**Chairs report 2017/18 for the AGM held on 27th March 2018**

1. Since we last met in April last year, the work of the ALT committee has continued to be dominated by 2 main issues
   1. Legal Education Reform
   2. Banking/Membership
2. The Committee has, on behalf of the Association, submitted responses to various consultation in relation to legal education reform over the last 12 months. All are available on our website as detailed below. In addition we met with the Legal Services Board in January to discuss our view on the regulation of legal education and training generally and the proposed SQE specifically. We continue to engage with these issues as they arise
   1. The ALT statement to the Legal Services Board (LSB) [on the SRA Application for Regulatory Change to education and training](http://www.lawteacher.ac.uk/docs/ALT_Statement_to_LSB.pdf) (2018), further endorsing and expanding on the joint statement with SLS, CHULS and SLSA [on the SRA's Application to the LSB for approval of the Solicitors Qualification Exam (SQE)](http://www.lawteacher.ac.uk/docs/Law_Subject_Associations_Submission_to_LSB.pdf) (2018).
   2. The ALT response to the BSB [Curriculum and Assessment Review](http://www.lawteacher.ac.uk/docs/ALT_Response_BSB_CAR_Consultation_Annex_4.pdf) (2018).
   3. The ALT response to the BSB Future Bar Training Consultation ['The Future of Training for the Bar: Future Routes to Authorisation'](http://www.lawteacher.ac.uk/docs/ALT_Response_BSB_FBT_Consultation_Jan_17.pdf) (2017). Please read from page 6.
   4. Please read the ALT response to the SRA consultation ['A new route to qualification: the Solicitors Qualifying Examination’](http://www.lawteacher.ac.uk/docs/ALT_SRA_SQE_Jan_17.pdf) (2017)
3. Banking: As reported at the last AGM, a new bank account was opened following the closure of our HSBC accounts and we then had the impossible task of persuading our membership to switch their standing orders to the new account. As a result our current paid up membership numbers are lower than we would like and the Membership secretary can speak further to this. Given the slightly uncertain financial position, we have put many activities on hold to make sure we can afford them and to ensure the ALT continues to be viable and sustainable. We are now in a position to resume some of those activities and will be considering this more fully at our next meeting.
4. The financial position is helped by the success of the new conference model, now in its third year which is proving to provide a healthy profit for the ALT which can be put back into our activities.
5. One of the casualties of a busy year dealing with reforms and practical issues was the 2017 Lord Upjohn Lecture which should have happened in November but which I was unable to organise for then. Instead we will now have the pleasure of welcoming Professor William Twining as our speaker in May 2018 and Lady Justice Black for the 2018 lecture in its traditional November slot.
6. The ALT made nominations for the REF subpanel both for the Panel Chair and the members and it is good to see that some of our nominations have been successful.
7. As we look to the next year, we are looking to develop an equality and diversity statement for the ALT, continue improving our website and look at additional ways to recruit and engage members, particularly at the early stages of their careers and any suggestions on how we might do this are very welcome.
8. Our Journal, The Law Teacher, continues to do well and is attracting good quality copy for the now 4 issues per annum and we encourage you to submit your work to us for consideration.
9. As always the work would not happen without the committee members giving up their time and energy to make things happen. Thank you to all of them. I’d like to say a particular thank you to Rachel Wood and Mark O’Brien who has membership secretary and treasurer respectively had to deal with the brunt of the banking and membership issues. Additional thanks to the policy team who, over the last year have been jumping from one consultation response straight into the next and for whom there is no rest in sight either as we consider our response to the current TEF consultation.
10. In this period we also lost one of the ALT greats. Many of you will have heard of Professor Chris Gale’s death last year and many of you got in touch with us. He has certainly been a loss to the committee and many of us also lost a good friend. In his honour we have a new prize for the best joint paper presented at the conference. We thought this was a great way of remembering and celebrating the values of collegiality and support that Chris held dear. The prize is co-sponsored by CHULS
11. There are a few other changes to the committee. Dr Egle Dagilyte is stepping down from her role looking after the website and Rachel Wood is stepping down as membership secretary.

Dr Jessica Guth, Chair 2017-2019

March 2018