

18th Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 7 September 2011

Held at the University of Leeds, UK

Presiding – Carol Higgison

1. Recorded attendance and apologies

Individual members

Wilma Alexander, Bob Banks, Elizabeth Bennett, Jeremy Benson, Terese Bird, Haydn Blackey, Sharon Boyd, Kieran Briggs, Susan Clarkson, John Cook, Sal Cooke, Sarah Cornelius, Linda Creanor, Claire Donlan, Jonathan Darby, Shirley Evans, Gill Ferrell, Janet Finlay, Tom Franklin, Ian Gardner, Fred Garnett, Bob Harrison, Peter Hartley, Carol Higgison (President), Melissa Highton, Sally Holden, Sarah Horrigan, Caroline Ingram, Amanda Jefferies, Matt Jenner, Richard E. J. Jones, Jacquie Kelly, Linda Lewis, Matt Lingard, Tim Linsey, Daniel Livingstone, Terese MacKinnon, Maura Mbunyuza-de Heer Menlah, John McLaughlin, Ruth Merrett, Matthew Mobbs, Dick Moore, Markus Mostert, Tim Neumann, Martin Oliver, Fred Pickering (Honorary Treasurer), Dale Potter, Rich Ranker, Malcolm Read, Phil Richards, Malcolm Ryan, Steve Ryan, Gillian Salmon (Chair), Rhona Sharpe, Jan Shaylor, Keith Smyth, Stuart Sutherland, Julie Voce, Peter Walder, Brian Whalley, Helen Whitehead, Dawn Wood.

Representing organisational members (some organisational representatives are also individual members in their own right)

Danny Arati, Intel Corporation; Andy Beggan, University of Nottingham; Claire Donlan, Middlesbrough College; Hilaire Graham, University for the Creative Arts; Carol Higgison, Bradford University; Melissa Highton, Oxford University Computing Services; Jon Jack, University of Edinburgh; Amanda Jefferies, University of Hertfordshire; Aidan Johnston, Glasgow Caledonian University; Tim Linsey, Kingston University; Graham McElearney, University of Sheffield; John McLaughlin, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills; Jason Norton, UCL; Rich Ranker, Lancaster University; Steve Ryan, London School of Economics and Political Science; Gillian Salmon, University of Southern Queensland; Keith Smyth, Edinburgh Napier University; Stuart Sutherland, National College for School Leadership; Julie Voce, Imperial College London.

Visitors

Martin Ashby, Loughborough University; Tamara Bloom, University of Leeds; Peter Brown; Michael Cox, Glasgow Caledonian University; Ruth Drysdale, JISC; Rick Humphries, Buttercups Training; David Kernohan, JISC; Terry McAndrew, JISC Techdis; Sarah Porter, JISC; Maria Tennant, University for the Creative Arts; Lyndsey Welch, Loughborough College.

Staff

John Slater, Liz Wyatt, Maren Deepwell, and Seb Schmoller.

Apologies

Nora Mogeey, Nicola Whitton.

2. Appointment of two Tellers

Tom Franklin and Sal Cooke.

3. Approval of the minutes of last general meeting held in Nottingham on 8 September 2010

The minutes of the 2010 AGM were approved a true record, proposed by Haydn Blackey and seconded by Caroline Ingram. Arising, the AGM noted that the manufacturer has agreed to replace the defective paperweights mentioned by Seb Schmoller in his report to the 2010 AGM.

4. Annual Report and Accounts for 2010-2011

Copies of the audited accounts had been distributed to those in attendance and made available over the Internet in advance of the meeting. Carol Higgison introduced the report, thanking committee members and ALT staff for their work over the year and noting ALT's continuing work in the production of consultation responses relating the learning technology field, the increase in the number of ALT Special Interest Groups, and the fact that ALT's Journal *Research in Learning Technology* will be Open Access from 1 January 2012. She gave particular thanks to David Dyet (Further Education Committee), Dick Moore (Publications Committee), Haydn Blackey (Membership Services Committee), and John Cook (Research Committee) for their work as chairs of ALT's committees during the year.

Fred Pickering (Honorary Treasurer) gave a brief overview of the audited accounts, noting that the accounts showed a small (£700) surplus on the year, in contrast to the last several years in which the accounts had shown small deficits each year. He drew attention to the fact that at the year-end the amount of restricted funds carried forward was smaller than in previous years, thereby avoiding the inflexibility that such carry-forwards can entail.

