
Council Courier

27 April 2023

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

Obituary

Members were remembered with a minute's silence. Particular mention was made of Elizabeth Foulkes, Rafael Viñoly, Elain Harwood and Sir James Dunbar-Nasmith. Council resolved to send condolences to next of kin.

Minutes of previous meeting, 22 February 2023

Agreed as a correct record.

Royal Gold Medal 2023

Yasmeen Lari was announced as the recipient of the Royal Gold Medal 2023.

President's report

Highlights

- Improved member engagement
- Co-hosting of events at 66PP (e.g. NIC)
- Mutual recognition agreements recently signed with Australia, New Zealand and USA, and another (with the EU) being prepared.
- Lobbying of Home Office for visa allowances
- MIPIM attendance
- NZCB meeting attended by Duncan Baker-Brown and Mina Hasman.
- Meetings with ACE and CAA

Board report

This covered the RIBA's interaction with the ARB, the RIBA Board away days in March and the House of Architecture Project.

Education reform note

The Architects Registration Board (ARB) was currently undertaking a consultation on potentially wide-ranging reforms to education and training and an RIBA policy note on Education Reform had been developed, which would form the basis of the RIBA's response to the ARB's consultation. This policy note is based on the recommendations of the RIBA Education Review as advanced in the RIBA Way Ahead document and has also been informed by discussion with key stakeholders at the recent RIBA Education and Practice Away Day.

Council feedback on the policy note was invited and the following points were made:

- Common approach between ARB and RIBA needed. There needs to be one shared curriculum.
- Well-being outside education institutions needed to be safeguarded, i.e. in practice.
- It was vital an appropriate version of Part 1 should exist.
- The education policy note had already been shared with the wider membership via the members' update and the President's regular update to members. It would also be circulated to Future Architects.
- Practices needed support in order to assist students in obtaining the best possible

- experience. There were already instances of schools having oversight of participating
- practices as an in-built part of the course.
- Validation of overseas schools remains as ever an issue with RIBA validated international courses not being recognised by the ARB in the UK. There should be compatible ARB and RIBA accreditation.
- Diverse routes into the profession were essential, including internationally.
- Any further comments were invited to be submitted within the next few days.

Lead carbon designer role

This was presented by Mina Hasman, co-lead of the Climate Emergency Expert Advisory Group. She outlined a proposal from the group for the creation of a lead carbon designer role under the umbrella of the RIBA.

Council gave its enthusiastic support to further develop what the role might entail, by undertaking greater market investigation for its positioning and by mapping out the CPD route to accreditation, as well as the process for potentially establishing a register.

Mina Hasman was thanked for her presentation.

Climate emergency expert advisory group – update

Duncan Baker-Brown, co-lead of the Climate Emergency EAG gave an update to Council on the work of the group, which was continuing to attend steering group meetings of the HOAP and other meetings concerning sustainability. Retrofit was a priority for

the work of the group. Its next meeting would be on 17 May.

Two members of the group including Council member Jon Greenfield had stepped up to replace Gary Clark on the CIC Climate Change Committee.

Quarterly carbon update: NZCBS would publish this in the next two weeks and the RIBA would publicise this.

'Making carbon count' – debate introduced by the President at 66PP.

President Elect update

Muyiwa Oki updated the Council on his work to develop the next biennial plan (2024-25).

Membership engagement

VP Membership Tom Foggin reported on the huge take-up of the Local Initiative Funding – it had been oversubscribed by 100%. He thanked the Board for its support of the funding, which had been significantly increased from the previous year. The RIBA team was to be congratulated on the efficient way it had processed the applications.

American and Sri Lankan chapters – these were being brought into the RIBA governance structure. The formation of a formal Asia region Council was in train.

RIBA elections: the volunteer network was currently being consulted on local elections for chapters and regions, with oversight by the elections team. Recommendations on process would be made to the RIBA Board.

There would be a formal report on the development of the recommendations from the N&RCC which had been approved by the Council and Board.

This would be circulated as widely as possible.

Governance items

Council agreed changes to the regulations to enable the terms of

certain senior office holders (Chair of Board, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer) to be staggered, thus ensuring greater continuity in the future.

With this in mind, it was agreed that the term of office of the current Chair of the Board (Jack Pringle) be extended from the current end date of 31st December 2023 to a new end date of 31st August 2024, to coincide with the second term of office of the current President-Elect.

The current Chair of the Board remains eligible to stand for a second term (subject to Council approval) which would commence 1st September 2024 but would be for a shorter period of two years to 31st August 2026.

Election Review Group

After the Honorary Secretary had outlined the current report from the Election Working Group, Council voted to approve that:

- a) the composition of Council is right and balanced;
- b) the electoral college for the roles of the Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer shall be members of the RIBA Council;
- c) the current Terms of Office for the RIBA President and Council are right and balanced;
- d) the Working Group remain in place and work on the outstanding issues of Electoral Colleges, and to bring a final report to Council once the Membership Committee had finished

its report into Membership Classifications.

The Council also noted that:

- a) the rotation of Council seats needed more work, especially in London, and that the working group will ask the Nations & Regions Council Committee to discuss and report back;
- b) the working group did not feel that Council Members should stand down from Council, if they no longer live or work in the region they were elected to represent or no longer hold that classification of membership;

Additionally, Council approved a request that all newly-elected Councillors should be invited to attend as observers at the June Council meeting and that Councillors leaving Council on the 31 August should “buddy” up with the new Councillor taking their seat.

Reports/Minutes for noting:

- Chief Executive report
- Board report
- Finance update
- Nations & Regions Council Committee
- Audit & Risk Committee
- Standards Committee

Ends