

RUSKIN FELLOWSHIP OFFICERS' REPORT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – 17 APRIL 2011

1. **Purpose of report:** To provide a written report from the Fellowship Executive Committee officers for the consideration of the Executive at its meeting on 17 April 2011

2. President and Secretary

The Proposed Constitution: We have discussed with Bob Anderton the approach to be taken to the Constitution and have agreed to put forward a draft that is based on the principles of i) keeping the document as close as possible to the existing Constitution (ie only making change where it is necessary); ii) keeping the Constitution as short as reasonably practicable and putting the administrative detail in appendices; iii) providing a set of Standing Orders. A draft will be circulated with papers for the meeting on 17 April.

Fellowship History: The work currently being done on the Fellowship History is focussed on trying to provide an overview of the history of the Fellowship in the short term. This work is being shared between the Secretary, John Kimberly and Brian Smith who is developing the Fellowship Wikipedia page. There are access issues in respect of the costs of travelling to and from the College.

Reunion / AGM: A sub Committee is due to meet immediately before the Fellowship Executive meeting and a report will be forthcoming from that meeting.

The RSU: Unfortunately RSU elections appear to be in abeyance. Because of this we are not able to organise representation from the RSU onto the Fellowship Executive where, constitutionally, the RSU has two seats. We will review this position as soon as elections have taken place.

Leveller's Day: Chris Wilkes has agreed to finance transport to joint Fellowship / Student attendance. The Fellowship could make a contribution towards this and it offers an opportunity for the Fellowship to start recruiting students who may be leaving the college in the summer. The President is working on a flyer and on something for the website to encourage student participation.

Recruiting new members: The end of the academic year is near. It is important that those students leaving know that they are able to keep a link with the college by joining the Fellowship. Last year we put out a letter that invited students to join the Fellowship. This was circulated by the College with the invitations to the Awards Ceremony in October. Bob Anderton then attended that ceremony on behalf of the Fellowship. We may want to review this approach as it did not result in the number of new members that we might have expected (see list below).

Fellowship numbers: Over the past year we have been using a 'working number' of 600 Fellowship members. We believe that this is an overstatement. Preliminary work suggests that the actual number is more like 403. Of those 403 we have email addresses for 158 (leaving 255 for 'posting'). This information is *crucial* to any plans we have for making regular contact with members. (See 'Honorary Members' below)

3. Membership Officer

Recruitment since September: i) Reported at the January meeting of the Executive:

- Mr Adrian Lawrence-Shepley, Oxford. Period at the College 2008-2010. Lifetime member.
- Ms Adrienne Roche, London. Period at the College 2008-2010. Lifetime member
- Mr Noel White, Oxford. Period at the College 2008-2010. Honorary Member

ii) New members:

- Mr Roger Robinson OBE, JP, London. Period at the College – Governor for 26 years. Life member
- Mr Michael Lewis-Sannerstedt, Lund, Sweden. 1981 to 1984. Annual member
- Ms Joan Brodie, Lancashire. Life member
- Mr Robert Houlton, Notts. 1960 Life member
- Mr Raymond Smith, Lancashire. 1996 to 1997. Life member

‘New Members’ Pack’: A welcome letter is sent out to all new members. Attached to the letter is a Briefing on how the Fellowship works and its current activities as well as copies of the articles that were included in the most recent College Newsletter. This pack is available to Executive members on request.

Honorary Members: There are currently 107 Honorary (ie non-paying) members on the database. Of this number 8 have email addresses. Each of the members has been contacted with an invitation to join the Fellowship. Four of these email addresses no longer exist. It should be noted that *all* Honorary members are now ‘out of date’ ie are over the three year period for Honorary members.

Questionnaire to members: It is hoped that a questionnaire will have been sent to 20 members based on that shown in minute 6 i) 7 of the last Executive meeting and on the decision taken at the last AGM (see minute 8.5).

Developments in Membership and the Web Alumnus database: We have had various discussions with the Principal regarding any help required to ensure Fellowship members are identified on the database. The secretary subsequently spoke to Tara Hart on Monday 21 March and some ‘on-line’ instruction was given. To date some Fellowship members have been added to the Web Alumnus database. There is more work to be done. More Executive members need to become involved in this activity.

Meeting of Local Groups: The following meetings have taken place:

Oxford: We are unsure of the status of this meeting at present.

East Midlands: No report. No list of members present.

West Midlands: Meeting held on 19 February. Report written. 11 people present, 2 apologies. One new member recruited. Further meeting proposed for 21 May.

Northants: No report. No list of members present.

London and Home Counties: No report. No list of members.

Membership News: To report that Carole Orgell-Rosen has been re-elected Vice Chair of the Governing Council. This is *not* a Fellowship representative position but we offer Carole our congratulations. David Norman was re-elected Chair at the same time.

‘Absent Friends’: No news reported so far this year.

4. Treasurer

The General Fund: Information will be made available at the meeting

The Students’ Fund: Information will be made available at the meeting

5. **The Newsletter Co-Editor:** The web page for the Fellowship has been developed since the last meeting in terms of adding the following information:

- Date of Reunion
- Agenda and Minutes of Exec meetings
- Draft Minutes of AGM
- Officers’ Reports

It is suggested that a ‘Fellowship e-News’ be produced that would provide a short update for members on email after each Executive meeting. This requires the agreement of the Executive.

Compiled by the Secretary on behalf of the Officers. April 2011