

2024-03-20 at 15.00-UKSG AGM 2024 – Computer Transcript

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The broadcast is now starting. All attendees are in listen only mode.

0:16

Good afternoon everybody and welcome to this year's UK SG Annual General Meeting. My name is Joanna Ball and I'm the Managing Director of the DOAJ and I'm just about still Chair of UKSG. And I'm also being joined today by Rob Johnson, who is our current Treasurer from Research Consulting and he'll be talking to some of the slides related to the our finances. And I'd also like to welcome

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Charlie Rapple, our current Vice Chair and incoming Chair. You'll also hear from our Executive Director, Bev Ackerman, who will be keeping an eye on any questions and comments coming in. And Vicky Drew, our events assistant. So I'm going to pass straight over to Vicky. Now for the housekeeping.

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Thank you, Joanna, and welcome to all the attendees joining today.

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Before we get started, I'd like to go over a few housekeeping items so that you can fully participate in today's event.

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Just a reminder, today's AGM is being recorded and will be available on demand via the AGM page on EU KG website.

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If you could kindly ask all participants to ensure their microphones are muted to avoid any background noise, you'll have the opportunity to submit text questions by typing them into the question box on your Go to Webinar control panel.

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You may also use this to propose or second a motion. We also ask that you include your affiliation when submitting. This

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questions will today be moderated by Bev Ackerman. So without further ado, let me pass you back to Joanna.

2:09

Thanks Vicky and so this is the agenda today. I'll talk about the minutes and the chairs report and then pass over to Rob to talk us through the accounts. We will then cover some of the highlights for UK SG during 2023. Rob will take us through the membership subscriptions for 2025 and the reappointment of auditors and then we will appoint the honorary officers for

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in 2024 to 25 and also of course announced the election results for this year.

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We're finished by looking forward to 2024,

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so you could go to the next slide please, Vicky. So the minutes from last year's AGM are available on the AGM pages of our EU KG website and the annual report and the accounts for the last year will be appearing very shortly.

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I'm going to pass over to Rob and he's going to talk some talk us through the annual report and accounts.

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Thanks, Joanna and good to be with you all. So if we could go on to the next slide, please, Vicky.

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And just one more I think.

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So just to give an overview of our financial position, it's been another good year for U KG. So obviously 20/20 was a challenging period as was 2021. But over the last couple of years, our finances have been steadily recovering as a as an organisation. So this year we've been able to do some more exciting things in terms of investing in our mission and strategy. So we've relaunched the innovation awards and so we've been able to make some more grants to a number of organisations and there's details

4:04

in our annual report. We undertook an EDI review. So looking at what we can do as an organisation to become more diverse and to foster a quality diversity and inclusion within our membership. And we've also commissioned a piece of conference research being undertaken by Information Power just to make sure that our conference remains valuable and relevant into the into the future. So it's been really positive to be able to invest in in some of those areas and alongside doing that we've been able to continue

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making a surplus this year. So we spent a bit more than in 2022 but our revenues have continued to exceed our expenditure. So again that's a strong financial result for the last year and we've taken some steps just to improve how we control our finances and some of you will know if you have a mortgage or anything. Interest rates have been have been going up and that's actually been a positive for us at U KG. So we have significant cash reserves and we just been making sure that we continue to earn interest

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on those and reinvesting those, those, those monies back into our community. And of course we went

back to a fully in person conference this year and will be and last year and the conference is probably the most important thing for our financial health as a as an organisation. So that being successful was a huge positive in 2023 and we're very much expecting the same again for 2024. Delicate numbers are looking really positive, lots of sponsors and exhibitors. So that puts us in a very strong

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financial position moving forward.

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Thank you.

