

**Minutes of the Association of Law Teachers' Annual General Meeting held online via  
Zoom on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020 from 9am-11am**

**Attendees:**

Caroline Strevens, Chris Ashford, Mark O'Brien, Elaine Hall, Michael Jefferson, Joan Upson, Aislinn O'Connell, Rosie Fox, Thom Giddens, David Yuratich, Emma Jones, Nigel Duncan, Sofia Parastatidou, Andrew Gilbert, Odette Hutchinson, Philip Bremner, Caroline Gibby

**Apologies:** Charlotte Harrison, Luke Mason, Robert Hiscocks

The meeting could not be quorate due to the 'personally' present requirements of the constitution. Bearing in mind the global pandemic and advice against travel, the meeting being considered quorate; the current Chair welcomed the attendees.

1. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9 April 2019 at De Montfort University Leicester at the 2019 Annual Conference were approved.
2. The Chair's Report for the year 2019-20 was presented (copy attached).
  - a. A mini-report from the Editor of the Law Teacher was presented.
3. The Vice Chair's Report for the year 2019-20 was received and approved (copy attached).
4. The Honorary Treasurer's report for 2019-20 was received and approved (copy attached).
5. The Membership Secretary's report was received and approved (attached).
6. The Recruitment Secretary's report was orally presented (a note attached)
7. The Chair reported that Charlotte Harrison had stepped down from her position as hon secretary and thanked her for her contribution during her time in office.
8. Aislinn O'Connell was elected as Hon Secretary for a term of three years. The Chair and Vice-Chair are due to finish their terms in 2021. The Honorary Treasurer and Membership Secretary are due to finish their terms in 2022. The Recruitment Secretary is due to finish his term in 2021.
9. Thom Giddens, Odette Hutchinson, and Andrew Gilbert were elected as new members of the Executive Committee.

10. All co-opted members of the committee were co-opted for an additional year.

11. Any other business: The next AGM will take place during the Aston University conference on 15-16 April 2021. As Odette Hutchinson is an executive committee member, observer status is not required.

*Aislinn O'Connell, Hon. Secretary, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020*

## **Association of Law Teachers Chair's Committee Report**

### **Association of Law Teachers' Annual General Meeting held online 9am Friday 12<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>1</sup> 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!

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 8<sup>th</sup> 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**

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<sup>1</sup> “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

## **Report of the vice-chair of the ALT to the AGM 2020**

Professor Luke Mason

Amongst ordinary functions and work already covered in other reports, the vc would like to underline for the AGM:

1. Much of the work of the vice-chair this year focused on the SQE. This involved work as part of the joint committee of the scholarly associations and the production of the joint report to the LSB. Ultimately this was in vain, given the apparent indifference of the LSB to the major concerns raised in accessible form produced by the joint committee.
2. The vice-chair worked with stakeholders to arrange a second iteration of the ECR conference. A new model and proposal was developed although this was then interrupted by covid19. A future blended or online event should be proposed and run during 20/21.
3. The vice-chair and chair worked together on a new publishing model for innovation and work in legal ed. They are working with MacMillan publishing on this.

## TREASURER REPORT – AGM 2020

### 1. The Report

This report covers the period April 2019 until 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020. This is a slightly longer period than usual due to the Covid-19 delayed 2020 AGM.

The ALT remains financially healthy.

Membership income continues to be lower than we would like and efforts to increase membership are ongoing so as to ensure that membership subscriptions cover the usual annual outgoings of the ALT leaving conference income available for additional activities to benefit members.

We have been able to continue to award grants and prizes and intend to do so in the forthcoming year in spite of a loss of conference income for 2020.

Out outgoings in terms of committee expenses have been greatly reduced during the pandemic as we have been meeting virtually. We do recognise the value of in person meetings and will keep reviewing the most appropriate balance between in person and virtual activities

### 2. Balances

Current Account: £29,207.04

Savings Account: £66,480.60 (Up from £66,011.93 in April 2019)

### 3. INCOME in this period: £39,064.60

From Membership: £15940

From Events: £20970.41 (includes 2 annual conferences)

Journal: £2,154.19

### 4. OUTGOING in this period: £26716.12

Committee Expenses

(including committee meetings and attending external meetings): £3597.19

Grants/Prizes: £8495.94

Events: £7421.38

Journal (editorial board expenses): £1861.93

Other (Website, refunds, Academy of Social Sciences): £5339.68

Dr Jessica Guth, 9th November 2020

**Association of Law Teachers**  
**Membership Secretary's Report**

**AGM 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**Membership numbers**

We currently have 308 individual members. Since the start of June we have welcomed 11 new individual members. There are at least 2 new applications also awaiting processing.

**Institutional Membership**

Institutional memberships include Reading (21 members), UCLAN (18 members) and The Open University (14 members).

**Membership payments**

There are currently 63 outstanding individual subscription fees for 2020. These members will be removed from the membership database prior to the next mailing of The Law Teacher journal.

St Marys have indicated they wish to renew their 2019 membership on the new institutional model, but have not yet paid for 2020.

**Emma Jones**

**06/11/2020**

## **Analysis of current membership – September 2019**

### **Sector**

We have two members in FE, three members in the legal profession, two whose role is unknown, two law tutors with the African Prisons Project and two members who work for a CILEx trainer. All other members are in HE.

### **Teaching Qualifications**

97 members indicated they had teaching qualifications upon joining, 4 were working towards them. 55 did not indicate.

### **HEA/Advance HE Fellowship**

111 members indicated they had Associate/Fellow/Senior Fellow status. No one referred to Principal Fellow and the majority appeared to be Fellows. Four were working on an application. 51 did not indicate.

### **Teaching Areas**

Members are asked to indicate up to three teaching areas on their application. Most common areas are:

Legal skills (42)

Criminal law (40)

Contract Law (39)

Tort Law (27)

Public Law (24)

EU Law (22)

Land Law (20)

Business Law (21)

Commercial Law (21)



Human rights (20)  
Employment Law (18)  
Company Law (15)  
Equity and Trusts (14)  
Legal Ethics (14)  
Litigation (Civil or Criminal) (13)  
Family Law (13)  
International Law (Public or Private) (12)  
Advocacy (7)  
Jurisprudence (6)  
English legal System (5)  
Property Law (5)  
Intellectual Property (5)  
Medical Law (5)  
Evidence (5)

### **Interest in Research**

All members who responded indicated they were interested in research, although several also indicate they were not active.

### **PhD**

55 members had a PhD, 5 more were working towards one. 47 did not indicate.

Note of Recruitment Secretary's Oral Report, 13 November 2020

Recruitment for this year has been good, despite the Coronavirus pandemic. The PGR conference was a great success.

Our events are a large proportion of our recruitment, and the late-stage cancellation of the Stirling conference was a blow to recruitment efforts.

Nonetheless, membership is healthy, and the ALT's role in hosting blog posts from the Connecting Legal Education workshops has continued to drive potential members towards our website and membership.