

FOR CONSIDERATION: Proposed Change to the Governance of SALS

Introduction

- 1 The Society of Advanced Legal Studies (SALS) was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on 7 May 1997 with a memorandum and articles of association endorsed by the Friends of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS). It came into existence as a replacement of the Institute's Friends' organisation, which had been in existence for many years before being wound up on 10 February 1997 to transfer its undertaking to the SALS.
- 2 SALS is also a Charity, registered with the Charity Commission.

Update of Society Administration

- 3 The administration of the Society has languished over the past number of years. Originally, membership subscriptions paid the salary of a Society Administrator, who managed subscriptions, coordinated communications with its members and arranged events. But as membership income decreased, this contribution towards the running of the Society did also. The last person to hold this post left in 2012 and since then the Society has not been charged for administrative services by the Institute.
- 4 In 2013, the Institute employed Lucy Brady in a temporary capacity to do some work in reviving the membership of the Society and re-establishing important links with members that had not been kept current in previous years. This was a very useful exercise which enabled the Institute to explore ways to develop the Society.
- 5 In 2015, the Institute was successful in bidding for funding from the School of Advanced Study of the University to employ someone full-time to work on SALS and develop its potential in partnership with the University's newly established Development Office, which is responsible for administering philanthropic donations to the University on behalf of Institutes and libraries.
- 6 Lucy Brady began in her position as IALS Partnerships Officer in November 2015 on a 12-month contract to develop the Society.

The Value of SALS to the Institute

- 7 Before proposing changes, it is important to state the Institute's continuing ambitions for the Society:
 - a. IALS regards SALS as an important arm of the Institute and wishes to continue supporting it into the future.
 - b. SALS's structure as a 'Society', whose members are called 'Fellows of the Society' is viewed favourably by many of its members, and IALS wishes to support this in future.
 - c. IALS regards SALS as its *de facto* Alumni and Friends network. It provides a valuable and important forum for those wishing to remain connected with the Institute after their terms as a student, member of staff or Fellow of the Institute have come to an end.

Proposed Changes to SALS Governance

- 8 In order for SALS to develop and support the Institute for the next 20 years, we propose the following changes to the Society's governance structure.
 - a. The Company Limited by Guarantee be wound up and the ownership of its assets (cash in the bank currently £ 11,414.07 and membership database) be transferred to the IALS, University of London (Exempt Charity, HMRC Charities Reference X422) under Article 9 of the Society's Articles of Association (attached).
 - b. That the Society be deregistered as a separate Charity with the Charity Commission.
 - c. The Society becomes fully, and legally, part of IALS (as an Institute of the University of London which itself is an educational charity) and that financial arrangements are put in place so that income donated or given for the Society be ring-fenced.
 - d. That a new SALS Advisory Group be established, within the Institute's governance structure, to oversee the Society and terms of reference be written.
 - e. That the annual subscription of £75 be changed to being a 'suggested donation'.

Benefits of the Proposed Changes

- 9 These changes will enable the Institute to administer the Society in partnership with the University's Development Office. This would benefit SALS in the following ways:
 - a. Enable the Institute to focus on developing events, publications and other activities to benefit SALS members, while streamlining the day-to-day management of membership lists and subscriptions.
 - b. Use of the University's relationship management system Senator, helping to radically improve the communications with SALS members.
 - c. The move from a membership fee model to the donation model, would allow both the SALS member and the University (on SALS's behalf) to claim Gift Aid for all donations.
 - d. To enable the SALS to keep members (and potential donors) updated about fundraising campaigns that are part of the Institute's development strategy: for instance, Refurbishment, Library Collections Development, Fellowships and Studentships.
 - e. Access to the fundraising expertise of the Development Department Staff.