

# KING'S COLLEGE LONDON ENGINEERS' ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of the KCLEA Committee Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Because of restrictions in place at the time, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the meeting was again held "on line"

### Those participating

David Blacoe	President
Chris Bowden	Secretary
Ted Willis	Events Secretary
Keith Newton	
Graham Raven	Membership Secretary
John Thomson	Treasurer and Webmaster
Professor Barbara Shollock	Head of KCL Department of Engineering
Jonny Dixon	
Bobby Dixit	
Lai Cheung	

### 1) Apologies

Received from Mike Clode. Due to the shortened agenda, concentrating on key and time critical items, it was appreciated that not all committee members would join us

### 2) Approval of the minutes of the last meeting (16<sup>th</sup> April 2020)

These were approved. David confirmed that he had actioned his items under 4) Website and Membership Communication and 6) Finances and Investment Fund.

### 3) Developments within the Department of Engineering.

Barbara provided an overview and, subsequent to the meeting, sent a summary which is attached as an addendum to these minutes. Key items included :-

Active engagement with the academic community, schools, industry, and the wider community.

The development of an Embankment building to house new research activities for Engineering A Sustainable Future.

To ensure engineering solutions are integrated with King's strengths in policy, entrepreneurship, humanities and business.

To address, with good results already, gender stereotypes in engineering.

Applications for degree courses have increased significantly since last year.

Electronic Engineering undergraduate courses have moved significantly up the Good University Guide ranking.

#### **4) Bursaries**

It was agreed that we would maintain the awarding of two bursaries, each of £1000. It was felt that we need to have more applications. David agreed to re-visit the wording of the application and liaise with Barbara as regards the best way of publicizing them.

**Action D.Blacoe**

It was commented that KCLES have a good Facebook page and Barbara will establish with the current President how to communicate this message.

The Committee endorsed our commitment to maintain a close liaison with the KCLES.

#### **5) KCLEA events**

##### **AGM.**

Provisionally fixed for 21<sup>st</sup> November, Bush House, top floor to be followed by the Annual Lunch as discussed at the last meeting. David to query the availability of catering. The possibility of another room, in the Strand Campus, on the 20<sup>th</sup> November to also be investigated in case it transpires that lunch cannot be offered.

**Action D.Blacoe**

Note – Subsequent to the meeting there was liaison with the College to review various options bearing in mind current restrictions on catering and maximum room capacities.

Firmed up details will be advised to the Committee once they are available.

##### **Annual Lecture.**

Mike Clode to suggest some possibilities.

**Action M.Clode**

Keith had suggested a Vice Admiral that he is aware of but has no contact information. Keith to review his ideas and advise.

**Action K.Newton**

#### **6) Website and Membership Communication.**

It was confirmed that the website is up to date. Following guidance from Graham, John will send our revised wording for the KCLA website to the attention of Agnes Kwong for action.

**Action J.Thomson**

#### **7) The King's Engineer Bulletin**

The next edition, somewhat briefer than usual, will shortly be issued. It will be a "holding" issue to brief alumni as best possible during the uncertainties created by the pandemic.

**Action M.Clode**

## 8) Finances and Investment Fund.

Our bank balance, as of 10/7/2020, was £5,676.

As regards the Investment Fund Mike reported that the value had made a small improvement since the crash of early March. The dividend received so far has not been affected. All details will be in the Trustees' report. Data on the Bursary Fund, held by the College, is awaited.

## 9) AOB

It was suggested that we should consider inviting nominations for the award of the next 13 Club Trophy, perhaps via the website. Also, we need to collectively "cast the net" as wide as possible to encourage younger alumni to put their names forward for election at the coming AGM

**Action All**

Keith is to arrange the framing of the Max Lipman prints.

**Action K.Newton**

## 10) Date of next meeting.

8<sup>th</sup>. October was agreed and it is hoped that this may be "face to face" if the College facilities and Government guidance permit.

## Addendum to minutes.

To support our ambitions, we have actively been engaging with the academic community, schools, industry, and the wider community about the launch of the new Department. The Department has begun growing its academic base and currently has 24 members. We are hiring people committed to engineering education alongside innovation in research. New appointees include two UKRI Fellows, an Imperial College Fellowship holder, and a US IBM Faculty Award holder with 59 patents. Our most recent appointment is Claire Lucas, IET's Young Woman Engineer 2019, who will join in August 2020. We are planning to develop the historic river-facing Embankment building to house our new research activities for Engineering a Sustainable Future. The location at the heart of the Strand campus will ensure engineering solutions are integrated with King's wider strengths in policy, entrepreneurship, humanities and business to impactful research and innovations.

We are moving forward in achieving our aims to lead the sector in engineering education and research, as well as address gender stereotypes in engineering in our curriculum and staff. In 2019/20, the percentage female undergraduates on our courses was 20% compared to a sector average of 17%, the percentage of female of our postgraduate taught students is 43% compared to a sector average of 26%, and 28% of our postgraduate research students are women compared to a sector average of 25%. With the appointment of Claire, 40% of our professors will be women, and our recent appointments mean 80% of our lecturers are women.

We have designed a high-quality, distinct curriculum that is dynamic, responsive to the needs of employers, and attractive to the next generation of engineers. We have been awarded a Royal Academy of Engineering Professor, Anusha Shah, who works for Arcadis in sustainable and inclusive design to bring industrial insight into our curriculum.

For the 2020 entry for General and Electronic Engineering, we have nearly twice the applications we had last year. Our Electronic Engineering portfolio of courses saw an increase of more than 60% on the previous year, with one course seeing over a 200% increase in applications. We have seen a 50% increase in applications to our MSc courses.

Our Electronic Engineering Undergraduate courses have moved up 10 places to 16<sup>th</sup> in the 2020 Good University Guide, placing us 2<sup>nd</sup> in the key 3 London universities, ahead of UCL. <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings/electrical-and-electronic-engineering>

