

Association of Law Teachers Chair's Committee Report

Association of Law Teachers' Annual General Meeting held online 9am Friday 12th November 2020

1. The work of the ALT Committee has continued unabated despite the impact we are all experiencing as a result of the ongoing pandemic. This AGM was scheduled to take place in Stirling at our annual conference that had to be cancelled at short notice. We have met online and worked hard in furtherance of the Association's aims and for the benefit of the members. I wish to express my thanks to the members of the Executive committee who have volunteered their time and especially to Charlotte Harrison who acted as Hon Secretary for three years.
2. Election of Officers. At the AGM in 2019 we elected the following officers and exec members:
Chair Caroline Strevens 2 years
Vice Chair Luke Mason 2 years
Treasurer Jess Guth 3 years
Membership Secretary Emma Jones 3 years
Recruitment Secretary David Yuratich 2 years
Our Honorary Secretary Charlotte Harrison's term of office ran until April 2020 and is currently being undertaken by Aislinn O'Connell following appointment by the executive until the 2020 AGM and a formal process is undertaken. This is the only officer role for election.
Executive members elected 2019 for 3 years: Rosie Fox, Elaine Hall, Mark O'Brien, and Joan Upson
Editor of The Law Journal Chris Ashford is a member of exec by virtue of holding the role of editor.
Co-opted Executive members due to retire at AGM and eligible to be co-opted again: Nigel Duncan, John Hodgson, Jed Meers, Kat Langley, Robin Bennett, Rob Hiscocks, Thom Giddens, Michael Jefferson and Odette Hutchinson has observer status (Aston conference 2021).

Nomination forms for a member to be elected to the Exec must be delivered to the secretary Aislinn O'Connell not less than 24 hours prior to the AGM duly signed by two members of the ALT qualified to attend and vote and also a consent in writing signed by the nominee. All of this may take place using email this year. No hard copy or wet signatures required.
3. Our work has been dominated once again this year by Legal Education reform and the SQE. We published a further evaluation of the SRA's proposed reforms in December 2019 ¹ and continued to respond to the consultation process including working in collaboration with the Law Learned Associations. By the time we hold this AGM we will know the decision of the LSB!

¹ "What we did over the summer": updates on proposed reforms to legal education and training in England and Wales and in the Republic of Ireland
Elaine Hall, John Hodgson, Miss Caroline Strevens & Jessica Guth, 1 Dec 2019, In : Law Teacher. 53, 4, p. 536-546 11 p.

4. New website: We are very grateful to Jed Meers and Jess Guth for working hard behind the scenes to enable our new website to launch. This has been of particular importance throughout 2020 since we have not been able to meet in person at the annual conference or other events. The blog has been spectacularly successful as the posts have blossomed with the inclusion of summaries about the regular Connecting Legal Ed sessions. As a result of the success of the website we have decided not to continue to use the OneHE platform for our materials and business.
5. Activities. We had a wonderful Lord UpJohn Lecture from the former President of the Law Society Christine Blacklaws and are planning a panel version of the UpJohn in May 2021 having secured and participation of Lady Hale.
6. The inaugural Early Career Teacher event ran in September 2019 at Leeds to outstanding critical acclaim. Plans for the 2020 event have had to be placed on hold (guess why!). As you would image there is much work that has had to be placed on hold due to the impact of covid-19 and this includes the finalisation of our equality and diversity statement and a Diversity one day symposium.
Members of the Exec have attended and reported upon the following events: Legal Cheek conference 2019, Impact workshop, Law Commissioners informal meeting with the Law Learned Associations, and meetings of the Academy of Social Sciences.
7. Teaching with Technology prize 2020 was awarded on 8th October to Linda Chadderton for her amazing use of technology to support learning from an Escape Room. We are immensely grateful to Kirsten Maslen and her team from Thomson Reuters for sponsoring this event and the prize and for working hard to ensure it took place. We have another short post on our website with details of the winner and links to all of the shortlisted contenders.
8. Our Journal, The Law teacher, continues to grow in reputation and is attracting good quality copy for the 4 issues per annum and we encourage you to submit your work to us for consideration.

Caroline Strevens, Chair 2019 - 2021