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OK, if you could take this to the next slide now, please. Excellent. So I'm just going to run through a few highlights from our activities from 2023 and Rob has already given us some tasters of what's been going on. So if you could go to the next slide again please, Vicky. So it has been a very successful year for us and we achieved a number of things against our against our strategic vision which people launched back in in 2022. As

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as Rob mentioned, we conducted an EDI audit about an organic organisation and our activities. That's because our vision includes A commitment to representing the diversity of the knowledge community and to under to address under representation. And so that will be a big focus for us going forward in terms of addressing the recommendations from that from that audit

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are for improving financial situation that you just heard about meant that we were able to bring back the UKSG forum, Everything Everywhere, all at once as it was called this year and was held in in Birmingham. That was very successful and thanks to Maggie Vascones and Catherine Rose, Tim Leonard as well for putting together the programme for that event

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at U KG. We also have a commitment to supporting innovation within the sector and we were really pleased to launch a new set of innovation awards and make those awards to five organisations and projects across the sector. And finally we also delivered a new podcast series managed by our Outreach and Engagement subcommittee which covers career stories from individuals across the sector. So thank you to Bethany Logan, the chair of that subcommittee

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and the members of the subcommittee for making the podcast such a success.

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And moving on to the next slide here is the figures which really demonstrates the success that I have been talking about and the region impact that the UKSG has had across the sector. Really high delegate numbers for our annual conference and of course this is what drives all of our activities across the year. We also had a very high numbers for our online November conference and thanks to trustees Liam Bullingham

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and Tasha Menendez Cohen and also to Sabina Lamb for their work to put the programme for this. Together. We continue to see really high numbers at our as delegates for our educational seminars And again huge thanks to Anna Franker, the Chair of Education Subcommittee and for all of its members for delivering a brilliant programme. And I'd also like to thank Claire Grace, webinar officer and the trustee, who has supported 2 webinars this year.

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And then finally, moving on to the next slide, Vicky, I want to just highlight the work of our Open Access journal Insights, which goes from strength to strength in numbers of submissions and in the response that we get from the community. So a big thank you to our Co editors, Lorraine Estelle and Steve Sharpe, the Chair of the Insides Editorial Board, Jill Emery and of course our team member Elaine Costa, who supports the processes

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around the publishing the process, um.

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So yes, a great number of articles. It's really good to see the attention rise and the number of unsolicited submissions come in.

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So if you could take us to the next slide please, Vicky, um, I'm going to pass back over to Rob to talk about membership subscriptions for 2025.

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Thanks Joanna. So these are a couple of points we need to take to the membership. So I will be seeking proposers and seconders for these in just a moment. So if we go on to the next slide, please, Vicky.

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So our membership subscriptions and we need to bring these to the membership each year. So we're proposing a 3% increase and with a little bit of rounding up and down to keep the numbers nice and even. So you can see the subscriptions proposed for 2025 on this slide. And I would just ask if a couple of members could 1 propose and one second these proposed fees and just you can just put that in the chat. We have Josh Sundal, University of Leeds as proposed

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and Elizabeth Charles has seconded. Thank you both, brilliant. Thank you very much. And if we move on to the next slide, so the reappointment of auditors, there's a lot of work that happens in the background on our finances. Obviously Bev and the and the team and M Group who are accountants and do most of the hard work there as a Treasurer. There's not too much that that falls on me And we do rely on independent auditors to check our accounts each year and we just need to formally reappoint,

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reappoint them. So he go to the next slide, please, Vicky. So the motion is to reappoint our auditor, just audit again. I'd be grateful for a proposer and a seconder for that. Steve Sharpe, Sheffield Hallam at Raymond Jude at the British Library. Thank you both.

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Thanks both and thank you Bev.

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And I think it's packed to you Joanna. Is that right?

