

ASCR Committee: officers' meeting
Wednesday 18th August 2010
Notes

Present: Steve Miller (Convenor), Richard Simons (Hon. Secretary), Frank Penter (Hon. Treasurer), Jane Spender (Manager)

1. Request from MSSL

The request from MSSL to take out 4 corporate memberships for occasional use for meetings in the Housman Room by post-doctoral students was discussed.

Background: This had been discussed by the Committee (24th May 2010), and it had been agreed that such memberships would be permitted to departments for the use of staff whose daily place of work was outside the M25; a motion to change the constitution to that effect would be presented to the AGM in November. Steve had subsequently talked to Alan Smith, and MSSL would supply a list of those who would make use of the corporate memberships in advance of the AGM.

It was thought more appropriate that this should be presented to the AGM as part of the Chair's Report, rather than as a motion requiring a change in the Constitution, and this change of plan was agreed, subject to confirmation by the Committee.

2. Membership and Housman Room use

It was felt that the drive to increase the membership should be continued, as should efforts to ensure that non-members did not use the Housman Room. These two aims would be reinforced by membership checks throughout each term, rather than in a single block of checks three times a year. At the AGM in November members would be invited to help with the checks and thereby to make a small contribution to the well-being of the ASCR.

3. Finance and refurbishment

The draft end-of-year accounts showed an income over budget of about £4,500, and a net surplus of £16,986. This had been transferred into the refurbishment reserve, which, after the final payments for the 2009 work, contained c£6,000.

It was decided that, as agreed at the committee meeting of 23rd September 2009, now that funds were available the sofas should be replaced, and this would happen during the course of the autumn. Two 3-seater and three 2-seater leather sofas would be bought, up to a spend of c£6,000.

With regard to a possible investment in new mobile hot and cold counters, it was felt that this should be shelved: in view of the developing UCL strategic plan and the fact that in July 2012 UCL would have in place a new catering contract and perhaps new caterers, it would be wiser to think more broadly about the ASCR position on catering, including the possibility of creating a kitchen in the bar area: could the caterer be persuaded to take on the whole cost of creating a kitchen? would UCL provide match funding to the caterer? or to the ASCR, if the ASCR undertook the development.

With no further refurbishment costs apart from on sofas, the ASCR would have c£15,000 in July 2011 and c£30,000 in July 2012; with an ability to spend the 2012–13 allocation of a further £15,000 in early 2012–13, theoretically there would be about £45,000 available for expenditure in the late summer 2012. It was agreed that a meeting with Ray Harding would be arranged before the AGM in November, to discuss his department's intentions for 2012.

4. Annual General Meeting

So that this would not follow too closely on the heels of the 13th Haldane Event on Tuesday 26th October, the AGM date was scheduled for Thursday 25th November, subject to confirmation by the committee.

5. Date of next meeting

This would be held some time during the week of 11th October; Jane would organise a doodlepoll in due course.

Note: This has now been done; the link is <http://www.doodle.com/ukie3kks69m27wu5>