Fred went on to thank Emma Carr-Jones (Finance Manager – currently on maternity leave) and Celia Gough (Interim Finance Manager) for their work during the 2010-2011 financial year and on the production of the accounts.

Carol thanked Fred for his work as Honorary Treasurer during what had been a challenging year.

Linda Creanor proposed and Bob Harrison seconded the motion that the 2010-2011 Annual Report and Accounts be approved, and the motion was carried 61 votes in favour (including two proxy votes), none against, and with 2 abstentions.

5. Verbal report from Seb Schmoller, Chief Executive

Seb Schmoller covered three main points in his report.

1. Following last year's agreement with the Royal University of Bhutan to launch a fund in memory of Robin Mason (Trustee and founding chair of ALT's Research Committee, who had died on 15 June 2009) to support the future attendance at ALT-C of a delegate from Bhutan (or other less developed country), £5,000 had been committed to the fund from a substantial bequest that had been received by ALT during the 2011-2012 financial year. Meanwhile Terry Mayes, Josie Taylor, Lydia Mason and Quentin Mason had agreed to serve as the management panel for the fund, which had supported Sonam Penjor from the Royal University of Bhutan to attend and give an invited speaker session ALT-C 2011.
2. Seb put on record his thanks to the ALT staff team for stepping up to the challenges stemming from two out of five team members – Emma Carr-Jones (Finance Manager)

and Louise Ryan (Publications Manager) – being on maternity leave at the same time, and from Hayley Maisey's success in being appointed as eCommunications Manager at the Chartered Institute for Marketing.

3. Seb spoke about the way in which ALT has adjusted to the changed political and economic environment. He drew the meeting's attention to the work ALT has done during the year for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, in partnership with the Technology Enhanced Learning Programme, and the dialogue that ALT has established with the Welsh Assembly Government and, via the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, with the Scottish Government. He pointed to the Memorandum of Understanding that ALT has recently concluded with NIACE, and to ALT's adoption of a revised Strategy. Seb concluded by stressing the importance of ALT members remaining active in the work of ALT and supportive of ALT's endeavours generally.

6. Honorary Life Membership

Carol Higgison presented Malcolm Read with Honorary Life Membership of ALT, noting Malcolm's outstanding long-term national and international contribution to the learning technology field. Malcolm responded briefly emphasising his pleasure in receiving the award, and his respect for ALT's work, particularly in relation to the professionalisation of learning technologists, for which he had long been an advocate. Malcolm's award of Honorary Life Membership and his acceptance were met with acclaim.

7. Elections to Trustee vacancies

a) Vice-Chair of the Association (an ex-officio member of the Central Executive Committee who will become Chair in September 2012, and President in September 2013)

Carol Higgison announced that Claire Donlan had been elected unopposed as Vice-Chair of ALT, and as an ALT Trustee. Claire will progress next year to be Chair of ALT and to be President in 2012-2013.

b) Election to two vacancies to serve a three year term on the ALT Central Executive Committee

Carol Higgison announced that Matt Lingard and Alastair Clark had been elected to serve three year terms on the ALT Central Executive Committee and as ALT Trustees, following an online ballot involving four candidates run on ALT's behalf by Electoral Reform Services.

8. Appointment of Auditor for the 2011-2012 Accounts

Carol Higgison proposed from the Chair that Shaw Gibbs, Accountants, of Oxford, be re-appointed as Auditors. This was seconded by Rick Ranker and agreed without a vote.

9. Handover to new President

Prior to standing down as President, Carol Higgison thanked retiring Trustees Linda Creanor and Nicola Whitton for their service to ALT as Trustees, and she presented an ALT paperweight to Linda Creanor who was present. (A paperweight will be given to Nicola Whitton in due course.). She then handed over to Gilly Salmon, who will take over as President immediately after the conference. Gilly then thanked Carol – to acclaim, and

presenting her with an ALT paperweight – for her three years of service to ALT, also thanking her personally for Carol's support to her in her role as Vice-Chair and then Chair over the preceding two years.

Written by Seb Schmoller, 7/9/2011, and 27/12/2011. Reviewed by Carol Higgison 5/1/2012.