

Fellowship Council 7 November 2018
Prince Phillip Room 12pm - 4.30pm

Convenor: Rod Hyde (Chair)

In attendance: Tim Eyles (part of time), Matthew Taylor (part of time), Oliver Reichardt, Charlotte Eisenhart, Laura House, Maja Bayyoud, Grace McCole (minutes)

Fellowship Councilors in attendance:	
Jim Croxford	Caroline Clark
Michelle Preston	Christine Mclean
Kieran McGeown	Jan Floyd-Douglass
Peter Clitheroe	Sharon Jandu
Lucy Griffiths	Neil McLennan
Don McLaverty	Brian Mcleish
Suzanne Lyle	Lesley Martin
Leonie Ramondt	Ann Thorpe
Nick Parker	Jay Singh-Sohal
Maurice Ward	Rod Hyde
Lorna Prescott	
Apologies:	
Kuki Taylor	Claire Haigh
Steve Horscroft	Rachel Sharpe
Bhavani Esapathi	Pamela Ball
Ann Longley	

Welcome (Rod Hyde)

Rod welcomed the first Council of the new cohort and explained that this meeting was as much about getting to know each other as the items on the agenda.

Chair welcome & Trustee meeting review (Tim Eyles)

Tim introduced himself and discussed the upcoming strategy review. In particular he discussed his aims of bringing coherence to what the RSA stands for, the need to have more impact nationally, and the potential to grow globally.

He highlighted the good work that already takes place, the aim is to grow and to make more of a difference than we already do.

CEO Welcome (Matthew Taylor)

Matthew briefly outlined the history of the Fellowship Council

He then talked about where the organisation currently is, which is that it is re-inventing the traditional think tank to empower people around the world. This can already be seen in the community banks initiative, and also in our work with heritage ambassadors. We are undertaking programmes to achieve greater change, which draw on all aspects of the RSA including lectures, research and Fellowship.

However challenges still remain, such as there aren't enough examples of Fellowship engagement. We need these examples as without them we struggle to obtain 3rd party funding for it. He suggested that a challenge that the council could consider would be to work with the staff to increase the number of examples of great Fellowship engagement with the RSA mission.

He stated his hope that in 2-years' time, the RSA should be able to generate impact and types of working that only we can do because of fellowship engagement and our events platform. Ours is a model of the future but we have to demonstrate that this works.

Fellowship state of play (Oliver Reichardt)

Oli spoke about the teams within Fellowship. He highlighted that for the past 5 years we have been recruiting just under 900 fellows but this year has been more difficult. He stated that the main way we recruit fellows is through the website and fellows nominating other fellows.

He highlighted the growth of the local areas team and the increase in events and network support, and that the team is now thinking more about the impact of what we do.

Oli then discussed the success of the first project in the RSA Transform programme, and the increasing emphasis on fellow engagement in ARC projects but that more was to be done.

Reflection from the last Council (Lorna Prescott)

Cards and messages of encouragement (Appendix 1) from the previous council were brought out and passed around, in order to form a continuous thread between the previous council meeting and this one.

Prominent themes in the messages included passion, focus, asking for help and relationships.

There was then a table discussion about the words.

Digital Engagement and Fellows forum (Oliver Reichardt & Kieran McGeown)

Oli briefly explained the history of digital engagement, the trials in the past that hadn't met expectations and the need to experiment and test what we do.

A key challenge he highlighted was the current fragmented state of our online engagement.

Kieran then spoke about the Fellows Forum and its successes, such as the connectivity between the tremendous work in Scotland and Ireland. He then discussed turning the forum into an online collaborative network and an idea generating experience. The Council agreed to support the continuation of the Forum including being responsible for the modest hosting charges currently incurred.

Rod then asked for everyone to give their permission for email addresses to be shared amongst the Council. While there was unanimous agreement in the room, he highlighted that if a councilor did not want their details shared, then they should tell him.

Global Fellowship Trial (Natalie Nicholles & Rod Hyde)

Natalie gave an overview of the Global Fellowship and then went on to speak about trialing the idea of Global Fellowship Councillors.

Global Fellowship is growing and therefore we want to reflect this in the Fellowship Council. The Proposal presented was to have three Global Fellowship Councilors, one from the United States, one from Asia, and one from Australia/New Zealand.

If this was to be done, the Global Councillors would need to meet the rest of the Council face to face, but this may mean reducing the number of meetings that we have currently. Possibly a reduction from 4 to 2 a year. She highlighted that this is a trial, so we can revise it as it progresses.

The council approved the idea, with one councilor suggesting that the 2 face to face meetings could have a special focus on the issues that Global Councillors may have.

Plenary Review and General Business (Rod Hyde)

Rod spoke about the nominations for the chair and vice chair posts available, and the desire to complete this on the meeting of the 29th January to enable the new chair and elected trustee to be able to go to the Trustee away day.

He also stated the desire to hold another zoom session between now and the January meeting, ideally by a professional facilitator.

He highlighted the Wazoku platform which could be used to discuss ideas about how to best hold meetings, with a particular desire for meetings to be purposeful and energetic, suggesting a mix of real and virtual meetings throughout the year.

Lastly he stated that the handbook will be ready for next week.

Appendix 1



