

## Fellowship Council

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017, 12-4pm

Tavern Room

**Convenor:** Rod Hyde (Chair)

**In attendance:** Oliver Reichardt, Charlotte Eisenhart, Laura House, Charlotte Bayley, Abigail Campbell, Adam Timmins, Eleanor Toner, Chloe Mavrommatis (notes)

### **Fellowship Councillors in attendance**

Alan Bec  
Amy Pryor  
Bhavani Esapathi  
Caroline Clark  
Chris Luffingham  
Clem Henricson  
Edward Boott  
Eric Woodcock  
Hasmita Chavda  
Judy Rees  
Keiran McGeowan  
Lorna Prescott  
Lucy Griffiths  
Michelle Preston  
Pauline Moger  
Phil Burton  
Peter Clitheroe  
Rachael Brown  
Rod Hyde  
Sharon Jandu  
Steve Trevillion  
Suzanne Lyle  
Tanya Hine

### **Apologies:**

Ian Coleman  
Maurizio Fantato  
Margaret Morgan  
Alex Bell  
Leonie Ramondt

### **1. Introduction – Rod Hyde**

The new Fellowship Councillor for Wales, Phil Burton, was introduced.

There was no update from Vikki Heywood at this session of Council, as there has been no Trustee Board since the last Fellowship Council meeting.

Actions from last Council:

The session on the roles of Thematic Councillors, and the session on the new Design Board, will be pushed back to the December Council.

Working group on networking Fellows projects by theme: Lorna Prescott and Leonie Ramondt have been working on this and it will be discussed in section 3.

MyRSA and better online networking updates – Rod and Judy Rees are continuing to work on these, more updates will be forthcoming in future Councils.

Trial seminar on ARC project outside of London – Tony Greenham has suggestions, this will be discussed in section 5.

Lean Coffee schedule – Suzanne Lyle has volunteered to organise more sessions, however she is not able to attend a great number of lunchtime meetings, so there is a call for volunteers to help with these lunchtime sessions.

Rod gave a brief overview of major things that have happened since the last Council.

1. The launch of the microsite, and first major communication to all Fellows about the House coffeehouse redevelopment. Rod has had some feedback particularly about how the coffeehouse can serve Fellows who can't physically visit, perhaps by using the forum or Zoom as virtual extensions of the coffeehouse. Rod and Oli will be holding two online Q&A sessions and there is an online ideas platform so Councillors are encouraged to get involved and point any Fellows who have feedback to engage there.

2. Progress has been made on the Fellows forum and virtual events. The RSA Global team have taken on organising a series of experimental online events via Zoom, and there are also some informal Zoom events being organised by Fellows. Judy has been liaising to help train the team on Zoom.

3. The two task and finish groups – on governance, and on the role of Fellowship Council, will come together as part of their review process. Lorna will update on this further.

## **2. Update – Oliver Reichardt**

Oli provided a few more details on the House redevelopment work.

We should reach 29,000 Fellows within the next few months, so it's good to see continued growth in Fellowship.

We are also working hard to tie quality Fellow engagement into the ARC research methodology. The Lab project, which will hopefully involve thematic councillors acting as an advisory board for Fellowship engagement in ARC research, is a major part of this.

## **3. Project Updates – Laura House and Charlotte Eisenhart**

Core Activists project: The steering group for the core activists engagement work has met twice, and there has been a survey sent out which is due to close on September 15<sup>th</sup> at which point there will be further updates. Currently there seems to be strong support for some sort of workshop day where these activists can all meet in person.

It was requested that more information should be added to the circulated list about what these Fellows are actually doing in their social change work. There will also be some guidance put together to help staff and Councillors identify more core activists. There will also be a chance for Councillors to expand the list, and potentially ask Fellows to self-identify as activists.

Fellows projects: The survey to collect Fellows projects came back with 130 responses and Councillors volunteered to work with a few that would be suitable to expansion. So far, only one

project has really come out of this approach and Keiran McGeown will continue to work with them. Any projects that have been contacted will continue to be supported in whatever way works best, but a new method for growing and spread projects more widely will be tried.

