



17th Annual General Meeting, 7th April 2017, Savoy Place, London

Chair's Report

This is a significant moment for LMN as it enters its 17th year as a membership organisation – formally a Company Limited by Guarantee – moving into a third phase of its operation.

LMN has entered into an agreement with UCISA to sponsor the formation of a UCISA London Group and the Group will be launched immediately following this short AGM.

Working towards the agreement

Members who were present at the last AGM (July 2015) will recall that we had scheduled a Workshop to consult on the LMN Business Plan but had to cancel at short notice due to a tube strike that made it difficult for many people who had planned to attend.

The Member Workshop was held on 1st October 2015. The Workshop was well-attended and produced strong recommendations for the Board. We started the Workshop by reminding members of the three strands of activity that LMN undertakes for its members:

- Training and events;
- Advocacy;
- Services.

Members worked in groups and addressed a number of questions (the notes from the Workshop are on the LMN web site at <https://www.lmn.net.uk/lmn-members-strategy-consultation-workshop/>).

Two things were very clear from the Workshop:

- FE and Sixth Form College members keenly feel the loss of the Jisc-funded Regional Support Centres, which has created a considerable gap in their support networks, and they look to LMN to help fill this gap;
- HE members in particular suggested that a partnership with UCISA was the best way to proceed..

The bulk of the activity of the LMN Board since then has been to follow through on this approach.

Working with UCISA

We made contact with UCISA and received a positive response. UCISA was still working through its process of re-organisation as a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee (CCLG) with a

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wholly-owned subsidiary company UCISA Services Limited (USL) to operate many of its activities. It was also looking towards a number of changes at its Board level. This meant that the negotiation took longer than expected while we worked through the various options in order to determine the mechanism by which the proposed collaboration would operate.

By the end of Summer 2016 we had the broad outlines of an agreement, based on several key principles:

- UCISA will form a London Group, sponsored by LMN;
- The members of the Group will be UCISA members from the London region;
- LMN will sponsor up to 30 of its FE/SFC members to join UCISA and become part of the new Group;
- LMN will commission UCISA to undertake a series of activities, defined in a Service Agreement;
- Governance of the arrangement will be by a Steering Group (with representatives of the Boards of LMN and UCISA) and an Operational Group, supported by UCISA staff and a new post of London Liaison Officer.

The agreement was signed on 30th January 2017. A copy of the agreement is provided for Members to read as part of this document pack.

It is important for LMN Members to understand that this is a Service Agreement. LMN is sponsoring membership fees and commissioning services from UCISA. This means that LMN continues to operate as a going concern and the LMN Board has an important role to play to ensure that its interests are served. There is scope within the agreement for additional activities. (There may also be other activities from its Business Plan that LMN wishes to sponsor or undertake that fall outwith the scope of the UCISA London Group.)

This Annual Meeting is the first major event organised by UCISA as part of the new agreement. Considerable thanks are due to UCISA staff who have stepped up to take on this new activity.

Signing up FE/SFCs for the new Group

During the period from October 2016 – January 2017, the LMN Board commissioned Bernard Aghedo (formerly of the London RSC) to undertake outreach amongst our FE and SFC colleagues. Bernard contacted everyone on the LMN membership lists and was successful in persuading 25 colleges to confirm their LMN membership and sign up for the new group. A number of colleagues also indicated willingness to serve on the LMN Board and its Working Groups (including the Steering Group for the new UCISA London Group).

In a short space of time, UCISA gained a significant new body of members. LMN and UCISA both see considerable benefits in this major extension of UCISA membership into the FE/SFC sector.

Other company business

Members will have noted that the first item on the agenda today was to confirm new members of the LMN Board. After the 16th AGM we were conscious that the Board was rather thin on the ground, but took the view that it was important to establish the new direction of travel for LMN

before inviting nominations. We are grateful to the colleagues who have put their names forward for the Board.

A number of questions were raised at the 16th AGM about the timing of AGMs, the LMN Financial year, appointment of Auditors, status of members. The Board reviewed all of these questions during the time since the 16th AGM and has some answers but proposes to postpone discussion of any substantive issues that arise until the new Board is in place. Most of the efforts of the Board since the 16th AGM have been applied to working with UCISA on the details of the new London Group.

One very positive thing we can report is that 37 Member Representatives answered the request to confirm their details, an important step in ensuring that the LMN Membership Register is up to date.

This is my last AGM as Chair, a position I have held since 2013. I left SOAS at the end of September 2016. The Board at that time asked me to stay on as one of the "non-Executive Directors" and Chair, in order to see through the business with UCISA. I am pleased to be able to present this new initiative today and hope that it prospers. It will be for the new Board, when it meets after Easter, to choose a new Chair and consider how it wants to support LMN Company business, which carries on, alongside the work of the London Group.

John Robinson
2nd April 2017