



THE RUSKIN FELLOWSHIP



SECRETARY'S / PRESIDENT'S JOINT REPORT –AGM – SEPTEMBER 2010

(Please see also the report circulated with the Reunion / AGM calling notice)

1. **Deputy President & Acting Secretary:** At last year's AGM Debbie was elected Deputy President and Alan elected to the Executive as an ordinary member. Debbie took over the President's role in May after the resignation of Jan Smith. May we offer our sincere *thanks to Jan* for the work she did to take the Fellowship forward from last year's AGM. Alan took the role of Acting Secretary at around the same time as the result of the resignation of Peter Russell, who was elected Secretary at last year's AGM. We would like to *thank Pete* for the work he did on behalf of the Fellowship

2. **The Organisation of the Fellowship Executive:** You will find, attached, details of Executive members for the last year. There are also some statistics related to attendance at Executive meetings. **The AGM might like to comment on the data shown.**
 - i) There were some obvious weaknesses over the year in relation to the way we conducted our business. For example, as an Executive, we did not receive the minutes of last year's AGM until April. This is not a criticism of any member of the Executive, but we must ensure that the minutes of *this* AGM are available by October. At our meeting in June the Executive accepted a proposal that people who attended this year's AGM should receive copies of minutes after they have been approved by the Executive. **The AGM needs to approve or reject this idea.** (Executive meeting 19 June. Minute 5 iii refers)

 - ii) Another weakness relates to the organisation of the reunion weekend. We did not start discussing arrangements until April, which is much too late, and then we booked dates that clashed with an important religious festival, which has effectively excluded some members of the Fellowship. We must ensure in the future that we do not book the AGM on *any day* that might exclude people for either religious or secular reasons. This is an equality issue and our view is that the Fellowship is *very weak* in terms of ensuring equality of opportunity. **We are proposing that we identify the Deputy President as being the responsible Fellowship Officer to oversee our equal opportunities practices.** This would relate to the things mentioned above but would also take into account such things as the ethnic balance on the Executive, how we ensure older members who cannot travel to meetings are kept informed of progress, and why we only attract such small numbers to the AGM (we do none of these things at the moment). **We invite comments from the AGM.**

 - iii) The Fellowship Executive Committee would like to move the following resolution: **That the President's tenure of office be increased from a maximum of 2 years to a maximum of 5 years to enable the President to give better service to the Fellowship. The President would, however, have to be re-affirmed as President at each AGM.** (Executive meeting 29 May. Minute 8 iii refers)

3. **Disputes between members of the Fellowship:** We have recently experienced a dispute between members of the Fellowship Executive Committee. The situation has highlighted the fact that, faced with disputes of this nature, the President does not have any procedures available to him or her to provide the appropriate responses. In the current situation this has resulted in the issues by-passing the Executive and going straight to the College. We need to establish a *Disputes Procedure* that guides the actions of Executive Officers should such situations arise again. **We are proposing that the Executive draw up a set of Procedures that guide the actions of the President where there is a dispute between Fellowship members. We invite comments from the AGM.**

4. **Fund raising for the College:** At the Executive meeting of 19 June we agreed to raise with the AGM the importance of fund raising for the College (minute xviii refers). If Fellowship members know of any appropriate funding sources for the College would they please inform the Fellowship Secretary or the Principal of the College directly. The College will then pursue any appropriate leads. **We invite comments from the AGM.**
5. **Publicising the College:** During the year the Principal asked the Fellowship Executive to make arrangements for the new Prospectus to be placed in public libraries, colleges and other public places to support recruitment to the College. **We invite members at the AGM to become involved in this process in the future.**
6. **Training pack for Executive members:** We produced this pack during the year. It needs amending and probably shortening. **This is raised for the information of members.**
7. **The establishment of a Working Agreement between the Fellowship and the College:** During the year an Agreement has been established between the Fellowship and the College. We have included the text in our report **for the information of members (see below)**

