

LI AGM 2021: Questions received in advance and LI Responses

1	<p>What measures are the LI implementing to address the lack of ethnic diversity within the membership? Landscapes are contested and often reflect cultural and ethnic, societal biases. Is the Board willing to support the development of cultural competence as a core skill?</p> <p>The Institute will be running a Sector Survey (a re-run of its 2018 State of Landscape Survey) in early 2022. This will provide a robust and up-to-date evidence base of the demographics of the sector, including racial diversity</p> <p>The LI also has run a series of events in its programme this year covering inclusive environments and elements of climate change equality and equity in terms of access to greenspace. The speaker panels are always designed to comprise of the best possible diverse range of speakers available and we always strive to ensure this is the case in terms of journal authors. The Jellicoe lecture in 2020 was themed around diversifying the profession, available on Campus, which was designed to challenge the profession to think, discuss and challenge more openly the lack of diversity within the profession</p> <p>The launch of the apprenticeship schemes within this calendar also helps address a lack of diversity in the profession. Opening entry routes to new practitioners who would find traditional routes challenging from a socio-economic perspective</p> <p>We also continue to work with the EDI working group on an EDI action plan that will cut across all of our areas of work.</p>
2	<p>Please can you explain how the College of Fellows fulfils its function without regular and dynamic meetings?</p> <p>The College of Fellows (CoF) is a member networking forum headed by the CoF Convenor. The CoF Terms of Reference allows for 2 meetings per year (either in person or digitally) and LI Connect provides an additional channel for networking/communication opportunities. As the Convenor is responsible for leading meetings your comments have been forwarded to the CoF Convenor for consideration and response</p> <p>Please also explain how it is justified to increase the fees by 8% for FLI's ,with the current rate of inflation, when Fellows have not had anything in the way of benefit / service or meeting since mid March and moreover are unlikely to have one before early Spring 2022?</p> <p>We have increased our fees to reflect the fact that nearly all of our Campus CPD events are now a membership benefit, and therefore free as part of the annual fee. Previously, it was a pay-per-event option, but following research with our members we found that members actually did a lot of the CPD using our events, and then logging it with us. Therefore, for many, this is a more inclusive and cost-effective way for our members to gain their CPD knowledge, especially when we expect each member to record a minimum 25 hours a year as a Chartered Member or Fellow.</p> <p>As well as this we are a charity and survive on a modest income, where the income goes back into providing membership benefits and funding our vital outreach and policy work. In the past few years, membership has had a very modest increase (around £5-£10 annually) and with</p>

Covid affecting much of our income with regards to face-to-face events and other commercial income, we had to make the decision to increase our fees to ensure our survival as an organisation.

Please be assured that a fee increase is never considered lightly, and our Financial & Risk Committee, who report to the Board, would have poured over the fees and made a sensible decision. We also offer generous concessionary rates of membership for members who are low income, unemployed or on a career break and we have also made it simpler to apply for concessions.