



The Regional Studies Association
Company no. 4116288 Charity no. 1084165



FIFTY FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**held at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Bloomsbury,
Coram Street, London, WC1N 1HT
Wednesday 23rd November 2016, at 3.30pm**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the 51st Annual General Meeting of the Regional Studies Association (and the thirty third AGM since the Association incorporated).

1. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18th November 2015

The minutes of the meeting were available for circulation.

It was agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting and they were signed and dated by the Chair.

2. To receive, and if thought fit, to adopt the report of the Board and the Statement of Accounts 2015

The Report of the Trustees and the Statement of Accounts for 2015 were circulated electronically to all members in the early summer 2016 and were available on the Association's website. Paper copies were available at the meeting.

The meeting accepted the report and accounts.

3. To appoint and fix remuneration for an auditor for 2016

This decision was delegated to the Treasurer and Chief Executive to allow discussions over rates etc.

4. To elect directors (trustees) to the Board and to accept resignations, retirements and co-options if any

The Chair noted that issue 302 of *Regions* carried the standard call for nominations of potential board members from the membership. None were received.

There were a number of recommendations to the meeting.

It was noted that the Board must consist of not less than 3 and not more than 12 elected trustees and that the Board may appoint additional co-optees (who will not be trustees in law and who will only be appointed until the following AGM) and observers (who will also be reported to the following AGM).

The Chair noted that Board membership is critical to the success of the Association and that the election of board members should be informed by the Development Plan to ensure the correct balance of skills and competencies are available. It was noted that the Board and the Executive Group carefully considered succession issues and co-options during the year and that these considerations lie behind the recommendations to the meeting.

Retirements

The Chair explained that the following individual comes to the end of her term of office as a trustee at this AGM and will be standing for re-election:

- Sarah Ayres, Treasurer

The Chair thanked Sarah for her service on the board.

Resignations

The Chair explained that the following individuals have resigned their offices:

- Alexander Ghita, Blog Editor
- Alex Singleton, Editor, Regional Studies, Regional Science
- Eduardo Oliveira, Student Representative

The Chair thank Alex, Alexander and Eduardo for their service.

Serving Elected Board Members

The Chair identified the people who will remain in post from previous years and who have experienced no change of role during the year and who will continue through to the AGM in 2017:

- Andrew Beer, Chair, Nov 2017
- Mia Gray, Secretary, Nov 2018
- Ron Boschma, Research Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Nov 2018
- Jessie Poon, Territorial Networks and Vice Chair, Nov 2018
- John Bachtler, EU/Regional Policy and Vice Chair, Nov 2018
- Martin Jones, Editor, Territory, Politics, Governance Nov 2017
- Ivan Turok, Editor, Regional Studies, April 2018
- Paul Elhorst, Editor, Spatial Economic Analysis Nov 2020
- Frank Peck, Editor, Regions, Nov 2017
- Dieter Kogler, Conference Coordinator, Nov 2017

Renewing Trustee Appointments at the 2015 AGM

The Chair explained the position with new trustee appointments that are sought from the AGM:

Renewing Appointments

- Sarah Ayres, Treasurer, Nov 2019

New Appointments

There were no new trustee appointments.

Reporting of Co-opted Trustees 2015/2016 and going forward to 2016/2017

It was explained that the governing documents allow for the appointment by the Board of additional co-opted members and that the Board must report these appointments to each AGM. Any additional appointments made during the year would be reported to the November 2017 AGM. These appointments would be made by the Board on the basis of need. These appointments are for a period of one year but are renewable. The Board undertakes an annual review of these roles in order to ensure the correct balance of skills and diversity.

- John Shutt to continue as a co-optee Chair, Publications Committee
- Weidong Liu to continue as a co-optee Editor, Area Development and Policy
- Paul Hildreth to continue as a co-optee Policy Committee Chair
- Julie Tian Miao to continue as a co-optee with responsibility for Early Career Members

The Chair also noted that the Board had invited the following to join their number from the New Year –

- Mark Tewdwr-Jones -to take responsibility for Partnership and Co-operative Working.
- Stephen Hincks, Editor, Regional Studies, Regional Science
- Fulong Wu, Editorial representative, Area Development and Policy

The AGM noted and agreed these appointments.

Observers

The Chair noted that there had been four observers to the Board during the year:

- Mattia Casula, Student Representative
- Chloe Chang Liu, Student Representative
- Michael Taster, RSA funded PhD student
- Ed Jones, RSA contractor working on the Regional and Industrial Policy website

The Chair noted that the Board would continue to carefully review Board membership with respect to the balance of skills etc.

Action following Appointments

The meeting authorised the Chief Executive and Finance Executive to make the necessary changes to the Association's financial arrangements for amending the signatories to the accounts, for updating the records at the Charities Commission and Companies House etc.

5. To approve changes to the Articles of Association

The only change to the Articles of Association is to amend clause 4.5.1.1 which reads –

To appoint (and remove) any member (who may be a Trustee) to act as Secretary to the Charity at such remuneration (if not a Trustee) as they may think fit

To -

To appoint (and remove) any member (who may be a Trustee) or the Chief Executive of the Charity to act as Secretary to the Charity at such remuneration (if not a Trustee) as they may think fit

The Chair asked the meeting's approval for this change which was introduced so that the Chief Executive may, if appointed, sign overseas VAT returns among other things. The AGM noted and agreed the change.

6. Any other items for discussion but not decision

The Chair invited any further informal business from the floor and reminded people that no formal business requiring a decision could be raised that was not on the agenda. This was an opportunity for members to discuss things such as the future of the Association and its past performance in general terms.

The Chair thanked the staff team for their work during the year and thanked the Board members for their commitment to the Association and for the time that they will have devoted to Association business during the year.

The Chair declared the meeting closed.

Minutes end.