Friends of Imperial College

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 12 November 2013 at 18.00
Minutes of AGM of Friends of Imperial College held on Tuesday 12 November 2014 at 18.00, Meeting Room Opposite Theatre 1 Sir Alexander Fleming Building, Imperial College London.

1 Attendees

2 Apologies for absence
Twenty one members send their apologies and gave the Chairman their proxy votes: Mary Bassendine, Mary Butt, John Featherstone, Paul Groombridge, Sean Hackett, Michael Hallissey, David Harmes, Gillian Hill, Tim Hillyer, Robert Hollingdale, Andrew Holmes, John Holmes, Gwyndaf John, Janet John, Martin Keats, Renée Medney, Morton Neal CBE, Michael Ryan, John D Schofield, Dr. Denis R. Simpson, Jane Wright.

3 Minutes of last meeting
The minutes of the AGM held on Monday 14 October 2013 at 18.30 were approved.

4 Report by the Chairman

4.1 Key elements
The key elements of the Chairman’s report were:
− Considerable improvements have been made to Friends website by John Little particularly for booking, communicating with registrants, managing events and financial control.
− Angie Watson had been appointed as administrator
− A donation of £3500 was made to the College scholarship fund
− Relationship with College has been good during the year with particular support and enthusiasm from the Rector Sir Keith O’Nions
− Fourteen events were carried out during the year including trips off campus, two of which were three day visits to the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, Geneva
− Winton Capital Management continued to provide much welcome support.

4.2 Membership
Last year our membership dropped by 5% from 295 to 281. There are two likely reasons for this. Firstly we did not attract as many donors as we have in previous years and the number of members who did not renew their subscriptions was higher than in previous years.
4.3 Attendance at events
Our total audience at all our events appears to have declined by about 10 per cent on the previous year. Ticket sales declined from 1605 last year to 1458 this year. We do not have exact figures for the number of people who attend the Amazing Quantum Worlds show which we sponsored at the Imperial Festival in May but 500 is an estimated giving a total audience for the year of about 2000.

4.4 Future developments
Following the changes to our constitution we will apply for charitable status.

We anticipate organising the popular member-only events in order to provide a better service to our current members and attract new members. This will include further member only tours.

We are also anticipating more events linking the arts and science.

5 Treasurer’s Report
The Hon Treasurer, Bill Blackburn reported that Income for the year was £18,974 and expenditure £16,183.39.

Winton Capital has made its annual donation of £5000 and the company was thanked for its generous and continued support.

See the Treasurer’s report on our website.

6 New constitution

6.1 Background
John Little, Deputy Chairman introduced the background to the changes that were required to our constitution in the light of the requirements of the Charity Commission as we pursue our registration as a Charity. See copy of the Old and New Constitution on our website.

Key Points and implications:
• The new structure of the organisation would require three or more trustees who would also be members of the Committee of the Association
• Committee and trustees will need to be elected or re-elected every three years.

6.2 Adoption of New Constitution
The members present and the members who had given the Chairman their proxies unanimously adopted the new constitution as presented and it took effect immediately following the AGM. It was noted that the current constitution requires 75% vote in favour of the changes which was surpassed.

6.3 Re-election
To aid implementation of the re-election clause of the new constitution, it was deemed necessary that the following committee members seek re-election as follows:
− In Nov 2014: Rod Rhys Jones, Rita Leek and John Sanderson
− In Nov 2015; Bill Blackburn, Paresh Parmar and Riitta Soinnen
− In Nov 2016; John Little and Katri Yates plus any one elected this evening

7 Election of committee members
There were no proposals for committee members.

8 Any other business
There was no other business and the meeting finished at 6.45.

The meeting was followed by a lecture entitled A perfect storm: food, water and energy security from Sir John Beddington, Professor of Applied Population Biology, former UK Government Chief Scientific Advisor