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Yes, that's great. Thank you everyone for responding so promptly to Rob's calls for proposing nominators. So now we move on to the appointment of the honorary officers for 2024 to 2025. And if you move on to the next slide, thank you Vicky. It's a real pleasure to hand over the role of chair here today to Charlie Rapple from Kudos. Charlie has been involved with UK SG for many, many years,

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you know and her knowledge of the organisation, her commitment to the organisation is unrivalled. So I know she's going to do a fantastic job of leading the organisation through the next, the, the next stage. I'm also really delighted to announce that our current Treasurer, Rob Johnson has been elected as Vice Chair for this year and I'd like to thank Rob for the excellent work he's done as our Treasurer over the last two years.

12:20

This means that our role of Treasurer is vacant and in line with our bylaws. The holder of this role is selected from amongst the trustees and we'll be announcing that after the AGM. And I would like to take the opportunity here to, as I'm stepping down as Chair now to really thank the UKSG community, the UKSG Family, Trustees, subcommittees and staff for all their support during my time

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as part of this organisation. It's been a really important part of my life for the last eight years or so I think and I've learned so much and it's been such a pleasure working with committed and professional group of individuals. So thank you to you all.

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I'm just going to jump in and say thank you to you, Joanna, because you have also been a very active member of EU KG community for, as you say, a long time, eight years. And you've held a number of different roles. You've contributed so much expertise and energy in a lot of different ways. And so I'm grateful for the good condition of the ship that you have sailed thus far and delighted to be taking over as skipper for the next part of the journey and looking forward to continuing with a lot of the initiatives that you have.

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So thank you from all of us for your time, that UKG and in the chair.

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Thank you, Johnny.

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And yes, and now has had a chance to see as part of the AGM. So and I'm sure they'll be seeing you again at the conference. So

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thank you. So we move on to the next slide now and it's time to announce the results of the elections for 2024 to 2025.

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And before I do that, yeah, I want to say that we were really pleased to have such a high number of candidates, really excellent candidates standing again this year. We made a couple of changes to our election process to make sure that we've got the Rep or that the trustees represent the membership of U KG. We really appreciate you putting ourselves forward and we know it takes a lot of thought and preparation in order to do that. So thank you. So, without any further ado

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though, I will announce our new trustees for next year and they are next slide please. Vicky,

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Maggie Vasconez from Cengage Learning and Jennifer Bajju from Manchester Metropolitan. So, thank you so much to everybody who's been elected on, everybody who took part. I'm delighted that Magali and Jennifer will be joining a strong board with Charlie at the helm to keep up the shipping analogy. Please don't be disappointed if you haven't been elected. There are loads of opportunities to get involved with UKG and contribute to our work.

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So if you could go to the next slide, please, Vicky.

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And now really all that's left to do is to look ahead to next year or this year. And in a couple of weeks' time we have our annual conference in the fantastic city of Glasgow. I hope everybody here has registered for that. The programme is really strong this year and we've made some smaller changes to the programme, to, for example, bringing in workshops, so that if you want to go into a topic in real depth, you have the opportunity to do that.

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And I want to give a big thank you to Josh Sendal and the Conference Planning Subcommittee for all the work that they have done for the conference.

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Other than that, we will be running our usual programme of events, podcast, Women Up webinars, keeping you updated via e-news and insights as well as moving forward with the recommendations from the Conference Review and the EDI Audit.

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Charlie or anything you wanted to add

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this point? No, you have just listed through everything I'd written down that I would have mentioned at this point. So we're on the same page or the same ship or whatever, whatever. Great. Thank you. And are there any questions or comments, Bev?

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No, not yet,

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not yet. OK. People need to get in quick. So we're about to, we're about to finish. So if we could go to the to the next slide, please,

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Vicky. And really that's all that's just to say thank you to all of you for attending today and for your support and engagement throughout the last year, whether that's as somebody who's attended an event, you've listened to a podcast reading or submitting to e-news or to Insights. Thank you for engaging with us. And thank you of course to our fantastic team, to Bev, Brian, Elaine, Vicky and Samira for the wonderful

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work that that you do and to all of our volunteers because you are what makes U kg special. Thank you. Bye, bye.

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