There was a suggestion that Councillors should each put together a short piece on their own expertise to act as a directory so projects can approach Councillors instead of the other way around. Leonie and Lorna have been sorting the 130 projects by theme and looking for points of connection, and how the projects can support each other to grow. There is potential for Engage style events over Zoom where similar projects are invited to pitch and ask for advice and expertise.

Hasmita Chavda and Edward Boott are testing an intergenerational support network idea that might expand to provide a good template of projects growing from one off events.

Change Stories: Laura has asked that all Councillors collect one change story from their area by 1<sup>st</sup> October. The question sheet and more details are attached to these minutes.

Top tier Fellow led projects: work continues with the Community Savings Bank Association, and hopefully two more projects will be part of this top tier engagement strand. Charlotte to update further at next Council.

#### **4. Areas and Nations – Rod Hyde**

Initial figures suggest that just under 50% of the budget has been allocated 5 months into the year. Rod believes this is due to lack of reporting so has asked that Area Managers make sure to report their areas allocated budgets correctly, and ensure that they also allocate contingency budgets by the end of the financial year.

Rod will also review the guidelines on event spending.

*Break for group discussions on areas and themes*

#### **5. Data Protection and additional updates**

Data protection update: Rod is now holding monthly meetings on data so will continue to update on progress.

Coffeehouse ideas platform: Adam Timmins joined for an update on the online ideas platform for the coffeehouse. The Councillors are interested to see how this progresses, to see if Wazuko could be used in other Council work.

Fellowship engagement in ARC projects: Tony Greenham has suggested that the pensions and self-employment work is at a good point to look at Fellowship engagement possibilities. These include a “sense-making” roundtable of self-employed Fellows, an ideas generation workshop, and a review panel of self-employed Fellows to judge these ideas. Caroline Clark volunteered for this so Charlotte will liaise with her and Tony about taking this forward.

#### **6. Continuity and Role of Council: Lorna Prescott**

The task and finish groups on the Future of Local Fellowship, and the Role of Fellowship Council will be combined.

One set of recommendations for changes are focused on the continuity of the Council, possibly through altering term lengths and holding staggered elections.

*Break for group discussions on continuity, role of Councillors, challenges, Global representation at Council – notes to be forwarded to Lorna*

#### **7. Proposal for a session to Create Connection – Michelle Preston**

Michelle, Alan, Alex, and Leonie put forward a motion that the Councillors spend some time getting to know each other more personally with the expectation that a better connected network of Councillors would improve information sharing, and tap into expertise and wisdom.

If popular, the next Fellowship Council meeting could take a different structure. It was suggested that a lot of the information presented during the FC meeting could be shared online freeing up some time for interaction between Councillors. An away day was also suggested or other informal meeting if only a minority of Councillors were interested in getting to know one another.

Others supported the motion given the function of the Fellowship Council. A more cohesive Council could help areas support each other, replicate successful projects, and feed into how area work affects RSA work and vice versa.

The motion was voted on and the majority were in favour.

There was a condition that the session is not completely open as it is not about just getting to know each other but finding out about each other's strengths and work within their area. It was suggested that the session is led around a powerful question so there is some direction and purpose. As Council members indicated in December that activating the Fellowship should be a focus, it was suggested that the powerful question should relate to this topic.

Practicalities – the Council did not want a finish later than 4.30pm. If the 'Getting to Know' session was 2h30 and lunch was 45 mins, it would leave 1h15 for any other business.

ACTION	LEAD
Volunteers requested to contact for lunchtime lean coffee sessions	Suzanne Lyle
Organise a more formal update on Lab project, either via Zoom or at next Council.	Charlotte Eisenhart
Read the attached email from Laura House and collect Change Story using provided questions	All councillors
Review guidelines and allocated budgets for December Council	Rod Hyde
Liaise with Tony Greenham and Caroline Clark about events on self-employment	Charlotte Eisenhart
Propose a session for cohesion and connectedness between Councillors for the next Fellowship Council meeting	Michelle Preston and Alan Bec