



RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION (UERSA)

The **Annual General Meeting** of the **University of Exeter Retired Staff Association** was held on Thursday 28th September 2017 at 6.30 pm in The Henderson Room, Xfi Building, Streatham Court, University of Exeter

Those present at the meeting

There were **36** members of the Association present at the meeting (list with the minutes on file).

Apologies

27 apologies were received (list with the minutes on file).

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14th October 2016

The minutes of the meeting were signed by the Chair as a true record of the proceedings.

2. Chair's Report by David Batty

David welcomed members to the AGM. He reported that membership of UERSA, at 221 subscriptions representing 339 members, remaining very similar to that of 2016. Given the University's voluntary severance activity over the last couple of years, this might seem a little disappointing, and here lay a difficulty. Every year UERSA was kindly included in the University's annual retirement planning course. This year some 30 members of staff attended but, it had to be said, nearly all seemed five years or more off retirement. Gone was automatic retirement at the age of 65 and therefore it was impossible for UERSA to identify potential members as they retire. Under data protection rules, the University was unable to give us such information, so making contact with new retirees was a challenge.

This was one issue amongst several during the year that David had raised with the University; the relationship between the University and its former staff was another. To refer to his message in the recent UERSA newsletter, a recent focus group meeting organised by the University acknowledged that it maintained no formal communication at all with its former employees! There was some emphasis at the meeting on the mechanics of fundraising (especially around the University's current *Making the exceptional happen* campaign), but the three UERSA Committee members present suggested that the assistance of UERSA members might be better sought in terms of time and experience rather than just cash. As the University strived to maintain its position among the country's elite, could UERSA be helpful in this area for instance? It would be interesting to see the headlines emerging from the focus group facilitator's report.

However, we had made some welcome progress in working more closely with the University, in particular in collaborating over the organisation of campus visits for UERSA members. Tours on the Streatham Estate of the new Living Systems Institute and the sculpture collection were notable successes, and David was working with the University's Global Engagement and Development section on further tours during the coming year.

Other events this year for the generality of members had also been deemed to have gone well, including a sunny boat trip up the River Dart organised by Chris Austin, a tour of Totnes led by Bob Higham and the annual summer party, a much more successful event at the Exeter Cricket Club pavilion than last year. To come was the annual trivia fun quiz on 18 October at the ISCA Centre, for which Jan Reynolds was currently taking bookings, and the Christmas lunch on 14 December; Jan was also thanked for her continued organisation of the monthly coffee mornings at the Imperial. This, of course, was on top of all the activities of our special interest groups and David was especially grateful to the co-ordinators of those groups for their hard work in ensuring UERSA provides so many sources of pleasure for its members. Members were encouraged to

bookmark on their computers, iPhones, etc the UERSA website, which was regularly kept up to date by Roger Coles and comprised information and photos about all our activities.

Involving our existing members was an important issue. As reported, we had over 300 members but only a tenth of that number were here this evening. David appreciated that AGMs were rather formal affairs and not necessarily much fun, but was UERSA doing enough to attract the interest of its broader constituency? Were we sufficiently welcoming? Members were invited to give any such opinions to one of our Committee members.

Finally, David's report included a number of thank-yous. He had already mentioned the co-ordinators of the special interest groups, but thanks were also due to the members of the Executive Committee who had worked hard on your behalf during the year. Most were willing to continue as Committee members for a further period, but thanks were due to three members, Sue Odell, Chris King and Ann Corbin who were retiring. Sue had served us well both as a past President and this year's Newsletter Editor, and Chris deserved our thanks for her work as Membership Secretary over the past four years, a period which had included the introduction of the electronic payment of membership fees. The challenge to find a long-term replacement for Chris remained despite appeals to the general membership, and any offers of help would be much appreciated. David was very grateful to Wojtek Krzanowski for offering to cover this role in the short term.

In conclusion, David wished members the very best for the coming year and he looked forward to seeing many of them at UERSA events over the year ahead.

3. **Treasurer's Report**

David Smith confirmed that his Treasurer's Report for 2016/17 had previously been circulated to all UERSA Members with the agenda for the Annual General Meeting (report filed with the minutes). He talked the meeting through the various entries and noted that a healthy balance remained in the Association's account. One or two members queried the need for such a high reserve on the account, but it was generally felt that this was necessary for cash flow purposes. A donation had been made to the Living Systems Institute following the successful tours for UERSA members earlier in the year. UERSA had been asked to give a donation to a new scholarship scheme for asylum seekers and it was agreed that no decision would be made until the membership had been consulted.

4. **To confirm the subscription fee for 2017/18**

The members present at this year's AGM unanimously agreed that the subscription fee for 2017/18 should remain at £6 per person/couple.

5. **Amendments to the Constitution**

The Meeting approved the suggested amendments to the constitution.

6. **Election of Officers and Committee for 2017/18**

The Meeting approved the election of the following Officers and Members of the UERSA Committee who have agreed to serve a further year:

Frankie Peroni will become **President** for a year from the AGM 2017

John Carroll will become **Immediate Past President** for a year from the AGM 2017

David Batty (Chair)

David Smith (Treasurer)

Julie Orr (Secretary)

Susan Cousins (Social Co-ordinator)

Linda Hale (Committee Member)

Roger Coles (Committee Member and Website Editor)

Robin Turner (Committee Member)

Chris Austin (Committee member)

The following members of the Executive Committee confirmed at the previous Committee meeting held on 9th August that they would be stepping down from the Committee at the Annual General Meeting on 28th September 2017:

Chris King, Membership Secretary since 2013
Ann Corbin, Committee member since 2014
Sue Odell, Newsletter Editor since 2016

The UERSA Committee proposed the following nominations to the Meeting:

***Election of President-Elect 2017/18**

Alastair Logan

***Membership Secretary**

Wojtek Krzanowski

***Newsletter Editor**

Sandy Day

***A unanimous vote in favour of these nominations was received at this Annual General Meeting.**

7. Special Interest Groups

Anne Mayes reported another successful year for the **Garden Group** and she gave a brief overview of this summer's seven visits. Frankie Peroni reported that the **Restaurant Group** has had four successful lunches to date, with two more still to take place. A very enjoyable afternoon tea had been held recently. Frankie appealed for more suggestions for lunch visits.

8. Suggestions for future activities and events

There was a request from one member for visits to castles, cathedrals and manor houses and the Executive Committee will consider this request.

9. Any other business

Jan Reynolds reported that the forthcoming Quiz night on 18th October needed at least 40 participants but only 15 had so far signed up.

At the end of the meeting, the Chair thanked the retiring members of the Committee and was himself thanked for his leadership of the Association.

After the AGM, wine and nibbles were available for members