

**Minutes of the
FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the
REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION
(Company no. 4116288 Charity no. 1084165)
on
Wednesday 6th November 2024 at 4 pm London time
at the Cumberland, Great Cumberland Place, Marble Arch, London, W1H 7DL,
and online using zoom software**

Attendances:

Online: Marco Bellandi, Rimantas Dapkus, Stefania Fiorentino, Lavanya Gupta, Ana Gutiérrez Sanchis, Sandrine Labory, Stephen Little, Kerstin Meyer, Tomasz Mickiewicz, Verena Radinger-Peer, Judy Pepper, Sharif Rasel, Alejandra Trejo Nieto, Maria Tsouri

In person: Neil Lee (Chair), Muhammad Aafur Anwar, Sarah Ayres, Andrew Beer, Jennifer Clark, Terry Clough, Dmitri Corpakis, Marcin Dabrowski, Ugo Fratesi, John Harrison, Shati Ottemusu, Simona Iammarino, Louise Kempton, Karen Lai, Zack Taylor

Attended by: Alan Kinder, Alex Holmes, Samantha Wannop as minute taker.

Neil Lee welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that the meeting was hybrid. He explained that all attendees were invited to vote on the following items on the agenda.

1. Minutes of the RSA Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 8th November 2023

The meeting agreed that the minutes were an accurate record and were signed and dated by the Chair.

2. To receive the report of the Board and the Statement of Accounts 2023

The meeting accepted the Report of the Trustees and the Statement of Accounts for 2023 which was noted had been fully independently audited, agreed unanimously by Board members and lodged in accordance with the regulations with both the Charity Commission and Companies House in the UK.

3. To appoint and fix remuneration for an auditor for 2024

The meeting agreed to the delegation of the RSA Chief Executive and Treasurer (Sarah Ayres at the time of writing) of the appointment and remuneration for the auditor for 2024, currently Kreston Reeves.

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

It was noted that an email carrying the standard call for nominations of potential new Trustees was sent to the RSA membership in September 2024.

The AGM was invited to note the retirement of Neil Lee (Chair) and John Bachtler as Vice Chair (EU/Regional Policy).

Thanks were noted to retiring Trustees for their service on the Board and their assistance and dedication to the Association in their complex and at times challenging roles which they performed with great skill and commitment.

Two nominations were received from the membership and two new Trustee appointments were sought from the AGM.

At this point, Stefania Fiorentino and Louise Kempton were asked to leave the room for a short time.

The AGM approved the appointments of Stefania Fiorentino and Louise Kempton as new Trustees for a term of 3 years each.

At this point, Stefania Fiorentino and Louise Kempton returned to the room.

Two nominations were received from the membership for re-appointments of Ron Boschma (Vice Chair and Chair of Research Committee) and Mia Gray (Vice Chair, Communication and Public Engagement, Prizes and Awards) as Trustees.

At this point, Ron Boschma and Mia Gray were asked to leave the room for a short time.

The AGM approved the reappointments of Ron Boschma and Mia Gray as Trustees for terms of 3 years each.

At this point, Ron Boschma and Mia Gray returned to the room.

Thanks were noted for their commitment and hard work.

It was noted that the following people remained in post from previous years and have experienced no change of role during their term.

- Jennifer Clark - Editor in Chief, Regional Studies
- Marcin Dabrowski - Chair, International Territorial Committee
- John Harrison - Conference & Events Coordinator
- Simmona Iammarino - Chair, Journals committee

Thanks were noted for their continuing work.

The AGM was invited to note the new appointment of Ida Musialkowska to succeed John Bachtler as Vice Chair (EU/Regional Policy).

The AGM was invited to note Sarah Ayres (Treasurer) as the new Chair of the RSA.

It was noted that the Trustees will seek to appoint a duly qualified person to fill the vacancy for Treasurer and to present this person for formal election at the 2025 AGM.

Neil Lee reported that the RSA governing documents allow for the appointment by the Board of additional co-opted members and the Board must report these appointments to the AGM.

The AGM was invited to note the resignation of Stephen Hincks as Co-optee.

Thanks were noted for his work over the years.

The AGM was invited to note the following appointments as approved by the Board to continue as Co-optees:

- Ugo Fratesi, Co-optee, Editor-in-Chief of Spatial Economic Analysis,
- Weidong Liu, Co-optee, Editor of Area, Development and Policy
- Mark Scott, Co-optee, Publications Committee Chair

The AGM welcomed Zack Taylor, Co-optee, Editor-in-Chief of Territory, Politics, Governance who started earlier in the year.

The AGM welcomed Lavanya Gupta the new RSA Blog Editor to the Board as Co-optee.

The AGM was invited to note the following appointments as approved by the Board to continue as Observers:

- Shenjing He, Observer, Representative of Area, Development and Policy
- Kerstin Schaefer, Observer, Early Career Representative
- Grete Gansauer, Observer, Student Representative
- Karen Lai, Observer, Representative Editor Finance and Space

Neil Lee confirmed that as a result of the election of four Trustees (Stefania Fiorentino, Louise Kempton, Mia Gray and Ron Boschma) the RSA Board consists of 10 Trustees and 5 Co-optees.

5. To note the election of Heike Mayer as President of the Regional Studies Association

The AGM noted the appointment of Heike Mayer as President of the Regional Studies Association following the decision at last year's AGM.

Neil Lee reported that the RSA was transitioning to a new presidential model.

6. To agree authorisation of the Chief Executive and the Finance Executive with regard to financial institutions

The meeting agreed to authorise the Chief Executive and the Finance Executive to action and implement all requirements of any financial institutions with whom the Association has accounts.

7. Any other items for discussion but not decision

Stephen Little reported that he was in discussions with other members of the RSA to put together a special session for the Annual Conference in Porto 2025 and will look to poll for an African division.

The Chair thanked

- the staff team of the RSA for their work during the year
- Board members for their hard work, time and devotion to the Association

The meeting was formally ended.

Ends.