



COUNCIL
Thursday, 30 June 2022
1.30 pm
In Burlington House and via Zoom

Prof. Martin Millett, President, in the Chair

Present: Dr Heather Sebire, Hon. Secretary
Dr John Cooper, Director
Prof. Roey Sweet, Vice-President
Dr Tim Schroder
Dr Bob Bewley
Dr Emily Cole
Dr Ann McSween
Prof. Simon Kaner

In attendance: Mr Andrew Macdonald, General Secretary
Ms Katy Drake, Head of Finance and Resources
Ms Dunia Garcia-Ontiveros, Head of Library and Museum Collections
Dr Linda Grant, Governance Manager
Mr Dominic Wallis, Head of Development

Apologies: Stephen Dunmore, John Hines, Nathalie Cohen, Victoria Bryant

15/22 The President welcomed new Trustees, Dr Ann McSween and Prof. Simon Kaner to their first Council meeting. The President reported that he had nominated Prof. Roey Sweet as a Vice-President, and that she had accepted. As this was also the Gen. Sec's first Council meeting, he outlined his priorities: a strategic vision for the Society; greater public engagement; how to make best use of the intellectual capital residing in the Fellowship; streamlining the organisational and governance structure. He commented on being impressed with the staff at BH and KM.

16/22 Health and Safety Matters
Nothing to report.

17/22 Minutes and Matters arising
The minutes of the Council Meeting of 10 March 2022, having been circulated, were agreed and signed.
Matters arising:
[1/22] Work is ongoing on supporting Ukrainian scholars, and there may be more funding made available by the Government.
[12/22] The KM launch event took place on 24 March 2022 and was a triumph, with superb press coverage. The President and Council thanked all staff at KM and BH.

18/22 Operational Plan – Q1 Progress Update
The Q1 operational plan having been previously circulated, the Gen. Sec. reported highlights:

- i. The HoD is submitting two funding applications: to HLF for an outreach programme, 'Sensing History', which includes funding for an Education/Outreach post; and a Wolfson application for better display cases and lighting.
- ii. The Affiliate Scheme went 'live' the day Council met, and there is a marketing plan in place for a 'soft' launch immediately, with a more focused campaign in the autumn to coincide with the start of the academic year. EC requested a targeted email that can be sent by Trustees and Fellows to students and potential other affiliate members. **ACTION: HoD**
- iii. SCONUL membership is now available via the Library and there have been c.60 applications already approved.
- iv. There have been staffing issues at KM but visitor figures are broadly on target.
- v. The President was pleased with the impressive amount of activity and congratulated the staff.

19/22 Strategy Review

The Gen. Sec. reported that due to the train strike the first strategy review meeting had not taken place. A facilitator has been appointed and a revised date, possibly in the autumn, is being organised for the Officers and senior staff. The projected outcome is for a strategy outline to come back to Council.

20/22 Fellows Survey/Collections Survey

The Gen. Sec. reported that the Fellows Survey is being finalised. It will be online (using SurveyMonkey) and there will be a note about it in Fellowship News. It will not duplicate data collected via the Collections Survey. The c.550 responses to the latter are still being analysed and collated, and will be reported on at the next Council meeting.

21/22 Treasurer's Report

As the Treasurer had sent apologies, the HoF reported:

- i. On the investment portfolio:
 - a. [REDACTED]
 - b. With rising inflation and interest rates, the market is rapidly evolving and all major assets classes are in decline. The Bank of England is expecting a recession and there is a move to quantitative tightening.
 - c. It was noted that 2019 and 2020 investment performance was above the portfolio benchmark, while 2021 was below as is 2022 YTD. 2022 YTD is a negative return of -6.3% against a benchmark of -4.9%.
 - d. On the global outlook, there is greater uncertainty on global growth with inflation rising everywhere. Interest rates are rising faster than anticipated, and political risks remain high with war in Ukraine, risks coming from China, and continuations of Covid. The results are tighter liquidity and higher volatility in the markets.
 - e. The cash income reserve remains resilient.
- ii. On the USS pension:
 - a. The Gen. Sec. and Treasurer reported that the position remains essentially unchanged though the USS fund may be financially better placed due to fluctuations in the market. As interest rates increase, the higher discount rate will lower liabilities.
 - b. There are now 11 staff from BH/KM in the Lampada scheme.
 - c. The Gen. Sec. raised the question again of exiting the scheme if liabilities are decreased. RC recommended waiting until USS adjust their assumptions.
- iii. Financial delegations update
A paper having been previously circulated, Council approved the proposed changes as recommended by Finance Committee.
- iv. 2021-22 Management Accounts

Papers having been previously circulated, Council approved the Management Accounts as recommended by Finance Committee.

