

**Minutes**  
of  
**the Fifty Seventh Annual General Meeting**  
of the  
**The Regional Studies Association**  
(Company no. 4116288 Charity no. 1084165)  
held in person and by Zoom on  
**Wednesday 9th November 2022**

**Attendees:**

**In person:**

Jozsef Benedek  
Sarah Ayres  
Neil Lee  
Alex Holmes  
Daniela Carl  
Vanessa Guerra  
Stephen Decker  
Brady Reid  
John Harrison  
Sally Hardy (also online)  
Louise Kempton

**Online**

John Agnew  
Suede Stanton-Drudy  
Coro Chascoe  
Elvira Uyarra  
Balazs Forman  
Franziska Sohns  
Irina Heim  
Jaksa Puljiz  
Jokotade Folasade Odekunle  
Sabina Chiabru  
Olga Shevchenko  
Marco Bellandi  
Tetiana Komieieva  
Josef Benedek  
Michael Glass  
Joanna Storie  
Martin Mariš  
Dimitri Corpakis  
Joanna Storie  
Judy Pepper  
Larysa Zomchak  
Lavanya Gupta  
Mengyao Han  
Nikolov Marjan  
Olga Mrinska  
Pawel Capik

Pedro Amaral  
Raquel Ortega-Argiles  
Rimantas Dapkus  
Sabina Chiaburu  
Sabrina Lai  
Ugo Fratesi  
Viktor Varju  
Wan Yun Hong  
Oliver Rafaj as proxy for Oto Hudec

*This AGM was held at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Bloomsbury, Coram Street, London and online using zoom software as permitted by the RSA Articles of Association. Voting was held in person via a show of hands and ballot, and online via the poll function within Zoom software. The results of the polls were displayed to all meeting attendees immediately following the vote and there was an independent counter in the room (Brady Reid) to validate the vote totals across show of hands, formal written ballot and online polling.*

The Chair, Jessie Poon, welcomed everyone to the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Regional Studies Association (and the thirty ninth AGM since the Association incorporated).

#### **Annual Address by the President of the RSA**

Professor John Agnew, President of the RSA, gave his annual lecture entitled “*Regional Economic Impacts of the Ukraine War*” and took questions afterwards.

#### **Presentation by RSA Chief Executive**

Sally Hardy, Chief Executive of the RSA, gave a presentation entitled “*We’re all doomed ... or are we?*” on the Association’s activities and achievements over the past year and its priorities going forward.

#### **1. Minutes of the RSA Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 10th November 2021**

The AGM agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting, and these were signed and dated by the Chair for later collection for the record by the Chief Executive.

#### **2. To receive, and if thought fit, to adopt the report of the Board and the Statement of Accounts 2021**

The Report of the Trustees and the Statement of Accounts for 2021 had been made available prior to the AGM to all registered participants.

The Chair noted that the report had been fully independently audited, had been agreed unanimously by Board members and had been lodged in accordance with the regulations, with both the Charity Commission and Companies House in the UK.

The report and accounts were adopted by the meeting.

#### **3. To appoint and fix remuneration for an auditor 2022**

The meeting agreed to delegate to the RSA Treasurer and Chief Executive, the decision on appointment and remuneration for the auditor for 2022.

#### **4. To elect new members to the Board and to accept resignations, retirements and co-options if any**

The Trustees present that had been nominated for election were removed from the physical room or placed in an online breakout room on Zoom.

Sally Hardy, RSA Chief Executive, as the Company Secretary, was invited to take the meeting through the retirements and appointments of Trustees and report of co-opted members and observers to the Board.

Sally Hardy 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 Trustees and Co-optees, who are not Trustees in law, and who will only be appointed until the next AGM. She noted that the number of Co-optees should not equal or exceed the number of elected Trustees.

It was reported that a call for nominations had been circulated to the membership in July 2022 and that 3 eligible nominations for Board Trustees had been received from the membership. Recommendations were made to the meeting.

#### *Trustee Retirements*

The following individuals came to the end of their terms of office as Trustees at the AGM:

- Jessie Poon – Chair of the Board, Chair of the International Territorial Committee, Member Services, Partnership and Co-operative Working portfolio
- Neil Lee, Chair Policy Committee
- Sarah Ayres, Interim Treasurer

Sally Hardy thanked Jessie Poon, Neil Lee and Sarah Ayres for their service on the Board and their assistance and dedication to the Association noting that they fulfilled their roles with great skill and commitment.

