish group on the focus and role of Fellowship Council had two main recommendations to focus on: supporting and spreading Fellows projects, and identifying and promoting our core activist Fellows.

A new task and finish will be convened on the role going forward, looking into global reach and position of the Fellows forum in this, and the continuity of the Council through the election cycle.

Laura House is forming a steering group to work on identifying the core activists and working with them. Volunteers for the steering group are requested. Laura will circulate the list of activist Fellows identified so far.

There could be great fundraising potential linked to this project – there is a huge appetite to support community led change projects and we haven't ever really raised money for these causes before.

Laura introduced the change stories project which is a development of the project that Lorna introduced at the last meeting. Laura asked for each Councillor to identify a Fellow in their area and, using the questions provided, produce a change story. When we have a number of these stories we can plan how to curate them.

Charlotte introduced her paper on the spreading projects objective. A number of projects have been identified that are capable of spreading to other areas. She asked Councillors to indicate on the list which, if any, projects they would like to explore with a view to championing in their area.

Charlotte Eisenhart is looking at how we can support 1-3 major projects, capable of national or systemic change, and how the Fellowship, expertise and RSA brand can help spread these. Councillors are asked to contact Charlotte if any of the submitted projects in the circulated list appeal to their expertise and they feel they can give time and support to these.

A working group is proposed to look at major themes that emerge in submitted projects so we can link projects to each other and offer support to more of them in this way. There has been discussions on the Fellows forum about an RSA incubator/accelerator so the working group will investigate this idea.

The RSA will collate a list of the Top 20 projects we have been involved with in our history to be part of the project support messaging.

Oliver Reichardt updated on the recent data protection meeting. Minutes of this meeting will be circulated for further details. A new data protection form will be co-designed, and Councillors will receive some brief training and then be given access to our database.

Our database can be segmented for Network leads but as this is a long set up process, in the meantime we will work with Network leads to co-create lists.

A working group is proposed to look further into the challenges of MyRSA and Find a Fellow and to propose solutions for better online networking. Volunteers are requested.

Rod gave a brief overview on the conversation about the role of the Council – this will be discussed further in the discussion section on the new structure below.

Fellowship Update – Oliver Reichardt

Oli provided a brief summary on current Fellowship numbers, current thinking on the values mode work with Cultural Dynamics, and how we are segmenting and engaging our Fellows by interest.

The Council think that local events and seminars around ARC project work are essential for outreach. Can the Council commit some of their budget to this? ARC staff time potentially isn't viable for this, unless we include Fellowship outreach as part of our funding pitches in future – the CEC is a good model for this, with engagement funding built in.

A seminar on the Future of Work outside of London should be investigated, with the possibility of research staff billing this time to the Fellowship Council. This could be a pilot for proof of concept to pitch to funders going forward.

There was a conversation about the funding and budget of the Council, and how the amount of funding available to disseminate has been decided. What would Fellows find more useful; additional funding, ideas incubator, seminars?

A session at next Council will be prepared to address the concerns raised on funding, comparing budgets to last year, and how changed area structure might be impacting this.

Fellows Forum – Judy Rees

The latest additional to the Fellows forum activity has been Zoom conversations with Vikki etc, which have a good global attendance and are all recorded and put on the forum for discussion. These have been incredibly popular but volunteers do not have time to run these regularly. Staff time would be required to administer a program of these going forward.

The forum team would like to collaborate on next steps for digital engagement, and possible funding for improvements to the forum and the growth of the project.

The attached list of requests to Fellowship Council from the Fellow Forum Liaison Group were approved.

Reflections on new structure – Rod Hyde

The task and finish group that proposed the changes to Fellowship Council will meet to discuss the new structure and any changes or additions that need to be made.

A survey has been circulated to Councillors about their personal experiences of the new structure.

Thematic: has taken some time to start solidifying the role into something meaningful. They want to branch out more and really find ways to contribute.

At the next Council, they will lead a session on what resources they can offer Fellows and other Councillors.

London: struggling with cut of budget and increased activity, and the three Councillors are finding it hard to meet the requirements of the amount being asked of them (much more than they initially expected).

South-East: feel they can't encourage big events and networks as they can't offer funding help

South-West: benefiting from old Councillors who have stepped down but are still very active. Have found examples of very active networks that had no links back to RSA – there is work out there to be discovered!

North: similarly benefiting from active ex-Councillors. Pauline feels this new strategic role is much more dynamic and fulfilling than the old regional chair role.

Central: finding it difficult to keep activity moving – have reduced from three teams crossing the area to one team spread out over whole Central region. They also haven't had a member of staff in post for any length of time for a couple of years.

Scotland: size continues to be a challenge. Partnerships with organisations and universities might be a way to solve this.

The Lean Coffee sessions will be trialled at different times – weekday lunchtimes and evenings to give Councillors maximum opportunities to attend.

How effective is the 2 year Councillor term, and should the entire Council be re-elected at the same time? There was wide support for looking into rolling terms so that portions of the Council were replaced every year but there was overall continuity. This might require longer terms.

The problem of representing Global Fellows at Fellowship Council needs to be solved. Potentially Lean Coffee sessions can be held with Global Fellows and Connectors in advance of meetings and their feedback brought to Council meetings for discussion. The task and finish group should set tangible and ambitious goals to match the global ambitions of the RSA.

The Council wants to have more discussion of best practise and sharing challenges but needs to avoid long sessions describing projects.

We will investigate changing the structure of the Council meetings e.g. holding lunch in a different room that would be better as an informal breakout space for discussion groups over lunch.

Judy also suggesting trialling the Knowledge Café format for Zoom meetings as a way to discuss best practise.

Peter suggested a brief session in Council where Councillors have pose problems they are facing with area work and get other Councillors to feed in.

ACTION	LEAD
Thematic Councillors to include introductory material for PSC presentation at next Council	Steve Trevillion and Lorna Prescott
Future Council session on RDI and Design Board work – led by Rowan Conway	Rod Hyde
Councillors to identify Fellows in their areas and produce change stories from provided questions	Laura House
Councillors to volunteer for projects they might be interested in championing	Charlotte Eisenhart
Working group on major themes and linking related projects for additional support	VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED
Data protection meeting minutes circulated	Oliver Reichardt
Working group on MyRSA, Find A Fellow, and better online networking	VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED
Seminar on Future of Work outside London	VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED
Session on funding at next Council	Rod Hyde
Session on Thematic Councillors and their role at next Council	Rod Hyde/Thematic Councillors
Lean Coffee to be trialled at other times/Knowledge Café format to be trialled over Zoom	VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED
Timings and format/room layout of Council to be looked into	Chloe Mavrommatis