

# Society for Longitudinal and Life Course Studies

## Annual General Meeting

30<sup>th</sup> October 2012  
FIAP Jean Monnet, Paris

### MINUTES

#### 1. Apologies

#### 2. President's welcome

Heather Joshi welcomed SLLS members to the AGM. A quorum of Society members was present (37), including all Executive Committee members, as follows:

- Heather Joshi (HJ), Out-going President
- Elizabeth Cooksey (EC), President Elect
- Tom Jupp (TJ), Treasurer
- Ellen Flint (EF), Secretary
- Jan Smit (JS)
- Ingrid Schoon (IS)
- Jeylan Mortimer (JM)
- Walter Heinz (WH)
- Tom Schuller (TS)
- David Blane (DB)
- John Bynner (JB)
- Amanda Sacker (AS)
- Dimitri Mortelmans (DM)

#### 3. Report from the outgoing President (HJ)

**Considered:** The president's pre-tabled report was verbally summarised.

**Noted:** The 2013 conference will be in Amsterdam, Netherlands, and the dates are fixed.

**Agreed:** The executive committee recommends that the 2014 conference be held in Lausanne, Switzerland. For conferences in 2015 and beyond, proposals are invited from prospective hosts. An invitation will be included in the January 2013 newsletter.

**Noted:** Existing members are urged to encourage colleagues to become members of the society.

**Noted:** There are no elections to the executive committee this year, but elections are to be held in the coming year and details are to be announced in the January 2013 newsletter.

President Elect, EC, takes over the presidency as of the close of this AGM.

#### 4. Report from the Treasurer (TJ)

**Considered:** The treasurer's pre-tabled financial report was verbally summarised.

Question from society member: Is there a target membership number?

Response from the treasurer: We have set a target of 600 members. However, we have encountered difficulty in convincing institutions to become members.

**Agreed:** A letter should be drafted, which Global Reps can then modify and send to appropriate institutional directors in their countries, promoting institutional SLLS membership. [*Action for EC*]

**Considered:** Global reps are very important in fostering membership and promoting the Society in their countries. Intermediate country-specific meetings might be a good way to further this (JB).

## 5. Report from the Secretary (EF)

**Considered:** The secretary's pre-tabled membership report was verbally summarised.

Catherine Westlake was thanked for her ongoing support on membership matters.

## 6. Report from the Capacity Building Subcommittee (DB)

**Considered:** The capacity building subcommittee report had been pre-tabled, and was verbally summarised.

**Noted:** DM was thanked for his efforts regarding the Summer School, which is a successful, self-funding enterprise.

**Noted:** 2013's Summer School is to be held in Oxford, led by Francesco Billari. This will take place in the first week of September.

**Agreed:** In 2014, the Summer School will be held in Amsterdam.

## 7. LLCS journal report (JB)

**Considered:** LLCS journal report had been pre-tabled, and was verbally summarised, with questions and discussion invited.

**Considered:** Two related issues were raised: (i) the reduction in submissions to the journal; and (ii) the need to gain formal recognition of the journal's impact, in order to boost its reputation.

**Noted:** A new subsection of the journal has been agreed, focussing on early childhood health.

**Noted:** A hard copy version of the journal has been created, and volumes can be printed to order for a fee of around £10.

**Considered:** The need for Digital Object Identifier (DOI) numbers were raised.

### • LLCS Journal: Report on Measuring Impact (Harvey Goldstein)

**Considered:** Researchers are increasingly under pressure to publish in impact factor rated journals. Thompson Reuters (TR) did not give LLCS an impact rating when this was applied for. Two further systems exist: Scopus (run by Elsevier, raising potential issues regarding the boycotting of this organisation by some academics); and Google Scholar. Scopus gives subject-specific ratings (whereas Thompson Reuters does not) which is seen as an advantage for LLCS. An additional advantage of Scopus over TR is its use by the UK Research Excellence Framework (REF). LLCS has applied for rating by Scopus, and is currently under consideration. Google are more recent entrants into the field, and may well become dominant in the future (and probably free). Google doesn't require journals to submit themselves for rating (it uses trawling instead). However, a journal has to have been running

for 4 years before it can be rated. The Google system uses algorithms for rating a journal's impact. Currently the system isn't discipline-specific, but it is still new, and such things may be introduced as the system is refined.

- **Further views on Impact, from Society and Committee members**

**Noted:** In France and Belgium, Web of Science (Thompson Reuters) is legally recognised as the reference system for funding. Scopus is a good step, but LLCS should try again for TR recognition as the dominant reality is Web of Science. (DM)

**Noted:** A general discussion was held on the issues surrounding open access publishing. Paying for publication was raised by DM as a possible avenue for LLCS. The SLLS stance on this issue is that paying to publish open access is exclusive and discourages submissions from lower-income countries. The journal aims for an inclusive ethos (JB).

**Noted:** The boycott of Elsevier among academics may limit the usefulness of a Scopus rating. The Google option might be better. (DB)

Heather Laurie: Further explanation requested for why LLCS was rejected by TR.

(JB): No criteria for rejection were offered. Only 12 percent of applications are approved annually. A queuing system appears to be in operation.

## **8. Longview Report (TS)**

**Considered:** AGM approval sought for the proposal that Longview be reintegrated into SLLS, going forward. Longview branding, expertise, etc. could be very beneficial to SLLS, in terms of building bridges between research and policy.

**Agreed:** The AGM gave its assent to proceed with this proposal.

## **9. Any other business**

None.

## **10. Next meeting**

The 2013 AGM will most likely be during the Society's 2013 annual conference in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

- **A few words from the Society's new president, EC**

A heartfelt vote of thanks to Heather Joshi, echoed by the rest of the SLLS Executive Committee.