

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL VETERINARY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting Held via Zoom Wednesday 19th April 2023

Present:

Robin Hargreaves (Chair), Jenny Hughes (mins), Abdullahi, Agnes Winters, Alison Cruthers, Anita Irving, Anna Tagliapietra, Ben Sweeney, CT, Donald Kelly, Dunn, Harvey Locke, James Taylor, John Blackwell, Lorna Collins, Malgorzata Dzioba, Matthew Jones, Nicola Beesley, Paul Lunn, Peter Jones, Rob Smith, Sally Stockton, Sioned Evans, Stephen Spencer, and Toby Lloyd.

1. **Welcome and update, Robin Hargreaves (Chair of ULVAA)**

Robin introduced himself and thanked everyone for attending. He explained what ULVAA is about and that he is proud to be Chair.

Paul Lunn, Dean of the School of Veterinary Science, has plans for ULVAA to become more effective and involved with the School.

ULVAA committee meetings take place virtually now instead of at Leahurst. This has broadened the group and increased scope for members further afield. Meetings take place around every 3 months.

There is no formal income stream, but ULVAA is in receipt of generous legacy funds from members. ULVAA are looking to increase revenue stream for the future. ULVAA asks members of Faculty to apply for funds; around £1,000 is set aside per year to support various groups. These groups usually draft a report to inform how they used the funds.

The "Student of the Year" accolade has been reinvigorated, with nominations drawn from final year students every year. The recipient of this award could be someone who had a positive influence on the cohort through academia, mentoring, support etc. Strong nominations have been received in the past and it is normal to have around 2-3 nominations per year. The award has been renamed in honour of John Tandy (BVSc 1957) and his legacy as a founding member of ULVAA, who passed away in 2022.

ULVAA attends the annual School of Veterinary Science Careers Fair, to meet students and make connections.

The recent Barrie Edwards Memorial Lecture and Veterinary Alumni Ball was an enormous success. The Barrie Edwards Memorial Lecture has been running for five years, with a different guest speaker each year. The event was in the Liverpool Town Hall with 165 guests. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive so this format of lecture and celebratory dinner will be repeated by ULVAA in the future. The event increased awareness of ULVAA and helped bring alumni together.

2. **Announcement of elections, Robin Hargreaves (Chair of ULVAA)**

Nominations for new committee members will take place – this is an important process, and the committee would really like to have fresh faces coming through.

There are five roles to fill on the committee: Chair, Treasurer, Communications Officer, Social Media Officer, and member without portfolio. The ideal would be to recruit at least four new committee members; ULVAA members can apply for a position and current committee members without portfolio can apply for a portfolio position.

Nominations will open tomorrow 20th April and close on 21st May.

3. Treasurer's report, Harvey Locke (Treasurer of ULVAA)

The treasurer had circulated the following documents prior to this meeting:

Annual accounts YE 28 February 2022 (audited)

Annual accounts YE 28 February 2023 (draft)

Accounts for the Annual Ball, March 2023

- The treasurer screenshared a document detailing ULVAA's income and expenditure for the **year ending February 2022** – the University of Liverpool Finance Dept. have audited these accounts.
- **Income for 21/22** – £1,055 was received in donations. This includes a legacy and standing orders from memberships. As time goes on these donations are becoming less and less. £866 was received from HMRC Gift Aid (Gift Aid paperwork from 2021/22 is still to be submitted).
- **Expenditure for 21/22** – there is a budget of £1,000 assigned to fund student activities every year. Usually, around £150 is given to each group. £600 was paid out this year and the rest of the amount remained unclaimed. There were two gifts paid for this year amounting to a total of £94. Total assets stand at £17,022 for the year ending 28th February 2022.
- The draft accounts for year just ended **February 2023** will be audited by the University of Liverpool Finance Dept. Topline reporting: donations have dropped by £125. There is a reduction in the surplus amount (used to pay for Veterinary Alumni Ball expenses).
- Sponsorship received by other organisations was terrific; thanks to DART and other sponsors for covering extra Veterinary Alumni Ball expenditure. The year ended with a deficit of £2,504 but the event boosted ULVAA's profile. In the future meetings, need to discuss how often this event is held and ways of attracting further sponsorship.
- HL thanked the Alumni Relations team; MD and the team did a fantastic job of promoting and supporting the event as well as logistical work.
- HL has enjoyed his time as treasurer but feels it is time to handover the position.
- RH reiterated his thanks to the Alumni Relations team.

4. School of Veterinary Science update, Professor Paul Lunn (Dean of the School of Veterinary Science)

The Chair welcomed Prof Paul Lunn to the meeting.

- PL expressed that it had been a delight seeing so many alumni at the Barrie Edwards Memorial Lecture and Veterinary Alumni Ball in March. SVS tours were organised for large groups of alumni that weekend. PL would be keen to engage in more of this type of activity.
- Accreditations – AVMA verdict in early June. The Royal College of Veterinary Science also visited. SVS staff and students worked extremely hard, with special thanks to Professor Cathy McGowan for her effort in submitting evidence to RCVS. RCVS identified more issues than AVMA; some will be rebutted but all issues will be investigated carefully. One major point was the need for further first opinion practice as well as stakeholder opinion. The Dean would like the support of ULVVA to widen this scope.

- Strategic Planning Away Days – planned for 20-21 April and are open to all SVS staff and students. Agenda involves review of the curriculum, competencies and first day skills, research etc. PL would like to change the amount of research undertaken. A strong theme for the Planning Away Days will be culture, community and building trust.
- New buildings and spaces – PL showed a presentation of the plans for the School of Veterinary Science teaching and learning spaces in Foresight Centre as well as different proposals for the development of Leahurst.
 - Veterinary School teaching in Liverpool will move to a hub at the Foresight Centre; the School has already moved and created new clinical skills training facilities. There will be a Virtual Lab as well as a quiet study space for students. All Liverpool based academics and professional service staff will move from Thompson Yates to Foresight centre.
 - Looking at major plan for Leahurst, which will run into cost of millions. PL shared the different options; one plan included a student village to enable students in years four and five to live on-site again.
- PL is looking forward to partnering with Harper Keele – there may be potential to trade rotations, so each school gets more of what it needs e.g. Farm and 1st opinion practice.
- LUVS – PL has had wonderful year collaborating with the LUVS presidents, improving outdoor sport facilities, food provision and common room spaces. PL would like to give LUVS at more substantial budget to play with.
- Graduation events – PL would like to refresh. Student from final year will give speeches, followed by the presentation of the John Tandy Student of the Year Award.