
Council Courier

22 February 2023

This is an informal account of the discussions and decisions most recently taken at Council.

Obituary

Members were remembered. Particular mention was made of George Oldham and Royal Gold Medalist Balkrishna Doshi. Council resolved to send condolences to next of kin and a minute's silence was held.

Declarations of interest

No new declarations.

Minutes of previous meeting, 8 December 2022

Agreed as a correct record.

Chief Executive introduction

Valerie Vaughan-Dick, the newly appointed Chief Executive, was invited to introduce herself to the Council. She described her background and outlined some of her priorities for her role at the RIBA. These included:

- establishing transition plans and revised processes following the changes enacted as part of the new organisation design last year;
- balancing the budget and developing new income streams;
- delivering some key 'people' projects to improve the RIBA as a place of work.

She also highlighted some of the events and work undertaken by RIBA since she had arrived in January, which included:

- New year celebration with RIBA staff (the first of its kind in three years);

- a joint RIBA and ARB event on what the UK-US mutual recognition agreement means for architects
- RIBA and Office for Place event: Beauty: who cares, wins! which provided a forum to discuss how the Government and architects could collaborate to create healthy and sustainable communities.
- LGBT+ History month in February with an associated exhibition

The President thanked Valerie Vaughan-Dick and welcomed her to the RIBA on behalf of Council.

President's report

Highlights of presidential activity for the last three months included:

- Education/Practice away day, 18 January.
- Net Zero Carbon Board (NZCB): the RIBA was committed to being at the centre of this debate and had allocated some funds in support.
- Ongoing engagement with government which had recently included representation on design codes and models of practice.
- Fire safety: the RIBA had been in dialogue with government and an update on regulation would be

circulated as soon as it became available.

CPD auditing and disciplinary policy

Council was asked to note and comment on the CPD Auditing and Disciplinary Policy and Process falling within the CPD recording compliance policy for Chartered Members. This included provision for dealing with initial failures to comply and detailing when non-compliance would become a disciplinary matter. The Standards Committee would finalise the text and agree on a timeframe for implementation in light of Council's comments.

Climate emergency task and finish group – update

The Net Zero Carbon Board (NZCB) had required significant input and this had taken up a lot of the group's time in recent weeks.

Duncan Baker-Brown still needed to meet with the President and the legal team concerning the group's a rewording of the RIBA's mission to better reflect the importance of the climate emergency.

Mina Hasman flagged the launch by the Commonwealth Secretariat of a new best practice guide to assist policymakers and practitioners across the Commonwealth to integrate gender equality into national climate action.

It was reported that one of the former leads on the task and finish group, Smith Mordak, had recently been appointed Chief Executive of the UK Green Building Council, which was very good news.

President Elect update

At the last meeting Muiyiwa Oki had outlined the areas he wished to focus on

during his presidential term starting on 1 September:

- Future of the architectural profession
- Inclusion
- Culture
- Education and practice
- Climate literacy
- Next generation issues

Muiyiwa spoke in more detail about some of the goals he hoped to achieve. There was a short Q&A after which he was thanked for his presentation. A strategy paper would come to Council in due course, after seeking further regional feedback and guidance from RIBA committees.

Membership engagement

Council agreed the following proposals from the Nations & Regions Council Committee:

- That a small/medium practice version of the 2030 Climate Challenge be developed.
- That RIBA should undertake a more proactive stance in promoting the value of the architectural profession for the built environment, through a range of cross-directorate activity. This could include sharing best practice information and, additionally, clarifying the benefits to the client of engaging a RIBA member.. The NR&CC specifically commended the previous work on "Why choose an architect?" and asked for it to be promoted.
- That progress on key initiatives around priority areas is more clearly communicated to members from RIBA centrally rather than only through the regional networks.

[Medium term objective]

- That empirical carbon data that RIBA has obtained from members through a range of sources, including awards submissions and the 2030 Climate challenge, is disseminated.

Finding and accessing architecture task and finish group

The RIBA web site had education and learning pages devoted to work placements. The development of a database of practices offering work experience was ongoing but needed more resource.

A work experience toolkit had been developed and was accessible via architecture.com.

The team had met with a well-known practice which might serve as a model for developing alternative pathways into the study of architecture. The RIBA would look at ways of endorsing this and similar initiatives, not only in England.

The President was keen to help encourage practices to participate once the project had been further developed.

The working group and the Education Department were congratulated on their work to date.

RIBA Collections presentation

Oliver Urquhart-Irvine, Executive Director Architecture Programmes and Collections, gave a presentation on the continuing work to make the collections more accessible. This included bringing the collections together in fewer locations and increasing digital access. This was followed by a short discussion.

Election review

Council feedback was invited on the proposed Election Rules for 2023.

Council was asked to note that the 2023 Elections Rules were very similar in content and format to those agreed by Council ahead of the 2021 and 2022 Elections, but included certain changes following feedback received during the 2022 election review and as approved by Council on 8th December 2022.

Council approved Election Rules 2023 as presented. This document would be published on the RIBA website's elections page.

Reports/Minutes for noting:

- Board report
- Finance update
- Nations & Regions Council Committee
- Nominations Committee
- Audit & Risk Committee

Ends