

## **Voluntary Sector Studies Network: Third Annual General Meeting**

**Held at** Caledonia University, Glasgow, Wednesday 29 November 2006 at 12.30pm

**Present:** 14 members and one non-member. Peter Halfpenny in the chair

**1. Apologies** received from Nick Achenson; Pete Alcock; Christine Barker; Helen Cameron; Robert Dalziel; Jenny Harrow; Jeremy Kendall; Jill Mordaunt; Cathy Pharoah; Nick Plant; and Arthur Williamson

**2. Minutes** of meeting held on 30 November 2005 were formally approved

**3. Matters arising:** None

**4. Chair's Remarks:** Peter Halfpenny reported on the achievements of the Steering Group since the previous Annual General Meeting.

During 2005/6, the number of formally enrolled members rose by over 10% to more than 130 (although see below). The number of email list subscriptions rose by 20% to almost 300. Jill Mordaunt was thanked for managing and moderating the list so effectively.

The bi-annual day conferences continue to be a success, with both the November 2005 event at LSE and the May 2006 event at SHU being well attended. Thanks were given to the organisers, speakers and audiences.

For the third time, VSSN collaborated with NCVO in running the Researching the Voluntary Sector conference in early September. The good number of VSSN members represented in the programme was noted. Jeremy Kendall and Duncan Scott were thanked for the role they played in organising the conference, as was Angela Ellis Paine for her role in coordinating the new researchers' session. NCVO were praised for the very large part they play in the organisation and financing of the conference.

The progress made in terms of marketing VSSN and reaching out to new members was noted, with Rob Macmillan thanked for his role as marketing officer and Duncan Scott and Jeremy Kendall for their roles as external affairs officers.

The continued development of the VSSN website and the role it plays as a central focus for the Network was noted, with thanks to Nick Plant for his major contribution in this area.

During the past year, VSSN has gone through the process of obtaining recognition as a charity by the Inland Revenue (as was) and then registration as

a charity with the Charity Commission. Gareth Morgan was thanked for his work and expertise in this area.

It was noted that the Steering Group has devoted most of its attention in the past year to how the Network can develop further. This has culminated in plans to extend the Steering Group, through cooption and a network of associates, and the introduction of membership subscriptions, on a sliding scale based on income, from the beginning of the 2006/07 year. To date, over 60 people have paid subscriptions. The subscription fees will be used to build membership benefits including the potential employment of an executive officer to assist VSSN, moving towards the goal of being the Network that everyone doing research on the sector knows that they must join for the resources and support it offers.

**6. Receiving the Annual Report and Accounts:** These were received by the members present. One question was raised with regards to the possibility of gift-aiding subscription fees. Unfortunately, membership subscription falls outside gift aid rules, although any donations made above the fee could be gift-aided.

**7. Membership Report:** Gareth Morgan reported on the establishment of the membership subscription system, which although positively received has resulted in a drop of members from 133 to 69. A new membership directory will be published in spring 2007. It will be printed as a hard copy, with the following edition (2009) likely to move to an online version.

**7. Election of Steering Committee:** Eleven nominations had been received for eight elected places. Elections took place (with Duncan Scott and Ken Ashford as independent tellers). The following nominees were formally elected:

- Pete Alcock, University of Birmingham
- Angela Ellis Paine, Institute for Volunteering Research
- Peter Halfpenny, University of Manchester
- Veronique Jochum, NCVO
- Jeremy Kendall, University of Kent
- Rob Macmillian, Sheffield Hallam University
- Gareth Morgan, Sheffield Hallam University
- Nick Plant, University of West of England

All other nominees were warmly thanked, and will be approached to act either as co-optees or as associate members of the steering group and its task forces.

**8. AOB:** Thanks were recorded to retiring steering group members. The substantial contributions made to VSSN by both Duncan Scott and Jill Mordaunt was noted and both were warmly thanked for their involvement.