

Minutes of the ACL Council Meeting
held on 25th June
 via Teams



Council members present: Jack Ridgway (JR), David Bailey-Vella (DBV), Stephen Averill (SA), Kris Kilsby (KK), Julian Caddick (JC), Victoria Morrison-Hughes (VMH), Stephanie McBride (SM), Natham Cameron (NC) & Amy Dunkley (AD)

Also present: Carol Calver (CC) Head of Operations & Kate Wellington CEO CLSB (Joined 10:30 to 11:00)

The meeting started at 10:00

Item	
1	Welcome and apologies
1.1	JR welcomed all to the meeting.
2	Minutes of the council meeting held on 28 May 2024
2.1	It was unanimously agreed that there would be no minutes from the May council meeting. A brief meeting was held, however due to lower attendance (including unexpectedly CC), no minutes were taken <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> . It was therefore deemed the June meeting would now supersede the May meeting.
3	Actions arising from the council meeting held on 28 May 2024
3.1	All Actions were carried over to June.
4	Chairman's Report
4.1	JR formally welcomed Nathan Cameron to Council and confirmed the re-election of DBV into Vice-Chair role for term. JR suggested NC join the PR-AM sub-committee.
4.2	<p>Council discussed the member responses to the Articles and By-Laws consultation and were somewhat disappointed with a low response rate of 8%. Responses received however were generally in favor of proposed changes. Whilst in agreement responses detailed concerns around the management of allowing costs draftsmen to join the Association. Council discussed at length potential supervisory solutions.</p> <p>Kate Wellington from the CLSB joined the meeting to further discuss the proposed changes. The CLSB favor the suggestion of a fellow category which aligns with CLSB initiatives for recognition of progression and Cost Lawyer Judicial Appointment.</p> <p>The CLSB however have some concern over the introduction and management of a draftsman category of membership – Council discussed the CLSB research into Entity Regulation and concluded more information was needed on delegated responsibility. The CLSB are working on a communication strategy to highlight the value of the profession and benefits of using regulated / qualified costs professions over non regulated / un-qualified with concerns over the unified message from the CLSB and the ACL becoming opaque.</p> <p>Further discussion resulted in Council defining the intention behind the new category, with the agreement that it should encourage membership from those just starting out in the profession, providing a pipeline into mentorship, the CLPQ or Apprenticeship. Council debated renaming</p>

	<p>the category a Costs Paralegal.</p> <p>The CLSB also suggested a review of member code of conduct to encompass all categories of membership.</p> <p>An informal consult with ACL Training and the SCCO will now take place . JR will provide a summary of responses ahead of an EGM being scheduled for Q3 (October) for members to fully accept / reject changes.</p>
4.3	Council unanimously agreed to sign off the 2024 MOU between the CLSB and the ACL.
5	PR & Marketing Committee Report
5.1	AD detailed the successful ACL roundtable recently hosted by Bolt Burdon Kemp, details to be published in the eBulletin in the coming weeks.
5.2	AD has worked with BL to create 4 short promotional videos for use on the ACL and ACL Training website and on social media.
5.3	The first Manchester CiTC event took place along with Thompsons hosting a London Regional meeting mid-June, both were well received by all who attended.
5.4	DBV detailed an ongoing discussion <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> regarding a potential costs awards event. ACL will remain impartial as it would be limiting for non-members and costs professionals who are not qualified, or members. The ACL will consider sponsorship of the event and will promote and support where possible.
6	Policy Committee Report
6.1	JC is progressing a review of qualification equivalency in different jurisdictions – Canada, Australia, New Zealand etc. It seems that a qualifying law degree within jurisdictions is required, so this discounts the former and current CLPQ.
6.2	KK reported a delay to the 3 rd Party Funding WP being set up due to general election – to be considered again in the coming weeks.
6.3	KK detailed that the SCCO have approached the ACL in regard to developing a new format precedent G, point of disputes and replies for e-bills. The ACL intend to form a working group and member event to discuss potential precedents for submission.
7	Education Committee Report
7.1	JR confirmed DBV’s transfer to the Education Sub-Committee.
7.2	VMH detailed admission figures for September, <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> .
7.3	VMH reported on an ongoing discussion regarding digital marking proposals <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> . ACLT HoE to provide detail covering already approved budget spend and comparison of both external proposals.
7.4	ACLT may re-request the movement of Company Accounts from calendar to academic year.
7.5	Apprenticeship route is progressing with the IFATE (Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education) recommending a funding band of £21k which is subject to final approval by the DoE.
7.6	Ongoing discussion with ACLT and the CLSB regarding workplace exemptions. Further information required on how this is demonstrated / assessed.

7.7	CC discussed with Council <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> student contact with ACLT on a Friday <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> – VMH will work with the ACLT HoE to ensure communication to students ahead of deadlines is fully communicated and managed.
8	Finance & Internal Policy Committee Report
8.1	SA detailed an increase of investment fund value <i>redacted due to confidentiality</i> . This is an ongoing result of reinvestment of funds in Q3 last year.
9	Operations Report
9.1	Confirmation of July in-person Council meeting in London to allow Operations and PR-AM to view potential venues for October Conference. Potential host of BBK, Shakespeare Martineau or Irwin Mitchell for the Council meeting.
10	Any other business
10.1	n/a
11	Date of next meeting
11.1	Next meeting is 23 rd July, in-person, London. Location tbc 11am to 1:30pm There being no further business the meeting ended at 12:05