[Council adjourned at 2.10 pm for the President and Gen. Sec. to attend an online meeting with Michael Gove on the subject of the lease. Council was reconvened at 2.50 pm.]

22/22 BH Lease Update (Confidential)

[REDACTED]

23/22 Statute Review: Nomination and Balloting Process

Papers having been circulated in advance, Council discussed the following:

- i. The President's proposal that the maximum number of Fellows be increased from 3,300 to 4,000 was approved, with the number to be reviewed annually by Council. It was reiterated that the driver is the diversification of the Fellowship and the target of getting better representation across the disciplines and fields of interest that the Society covers, with the financial benefit being welcome.
- ii. A paper clarifying the understanding of what 'distinguished' means in relation to the criteria for Fellowship was provisionally approved with the suggestion that teachers and candidates with community and other heritage expertise are covered. **ACTION:** Any further suggestions on wording should be emailed to the Gov. Mgr, and the final definition paper agreed by email before next Council.
- iii. The proposal that candidates for Fellowship be able to 'apply' via the website, to be scrutinised by a panel and matched with a sponsor before going into the existing balloting system was approved. This does not involve a change of Statutes and formalises a process which already happens informally. **ACTION: Gen. Sec. to lead staff implementation.**
- iv. **ACTION:** The President will approach previous Presidents and Vice-Presidents to form a scrutiny panel, with emphasis on getting coverage across all the relevant fields of study, including the under-represented e.g. history, literature, and public historians.
- v. A paper outlining changes to Order 3 which involves a change to the Statutes was approved in principle. **ACTIONS:** The President will circulate to Fellowship Committee with a cover note for approval by email. The President will write an accompanying letter to a change of Statutes notice to go out to the Fellowship in the autumn mailing with details of the consultation timetable, Fellowship debate and voting. The Gen. Sec. will lead staff on the Statute change.
- vi. The Director requested that some form of in-person balloting via the balloting boxes be kept for the sake of a link with the Society's historic rituals, and it was agreed that balloting boxes may be used at ceremonial meetings such as the Anniversary Meeting.
- vii. It was noted that the proposed changes will mean that balloting papers will no longer be mailed out to all Fellows: the Gen. Sec. suggested that a mailing list be kept for Fellows requesting hard copies of all Society correspondence. **ACTION: Gen. Sec.**

- viii. The President reminded all trustees that they should be actively nominating candidates for Fellowship with an eye on broadening the Society's profile.

24/22 Committee Minutes

Minutes for Research Committee (17 March 2022), Fellowship Committee (31 March 2022, 5 May 2022), Morris Committee (12 May 2022), Publications Committee (19 May 2022), Library & Collections Committee (9 June 2022), Finance Committee (16 June 2022), having all been previously circulated, were received and noted by Council.

- i. Library & Collection: loan approvals and rejections were approved.

25/22 The Future of Archaeology Conference

The Gen. Sec. reported that a date in November has been arranged, and publicity is going out.

26/22 Ethical Conduct Body

There was nothing to report.

27/22 List of Committee Members 2022-23

A paper having been previously circulated, Council approved Committee Membership, including the extension to the terms of members of Kelmscott Committee until a decision is taken about the future of that committee.

[3.40 pm Tim Schroder left the meeting]

28/22 Schedule of Council and Committee Meetings 2022-23

A paper having been previously circulated, Council noted and approved the Schedule.

29/22 Trustees Register of Interests 2021-22, and New Trustees Declaration of Disqualification 2022

The Gov. Mgr. reported all forms have been received ready for the audit.

30/22 Nominations, resignations and deaths of Fellows

The Gov. Mgr. reported that since last Council on 10 March 2022, there have been 12 Fellows deceased, 6 resignations, 0 amovals and 36 Fellows newly elected: the current total is 3,090 Fellows.

31/22 AOB

The HoF raised the issue of the effects of rapidly rising inflation and cost of living on staff salaries. Council agreed that they would receive a paper from her outlining options to support staff at the next Council meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.45 pm.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 27 October, 2022 at 1.30 pm.