

ACL Council September 2015



Minutes

Attending: Sue Nash (SN) Chair, Stephen Averill (SA) Treasurer, Jon Lord (JL), Robert Connelly (RC), Francis Kendall (FK), David Cooper (DC)

Apologies: James Barrett (JB) Vice Chair, Robert Cook (RCK)

In Attendance: Maurice Cheng (MC) Chief Executive, Claire Green (CG), Adam Hood (AH), Diane Pattenden (DP)

Item	Action	By	When
1	The Chair welcomed Council, staff, and guests		
2	Minutes of 10 July 2015 Council were accepted, subject to correction of the date of next meeting		
3	Actions arising		
3.1	Actions were held over until the next formal meeting of Council		
3.2	SN asked all Council members to contact MC with any comments on committee and executive reports	All	Oct15
4	Governance		
4.1	There will be a brief informal meeting of Council members the night before the Manchester Conference. FK and MC will not be attending the Conference or the premeet.		
4.2	It was agreed that the 2 newly elected council members (Steve Davies and David Wright) will remain council members elect until confirmation as directors of the Association at the General Meeting on 15 October. The next council meeting is scheduled for 16 November – and both new council members should be in attendance.		
4.3	The Chair reminded Council that all Council meetings are held under Chatham House rules, and therefore deliberations should not be discussed outside Council	All	
4.4	Council debated the Bye-law that trainee members (students) were not permitted to attend General Meetings. The Chair recommended that this be changed so that trainee members could receive notice of and attend General Meetings, but not vote. This was discussed and agreed in principle, but this change would not be implemented until after the October General Meeting.	MC	After October General Meeting
4.5	Council debated the proposal to the October General Meeting around the election of the Chair Elect (Vice Chair) process, and agreed a further refinement to the process, namely that if the membership do not approve the appointment of the Chair Elect as the new Chair at a General Meeting, a new Vice Chair will be elected by public membership vote within two months, with candidates being drawn as before. The Chairman will stay in office for one further year, at the end of which the Vice Chairman		

	(Chairman Elect) will automatically be elevated to the role of Chairman. This amendment will be included in the Special Resolution at the October General Meeting		
5	Response to LSB Consultation on performance of CLSB		
5.1	<p>The Chairman reported that the LSB have started to take soundings from professional bodies about their thoughts on the performance of their regulator. They would be feeding back these comments to the regulators.</p> <p>A letter regarding this was received from the LSB 6 weeks prior to the Council meeting, and the Chair acknowledged that more consideration should have been given to it. The consultation document asks for the views of ACL and its members about the activities and performance of CLSB.</p> <p>SN therefore felt that having not consulted with members, the council should perhaps not respond on members' behalf. The Chair acknowledged that this should have been considered some time ago but other issues within the Association had taken priority. MC/KA have circulated a draft response to council. SN emphasised that before anything is communicated to the LSB, the full council need to have input in to the response. MC will lead the discussion with the LSB.</p> <p>MC said that he felt that strategically it was important to reply to the consultation. It will be made clear in the response or discussion that there has not been any specific consultation with members, but pointed out that other representative bodies had taken the same approach, of responding without a poll of members.</p> <p>SN suggested 3 options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Respond in full 2. Respond with the views of Council only on issues already brought up with the CLSB 3. Decline to respond <p>It was agreed (by a majority) that a measured response based on the views of Council should be given to the LSB and that there would not need to be a consultation with members at this stage.</p>	MC	Sep15
6	Structure of ACL Training		
6.1	<p>SN proposed that the current ACL education committee become the Board of Management (ie directors) of ACLT. This would be distinct from ACL Council's Education Committee, who would effectively be the link to the ACLT board. Much discussion around this took place and SN emphasised that the future of ACLT was critical to the long term future of ACL.</p> <p>MC suggested that the current education committee, as led by Andrew McAulay, becomes the management board of ACLT and that an education committee is created led by a</p>	MC	Nov15

	<p>member of council, as the strategic oversight for the management board and company. He suggested that the chair of the management board and the chair of the education committee are the directors of ACLT. SN formally proposed this and SA seconded. The majority of council were in favour; no one was against and there was one abstention.</p> <p>MC will prepare a paper on this for November Council.</p>		
7	Council roles		
7.1	SN advised Council that she has asked JL to take over as Chair of the new ACL Education Committee		
7.2	The two new members of Council would sit on the PR & Marketing Committee		
8	Operations		
8.1	Membership subscription rates were agreed to stay the same		
8.2	DP recommended that trainees should not need to prove they held indemnity insurance, and to confirm changes in circumstances, for 2016 renewals. This was agreed.		
8.3	DP asked for clarification of eligibility for Retired Member status. SA to write a paper for discussion in November	SA	Nov15
8.4	A discussion was held around whether members, on renewal, should be required to sign a declaration agreeing to abide by the ACL Code of Conduct. It was agreed that this would be deferred until 2016, when a Code of Conduct would be in place.		
9	Other Business		
9.1	SN advised that the new web project, while delayed in order to effect further improvements in functionality and content, would be rescheduled for a Jan 2016 launch.		
9.2	MC and SA are working on a proposal for delegated financial authorities	SA	Nov15
9.3	CG advised the council that she has recently become aware of a situation where an in-house costs lawyer may not necessarily be covered by in-house PI insurance. She is looking further in to this and will work with the Policy committee and report back at the next council meeting.	CG	Nov15
14	Date of next meeting: 30 November 2015		