#### *Trustee Continuations*

The AGM noted that the following people remained in post from previous years and had experienced no change of role during the year and would continue through to the AGM in 2023:

John Bachtler - Vice Chair of the Board, EU/Regional Policy portfolio, Nov 2024

David Bailey, Editor in Chief, Regional Studies, Nov 2023

Ron Boschma - Vice Chair of the Board, Chair of the Research Committee, Nov 2024

Rachel Franklin, Diversity and Inclusion, Nov 2023

Mia Gray –Vice Chair of the Board, Board Secretary, Communication and Public Engagement, Prizes and Awards portfolio, Nov 2024

John Harrison, Conferences and Events Coordinator, Nov 2023

Simona Iammarino, Publications Committee Chair, Nov 2023

#### *Trustee Appointments*

Three nominations were received from the membership for Trustee positions. Copies of the manifestos of potential new Trustees had been provided to registered AGM participants prior to the meeting

- Neil Lee
- Sarah Ayres
- Marcin Dabrowski

The AGM agreed all three Trustee appointments. These appointments resulted in a total of 10 Trustees on the RSA Board, which exceeded the proposed number of Co-optees as required by the RSA Articles of Association.

### *Co-optee Continuations*

The AGM noted the following co-opted appointments and agreed their continuation for the 2022/2023 year:

- Klaus Dodds, to continue as co-optee Editor, Territory Politics Governance to Nov 2023
- Paul Elhorst to continue as co-optee Editor-in-Chief, Spatial Economic Analysis to Nov 2023
- Stefania Fiorentina to continue as co-optee Editor, Regions E-zine to Nov 2023
- Joan Fitzgerald, to continue as Editor, Regions and Cities Book Series to Nov 2023
- Stephen Hincks, to continue as Editor in Chief, Regional Studies, Regional Science to Nov 2023
- Louise Kempton to continue as co-optee Editor of the RSA Policy Impact books to Nov 2023
- Weidong Liu to continue as a co-optee Editor, Area Development and Policy to Nov 2023
- Brady Reid to continue as RSA Blog Editor to Nov 2023
- Mark Scott to continue as Publications Committee Chair to Nov 2023

### *Observers*

The Association had four observers to the Board during the year:

- Mick Dunford, Area Development and Policy Representative
- Tanya Chandra, Student Representative
- Vanessa Guerra, appointed in December 2021 Early Career Representative
- Julia Walczyk, appointed in December 2021 Social Media Communications

Sally Hardy closed by highlighting that Board membership was critical to the success of the Association and that the Board would continue to carefully review Board membership with respect to the balance of skills, knowledge and experience and she added her own, personal thanks to all those who were leaving or who had left the Board during the year, for their work, assistance to the RSA office and their contribution to the Regional Studies and Science communities.

Those members who had been removed from the physical room and online Zoom room were invited to return. The Chair congratulated the successful candidates and thanked them for their commitment to the Association and their offer to assist in the Association's governance. She noted the Association's gratitude to the new Trustees as it is through member engagement that the Association thrives.

## **5. To Agree Authorisation of the Chief Executive and the Finance Executive with regard to Financial Institutions**

It was agreed to authorise the Chief Executive and Finance Executive to make all necessary changes to the Association's financial and governance arrangements including but not limited to, amending the signatories to the financial accounts and updating the records at the Charities Commission and Companies House.

## **6. To discuss and decide upon the special resolution to amend the RSA Articles of Association**

By a vote of over 75% of attendees the AGM agreed the special resolution to amend the RSA Articles of Association as follows:

### Original wording:

"3.1 Members are entitled to attend general meetings (either personally) or (in the case of a member organisation) by an authorised representative ... 3.5.2 ... every member present in person (or through an authorised representative) has one vote on each issue".

Agreed changes:

"3.1 Members are entitled to attend general meetings either personally or by an authorised representative ...  
3.5.2 ... every member present in person (or through an authorised representative) has one vote on each issue".

**7. Any Other Items for Discussion but not Decision**

No other business was raised.

The Chair thanked the Chief Executive and staff team and the Board members for their commitment to the Association during the year and for their support during her period as Chair of the RSA Board, which ended at the meeting due to her scheduled resignation. The Chief Executive of the RSA, Sally Hardy, warmly thanked Jessie Poon for her service throughout her time as Chair of the RSA Board which had been through the challenging period of COVID 19 lockdowns and through the recovery period. She thanked Jessie for her thoughtful and sound counsel and her patience and sense of humour.

The Chair declared the meeting closed.

Minutes end.