

DRAFT Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8 October 2021 held via Zoom

1. Attendance and Apologies

PRESENT:

Prof Mike Edmunds (ME); president Elect and Chair
Dr Nigel Berman (NB); Treasurer;
Dr Mandy Bailey (MB); Senior Secretary;
Dr Sheona Urquhart (SU); A Secretary;
Prof Mark Lester (MLE); G Secretary;
Prof Nick Rawlinson (NR); Vice President (G)
Prof Steve Miller (SM); Vice President, (G);
Prof Ian Robson (IR); Vice President, (A);
Dr Megan Argo (MA); Vice President (A);
Dr Jane MacArthur (JM);
Prof Phil Charles (PC);
Dr Colin Snodgrass (CS);
Dr Arvind Parmar (AP)
Mr Martin Lunn (ML);
Dr Matt Middleton (MM);
Prof Caroline Smith (CLS)
Dr Jasmine Kaur Sandhu (JKS)
Prof Belinda Wilkes (BW)
Dr Jo Barstow (JB)

APOLOGIES:

Prof Emma Bunce (EB); President and Chair
Dr Hannah Dalglish (HD);

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Philip Diamond (PD), Executive Director;
Dr Robert Massey, (RM) Deputy Executive Director and Policy;
Ms Siobhan Adeusi (SA) Executive Assistant and Office Manager.

2. MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

2.1 The Minutes of Council Meeting 16 July 2021 were received by Council and were APPROVED subject to one amendment as follows:

ME and JB attended the meeting

2.2 The Action Status Report was received by Council. PD gave an update as follows:

Oct 5.3 SM's query regarding use of the revised Code of Conduct – fellows will be advised of the new code in the subscription notice.

May 7.3 regarding updating the requirements for the Patricia Tomkins prize, this has still to be done.

July 7.3 regarding a member of the E&O grants panel who was not a Fellow. The person has now been accepted as a Fellow and is therefore eligible to sit on the panel.

3. PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS

There was no President's Business to report.

4. TREASURER'S BUSINESS

4.1 The Treasurer reported on the following:

- There will be a tendering process for a possible new publishing business partner
- It would simplify operations for the Norman Lockyer fund to be incorporated into RAS funds. The Treasurer asked for Council's approved. The motion was APPROVED
- The Treasurer asked Council to approve Philip Diamond as a signatory on the RAS bank accounts. This was APPROVED by Council.

SM requested to see data on author satisfaction with OUP

4.2 The Statement of Accounts was received by Council.

5. ORGANISATION AND STRUCTURE

5.1 Director's Update

5.1a A letter from BAA was received by Council. PD reported that the BAA will formally give notice to leave BH, but they would like to keep BH as their registered address. When they leave it will be a significant loss of income for the RAS.

ACTION: PD to check if there are any legal issues with the BAA retaining BH as their registered address.

5.1b An email from Simon D'Arcy representing the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities was received by Council. **Confidential discussion - redacted**

PD reported that the Board for RAS Techniques and Instruments (RASTI), the new journal, had its first meeting. The journal will be accepting papers from November, to be published online in March 2022.

The new Herschel medal meeting with representatives of the German Astronomical Society achieved good agreement on the process of awarding the medal. The aim is to have the first recipient honoured in an event in Berlin in March 2022. There will be a panel of 6 people, including one member of the RAS Council.

It was suggested that a VP (A) should be on the panel. IR said he was happy to join the panel.

The Chair will alternate between the UK and Germany.

ACTION: Carole Mundell and Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell to be approached by PD to join the panel.

Bulldog Licensing, the company contracted to help with licensing, will visit BH to meet with the librarian and archivist Sian Prosser.

PD reported that there is a plan to open up the building to more staff, but this has to be done sensitively.

At the moment there are no physical meetings planned until next year. MLE commented that some SDM organisers hope to have hybrid meetings next year.

PD reported that the designer of A&G, Paul Johnson has retired and suggested that RAS send him a gift of thanks. This was AGREED by Council.

ACTION: Office to arrange a gift for him.

5.2 The Call for nominations letter for elections to RAS Council was received. MB asked Council to check the spelling of their names and designations were correct.

The paperwork was APPROVED by Council.

5.3 The Membership Committee Minutes were received by Council

5.4 The RAS200 meeting Minutes were received by Council

5.5 The E&O meeting Minutes were received by Council

5.6 Strategy Away Day follow-up

PD thanked those members of Council who were able to attend the awayday. It was agreed that the next strategy away day should be a face to face meeting, but that it will not be compulsory to attend in person. It was agreed that the next meeting will be in 6 months' time.

PD suggested that a small number of working groups should be formed, who will answer to a steering group

The working groups will be:

Membership, values, heritage and library, Education & Outreach, and an expanded property group.

Council AGREED that the steering group should consist of the RAS Officers. Their first meeting should take place before the next Council meeting.

ACTION: office to organise the first steering group meeting.

6. POLICY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- 6.1 The Science Council letter to Rishi Sunak was received by Council
- 6.2. The New Science Minister paper was received by Council
- 6.3. The RAS response to OfCom consultation on Non-Geostationary Satellite Systems was received by Council
- 6.4 The National Space Strategy was received by Council

7. PUBLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Minutes from the Publications Management Committee meeting were received by Council.

8. OTHER

- 8.1 The Membership Officers Reports were received by Council. All new Fellows were APPROVED.

9. AOB

JB raised the issue of some jobs being displayed on the RAS jobs list being in countries with human rights issues. It was suggested that a disclaimer be displayed on the page.

ACTION: PD to contact the joblist editor to add this to the page.

Council rose at 12.32

.....

8 October 2021