

## Fellowship Council

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

Tavern Room

**Convenor:** Rod Hyde (Chair)

**In attendance:** Oliver Reichardt, Matthew Taylor, Philippa Wilson, Charlotte Eisenhart, Stuart McLeod, Charlotte Bayley, Abigail Campbell, Rachel Barker, Charlotte Holloway, Jamie Cooke, Eleanor Toner (notes)

### **Fellowship Councillors in attendance**

Alan Bec  
Amy Pryor  
Caroline Clark  
Clem Henricson  
Edward Boott  
Eric Woodcock  
Ian Coleman  
Judy Rees  
Keiran McGeowan  
Leonie Ramondt  
Lorna Prescott  
Lucy Griffiths  
Michelle Preston  
Neil McLennan  
Pauline Moger  
Peter Clitheroe  
Phillip Burton  
Rod Hyde  
Sharon Jandu  
Suzanne Lyle  
Tanya Hine

### **Apologies:**

Vikki Heywood  
Bhavani Esapathi  
Chris Luffingham  
Maurizio Fantato  
Hasmita Chavda, Leicester  
Alex Bell  
Steve Trevillion

### **1. Introduction – Rod Hyde**

The new Fellowship Councillor for Scotland, Neil McLennan, was introduced.

Vikki Heywood could not attend and sent her apologies. Philippa Wilson will deliver the Trustee Update.

Actions from last Fellowship Council on 5<sup>th</sup> September were circulated to be reviewed at the end of the meeting.

## **2. Update – Matthew Taylor**

Matthew reviewed the year focusing on the improved profile and impact of the RSA. Our think tank is leading on research into the future of work and tech sectors. New Networks are aligning well with Julian's work and the Citizen's Economic Council is feeding into our EEM work. The aim was to tackle fewer, bigger projects this year. We hit our target of more than ten projects over £100k. An important shift has been partnering with organisations to deliver change, formulating research programmes alongside funders rather than trying to progress our own ideas independently. This collaborative model has been hugely successful, working with St. Thomas's and the NSPCC for example. Think tank aside, our most important partners in change are our Fellows. We're in a time of institutional decay where traditional models of working are outdated and not terribly effective. An ever-more engaged Fellowship is as important as it ever was.

A short Q&A followed with questions on the social mobility commission, and the adaptability and learning of the RSA.

## **3. Creating Connection – Leonie Ramondt and Lorna Prescott**

In groups, Councillors considered the following questions based on Global Café guidelines.

- How can we generate better connection between regions and amongst councillors?

The group explored their shared interests and different strengths they could bring to collaborative work. Catalyst is a programme that could support inter-regional connection, through panel meetings where Councillors can meet face-to-face, and through ongoing project support.

- How can we generate better connection online?

Tech could help enable connection across regions and individuals but different levels of engagement with technology could also hinder this. In neighbouring regions, events close to the border connect the two. Borders were also recognised as a barrier for connection. Many Fellows connect through the website and journal. Using digital as a stimulus for debate and discussion could be a regular occurrence specific to an area or theme.

- How can we generate a better synergy between projects and initiatives?

The difference between projects and initiatives was explored. The greatest problem for generating synergy between projects and initiatives was collective knowledge of activity and sharing of this information. The group did hit a bit of a roadblock with this issue but thought the best and most efficient way to share this information would be online.

- How can we generate a greater sense of connection within the RA global context?

Do we connect around a purpose or do we connect and a purpose emerges? Some wacky ideas were put forward like a Fellows-only Airbnb. More practically, we could hold more zoom events. Thematic Networks could be rolled out globally. Fellows have access to a rudimentary forum but this needs more work, perhaps with a permanent funded member of staff to look after this. Fellows have made global connections on an individual basis. Should FCs be the people leading these connections? A thought was prompted that many Global Fellows are expats. Is there potential in exporting values beyond US NZ AUS? Other organisations like Save The Children have done successfully. CE noted how many conversations had mentioned catalyst as a means of connection and took away a lot to think about, how different resources could be used in the programme. A final thought was that more could be done to connect and cohere the regions before branching out globally.

#### **4. Areas/ Nations/ Themes**

Thematic Councillor update: some big project-based work is underway such as the Community Savings Bank. They discussed their overall mission/ objectives which varies quite significantly from change aim to change aim, in terms of buy-in and activity. There was a general consensus on the rolling out of thematic events from region to region. One idea put forward by a councillor was that every school in the UK could have an RSA Fellow attached to it. Oli mentioned that we already have a list of RSA school governors. The variety of schools might prove an issue given the vast difference in their structure and operation.

Task and finish update: The Council as it functions now was initiated by a previous Council. The purpose of the task and finish group was to review the role of the Council and whether additional changes should be made or rolled back. These meetings are still in progress but so far it has been suggested the governance of the Council could be lighter and the trustees manage this and the majority are elected – 7 of 12. In light of this, perhaps instigating local/ regional/ global activity should be the main purpose of the Council.

#### **5. Trustee update**

Trustee and former London Fellowship representative, Pip Wilson, ran through the biggest topics in discussion on the Trustee Board. House redevelopment has been in discussion to ensure it is the correct decision for the global Fellowship, protect the building, and ensure something is created in line with the RSA's mission.

Vikki's chair ends next October. The position will be an external appointee rather than a promotion. With this in mind, there has been a look at strategy which was set for 2013. It will be moved to accommodate the handover, so the new chair will have time to settle in and oversee the strategy that they will have to carry forward.

Performance of the 'business' has been pretty good. There will be a period of difficulty during the development but H&J are finding ways to accommodate this.

The RSA Academy results were not good this summer. There has been a lot of discussion of this at trustee levels. Due diligence will be required to get the results up to scratch and will perhaps be something to bear in mind in the search for a new trustee.

What is the RSA's involvement in the academies? The RSA schools have their own board. Someone from that board feeds into the RSA board. We put in £100k across all the schools. Our input is largely financial and arm's length governance.

Q&A focused on criteria for success in the RSA schools and connecting Fellows in the RSA's strategy going forward.