

17th Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 8 September 2010

Presiding: Steve Ryan

1. Recorded attendance and apologies

Individual members

Anne Jesudason, Brian Whalley, Carol Higgison (Chair), Caroline Ingram, Claire Donlan, Colin Addy, David Findlay, David Hawkridge, Dawn Wood, Dean Sheetz, Devampika Getkahn, Diane Brewster, Dick Moore, Frances Bell, Fred Garnett, Fred Pickering (Honorary Treasurer), Gilly Salmon (Vice Chair), Haydn Blackey, Helen Burchmore, Hugh Davis, Irmgard Huppe, Janet Finlay, Janice Whatley, Jeremy Benson, Jonathan Darby, Josie Taylor, Judith Schoonenboom, Julie Voce, Linda Creanor, Liz Bennet, Liz Masterman, Markus Mostert, Martin Oliver, Mary Jacob, Matthew West, Neil Witt, Nick Jeans, Nicola Whitton, Nigel Ecclesfield, Paul Lowe, Peter Duffy, Peter Hartley, Phil Richards, Richard Jones, Sally Holden, Sarah Cornelius, Seb Schmoller, Shirley Evans, Steve Wheeler, Steve Ryan (President), Su White, Susan Clarkson, Tim Neumann, Tom Franklin.

Representing organisational members (some organisational representatives are also individual members in their own right)

Amanda Jefferies, University of Hertfordshire; Andy Beggan, University of Nottingham; Carol Higgison, University of Bradford; Claire Donlan, Middlesbrough College; David Findlay, University of Edinburgh; Gilly Salmon, University of Leicester; James Clay, Gloucestershire College; John McLaughlin, Department for Business, Innovation & Skills; Justin Luker, Bucks, New University; Matthew West, Keele University; Neil Witt, University of Plymouth; Phil Richards, Aberdeen College; Richard Ranker, Lancaster University; Sal Cooke, JISC TechDis; Steve Ryan, LSE.

Visitors

Linzi Kemp, American University of Sharjah; Mark Johnson, University of Bolton; Matt Haigh, Cambridge Assessment; Natasha Mayo, University of Wales Institute, Cardiff; Phil Richards, Aberdeen College; Teresa MacKinnon, University of Warwick.

Staff

Emma Carr-Jones, Seb Schmoller.

Apologies

John Slater, John O'Donoghue, John Phelps.

2. Appointment of two Tellers

Tom Franklin and Peter Hartley were appointed as tellers.

3. Approval of the minutes of last general meeting held in Leeds on 10 September 2008

The minutes of the 2009 AGM were approved a true record, with the addition of Haydn Blackey to the attendance list, proposed by Nigel Ecclesfield and seconded by John McLaughlin. There were no matters arising.

4. Annual Report and Accounts for 2009-2010

Copies of the audited accounts had been distributed to those in attendance and made available over the Internet in advance of the meeting. Steve Ryan introduced the report, thanking committee members and ALT staff for their work over the year and noting the continuing steady growth in membership of ALT, particularly in the three individual membership categories. He drew specific attention to the material in the report concerning the work of the individual ALT operational committees and he thanked the respective committee chairs (David Dyet – Further Education; Dick Moore – Publications; Haydn Blackey – Membership Services; John Cook – Research) for their work during the year.

Fred Pickering (Honorary Treasurer) gave a brief overview of the audited accounts, differentiating between turnover deriving from restricted funds deriving from grants, and unrestricted funds deriving from activities such as the ALT conference. He drew attention to the significant overall loss during 2009-2010 which had resulted from lower gross and net project income during the year than had been budgeted for, and to an exceptional item under staffing costs. Fred indicated that the Trustees had set the 2010-2011 budget – which showed a small surplus overall – on the basis of substantially smaller staffing expense than in 2009-2010. Fred placed on record his thanks to Emma Carr-Jones (Finance Manager) for her work during the year the accounts and on finance matters generally.

James Clay proposed and Caroline Ingram seconded the motion that the 2009-2010 Annual Report and Accounts be approved, and the motion was carried 65 votes in favour, none against, and with 1 abstention.

5. Elections to Trustee vacancies

a) Vice-Chair of the Association (an ex-officio member of the Central Executive Committee who will become Chair in September 2010, and President in September 2011)

Steve Ryan announced that Martin Oliver had been elected unopposed as Vice-Chair of ALT, and as an ALT Trustee. Martin will progress next year to be Chair of ALT and to be president in 2012-2013.

b) Election to two vacancies to serve a three year term on the ALT Central Executive Committee

Steve Ryan announced that Dick Moore and Vanessa Pittard had been elected unopposed to the serve three year terms on the ALT Central Executive Committee and as ALT Trustees. In Dick Moore's case this is for a second three-year term.

6. Verbal report from Seb Schmoller, Chief Executive

Seb Schmoller covered three points in his report.

1. Agreement has been reached with the Royal University of Bhutan to launch a fund in memory of Robin Mason (Trustee and founding chair of ALT's Research Committee, who had died on 15 June 2009) which would be used to support the future attendance at ALT-C of a delegate from Bhutan (or other less developed country). Josie Taylor (who had been a close colleague of Robin) spoke strongly in support of this initiative, which was endorsed by the meeting with approval.
2. Concerning the defective paperweights referred to in item 9 of the minutes of the 2009 AGM (paperweights designed by ALT founding member Ray McAleese, and manufactured by Selkirk Glass, which are normally presented to ALT Trustees on their retirement), Seb apologised for the delay in resolving the problem, which is now being taken up with Selkirk Glass with a view to replacements being provided for the entire defective stock. This was noted.
3. Seb spoke about the importance for ALT of adjusting successfully to the current changes in the political and economic environment. He drew the meeting's attention to the statement of support for ALT from David Willetts (Minister of State for Universities and Science) that is printed in the ALT-C Conference Information and Abstracts book, and summarised work ALT has been doing for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, in partnership with the Technology Enhanced Learning Programme, and the dialogue that ALT has established with the Welsh Assembly Government and with the Scottish Government. He pointed to the Memorandum of Understanding that ALT has recently concluded with the Association of Colleges, and outlined the process and timetable for revising the ALT Strategy, and the discussions that are taking place with Becta concerning certain of Becta's assets in which ALT has an interest. Seb went on to report that the eLearning Network (the organisation with which ALT has been jointly running a substantial number of lunchtime webinars) has approached ALT with a view to the possibility of merger. This development was very much welcomed by the AGM, although the feasibility of merger will naturally need careful consideration by both organisations. Seb concluded by stressing the importance of ALT members remaining active in the work of ALT and supportive of ALT's endeavours generally.

7. Appointment of Auditor for the 2009-2010 Accounts

Steve Ryan proposed from the Chair that Shaw Gibbs, Accountants, of Oxford, be re-appointed as Auditors. This was seconded by Jonathan Derby and agreed without a vote.

8. Handover to new President

Prior to standing down as President, Steve Ryan thanked retiring Trustee John Phelps for his six years of service to ALT. John will be presented with an ALT paperweight at a later date. Steve then handed over to Carol Higgison, who will take over as President immediately after the conference. Carol then thanked Steve – to acclaim – for his three years of service to ALT, also thanking him personally for the way Steve had supported her in her role as Vice-Chair and then Chair over the preceding two years. (A paperweight will follow.)

Written by Seb Schmoller, 8/9/2010, and 21/9/2010. Reviewed by Steve Ryan 21 September 2010.