

Minutes of the 44th BERA Annual General Meeting to be held on Monday 7th December 2020, 14:00-14:50, held virtually via www.bera.ac.uk

Attendance:

Dominic Wyse	DW	Chair/ BERA President
Vivienne Baumfield	VB	BERA President-Elect
Sean Hayes	SH	BERA Treasurer
Gerry Czerniawski	GC	Engagement Chair
Mhairi Beaton	MB	CEC Chair
Ros McLellan	RM	Publications Chair
Nick Johnson	NJ	BERA Chief Executive
David Chatterjee	DC	BERA Governance Manager

Lesley Saunders	Sarah Seleznyov	Carmel Capewell
Elizabeth Killen	Olivene Burke	Lorna Hamilton
Sarah Elaine Eaton	Megan Crawford	Barbara Skinner
Nikki Fairchild	Richard Race	Marlon Moncrieffe
Ian Menter	Gary McCulloch	Yuwei Xu
Mary James	Andrew Clapham	Mabel Encinas
Bassingha Laurence	Kevin Smith	Darcia Roache
Jan Georgeson	Alison Fox	Richard Pountney
James Reid	Khairul Islam	Yan Qiao
Bernadette McCurrie	Janet Orchard	Thu
Ruth Boyask	Lovina Emejulu	
Paul Campbell	Gary Beauchamp	Charlotte Vidal-Hall <i>via proxy</i>
Morag Redford	Tanya Ovenden-Hope	

No.	Item	Action
1 – Welcome		
1.	DW opened the meeting at 2:00pm and welcomed the attendees.	
2 – Declarations of conflicts of interest		
2.	Any declarations of interest are to be sent to secretariat@bera.ac.uk	
3- Amendments to the Articles of Association		AGM-2020-01
3.1 One-off variation to the Articles due to Covid-19		
3.	NJ outlined the proposed one-off variation, highlighting the degree of stability this would bring in a period of great uncertainty, and noted the delayed activity, both internally and externally, during 2020.	
4.	The resolution of a proposed one-off variation to the Articles of Association, extending the current President's and Vice-President's terms by one year was approved unanimously by the membership.	
4 – Annual Reports		
4.1 – President's Report		AGM-2020-02
5.	Paper presented for information. DW thanked NJ, the BERA staff and BERA members for their work over the year. Gary McCulloch was thanked for his work as President.	
6.	DW outlined the State of the Discipline project, introduction of the College of Reviewers, Presidential Roundtable events and their efforts to increase the link between policy and practice, rejoining WERA and holding academic writing workshops in collaboration with them, and the updating of the BERA strategic plan as key and ongoing developments for BERA.	
4.2 Publications Committee Report		AGM-2020-03
7.	Paper presented for information. All four journals have now moved under one publisher, Wiley. This has led to the creation of a BERA journals hub on the Wiley site, an article transfer network and the introduction of free format submission. The BERA Blog continues to grow from strength to strength and <i>RI</i> is a popular and key member benefit.	

8.	VB noted highlights from the Publications Report. <i>Curriculum Journal</i> was translated into Welsh for the first time, the reconstitution of the <i>BERJ</i> editorial board, with thanks to the outgoing Chair Cate Watson, <i>BJET</i> 's 50 th anniversary and fellowship, and extended thanks to Carole Torgeson for her work with <i>RoE</i> .
9.	VB introduced RM and RM thanked VB for her work as Publications Chair.
4.3 Engagement Committee Report AGM-2020-04	
10.	Paper presented for information. GC highlighted the record level of teacher members, the ongoing work to improve diversity, and outlined current and future award opportunities.
11.	Thanks were made to the BERA Office and SIG and ECR Network convenors, particularly in their development of the digital resources page as a member resource.
4.4 Conference & Events Committee Report AGM-2020-05	
12.	Paper presented for information. MB noted that, while the 2020 Conference was cancelled due to Covid-19, this sped up the provision of online events for BERA which are all recorded for use of the BERA members. MB thanked the BERA Office, Conference & Events Committee and all contributors to these online events.
13.	The 2021 Conference will be an entirely virtual event, this decision has been made early to provide a degree of certainty to those submitting abstracts. The abstract submission deadline has been moved to 28 th February 2021. Further details on the virtual Conference will be published later this year, with full details to come in early 2021.
4.5 Chief Executive's Report AGM-2020-06	
14.	Paper presented for information. NJ thanked the professionalism of the BERA Office in working throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and thanked the membership, with particular thanks to those members serving leadership roles and on committees within the organisation.
15.	It was reported the accrued funds owed to UCL had been settled and these will be added to BERA's reserves. BERA have appointed an external HR consultant to scope setting up BERA as its own employer. There is no imminent return date to the BERA Office, and it is hoped that a firmer agreement will be reached between UCL and BERA relating to the office premises.
16.	BERA is committed to improving diversity at all levels of the organisation, with BERA Council confirming key actions at their upcoming meeting in January. It is intended that the diversity statistics will be presented and reported on at the AGM to highlight any progress made.
4.6 Financial Reports	
4.6.1 Treasurer's Report AGM-2020-07	
17.	Paper presented for information. Thanks were extended to the Finance & Operations Committee and to Steve Strand for his term on the committee. It was underlined BERA remains in a strong financial position.
4.6.2 BERA Audited Accounts 2019 AGM-2020-08	
18.	Paper presented for information.
4.6.3 BERA 2020 Budget AGM-2020-09	
19.	Paper presented for information. SH reported while turnover is likely to be c.30% below budget, expenditure has reduced in line with this. The unknown future impact of Covid-19 on membership and events, coupled with the changing Open Access landscape, may impact future budgets, but BERA has strong reserves to weather any medium-term storm. The volatility of the investment account was noted.
20.	Due to the uncertainty, Finance & Operations Committee were presented three separate 2021 budgets at their November meeting and agreed the direction of travel and this budgeting approach. These will be refined further prior to the year end.
4.7 Risk Update AGM-2020-10	
21.	Paper presented for information. Thanks were extended to Diana Burton and the rest of the Risk Assessment and Audit Committee.
5 - Notification of BERA Election Results	
5.1 Council Membership 2020/21 AGM-2020-11	
22.	The strong range of candidates at the last election was noted and the current Council membership was presented for information.
23.	BERA are currently seeking nominations to join Council from members of all background, with terms beginning in 2021.

24.	Gary McCulloch was thanked for his service in a number of roles on Council, most recently as President and Vice-President.
6 – Minutes (9th September 2019)	
AGM-2020-12	
25.	Should there be any queries regarding the minutes, members should email secretariat@bera.ac.uk
7 - AOB	
26.	A question was submitted about <i>RoE</i> 's rejection by the SSCI. More feedback has been requested from the SSCI for the reasons behind this, with it noted they are opaque about their working.
8 – Upcoming Projects	
27.	While the 2021 Conference is virtual, it is hoped that an in-person event comprising of the BERA award winners and the AGM could be run in the Autumn.
28.	It as reported Council elections are open for applications, the new series of the BERA podcast will launch in the new year, virtual events will remain free for all members for 2021 and the schedule is being filled, and several award opportunities remain open. The weekly newsletter highlights BERA and wider activity in the field.
29.	The attendees of the event were again thanked and the meeting closed at 14:50pm.