Working Agreement between the Ruskin Fellowship and Ruskin College

This agreement is intended to provide for a smooth and mutually advantageous working relationship between the Ruskin Fellowship (the alumni association of Ruskin College, Oxford) and Ruskin College itself. In pursuance of this agreement, the following working principles will be observed:

The Ruskin Fellowship will:

1. Act as the representative body of the alumni of Ruskin College.
2. Operate as an independent body, speaking in its own name not in that of the college.
3. Seek agreement with the college whenever the two organisations could usefully speak or act together, or when there is potential for mutual advantage to be pursued.
4. Provide continuity for the college with its heritage, traditions and values.
5. Support the college in recruiting new students.
6. Work with the college to raise funds for the benefit of the college and its students.
7. Collaborate in such other ways as the two organisations from time to time determine.

Ruskin College will:

1. Recognise the independence of the Fellowship, together with the general compatibility of aims between the two organisations.
2. Recognise the important role the Fellowship plays in providing a network and a communication channel for former Ruskin students.
3. Value the link the Fellowship provides with the college's illustrious past, as well as with its continuity into the future.
4. Support the Fellowship's work, where this is perceived as being mutually advantageous, within the limits of college priorities and resources.
5. Work in partnership with the Fellowship to achieve joint aims such as effective communication with former students and the college's continuing academic and financial health.
6. Seek agreement with the Fellowship whenever the two organisations could usefully speak or act together, or when there is potential for mutual advantage to be pursued.
7. Seek the views of the Fellowship on major strategic developments in the college and, where appropriate, on operational matters, while reserving the right not to accord these views undue weight.
8. Collaborate in such other ways as the two organisations from time to time determine.

Debbie Hollingsworth (President)

Alan Shepherd (Acting Secretary)

RUSKIN COLLEGE FELLOWSHIP

DETAILS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 2009 / 2010

Name & Ruskin Year	‘Constituency’	Role
Jan Smith 1995-96	Officer	President (resigned April 2010)
Peter Russell 2006-09	Officer	Secretary (resigned April 2010)
Sally Courtney	Officer/Staff member	Treasurer
Debbie Hollingsworth 2002-08	Officer	Deputy President (Acting President from May 2010)
Carole Orgell-Rosen 1978-80	Officer	Membership Secretary
Michael Liggins 1987-89	Officer	Editor of Newsletter *
Bob Anderton 1974-76	Member	Auditor
Alan Shepherd 1979-81	Member	Acting Secretary from May 2010
Elcena Jeffers 2005	Member	Member
Anji Jeffery 2006-09	Member	Member
William Patience 1967-69	Member	Member
Richard Andrews 1966-68	Life Vice President	Member
Dianne Cant 1950-52	Life Vice President	Member
Don Liversedge 1952-54	Life Vice President	Member
John Hurlston 1995-96	Life Vice President	Member
Vi Hughes	Life Vice President	Member
John Hughes	Life Vice President	Member
Bob Matthews 1966-68	Life Vice President	Member: Bob died on 28 July 2010
Owen Murphy 1963-65	Life Vice President	Member
Angela Potts 1961-62	Life Vice President	Member
Anne Sieve 1951-53	Life Vice President	Member
Brian Smith 1980-82	Life Vice President	Member
Arthur Wright 1995-96	Life Vice President	Member
Audrey Mullender	Principal	Member
Vacancy	College staff member	Member
Vacancy	Student member	Member
Vacancy	Student member	Member

- * Michael Liggins has had no contact with the Fellowship for over a year.*
- **26 possible** attendees to Executive Committee meetings.
- **Actual** average attendances for 2009 / 2010 (5 meetings): **11.2 (43%)**
 - November 2009 = 14 (53%) (3 officers)
 - February 2010 = 13 (50%) (4 officers)
 - April 2010 = 9 (35%) (2 officers)
 - May 2010 = 9 (35%) (2 officers)
 - June 2010 = 11 (42%) (2 officers)
- Average attendances of:
 - officers = 2.6
 - members = 8.6

11.2