



The European Law Students' Association

UNITED KINGDOM

**Minutes of the National Council Meeting XV
ELSA UNITED KINGDOM**

Hosted by ELSA Aberdeen
28 – 30 October 2016

Saturday, 29th of October 2016

Opening of the National Council Meeting

Plenary opened at 9:40 am.

Welcome address and introduction of the National Board of ELSA UK 2016/2017:

President – Anastasia Kalinina (AK)

Secretary General – Nikki Hadjivasiliou (NH)

Treasurer – Vaggelis Stefanis (VS)

Vice President Academic Activities – Jessica Allen (JA)

Vice President Seminars & Conferences – Anastasiya Piazenko (AP)

Absent, presented:

Vice President STEP – Natalie Imani

Further acknowledgements (Council guests, OC and alumni), explanation of general procedure and running of the agenda.

Revision of the List of Voting Groups, Observers and Initiative Groups

Revision of the list of votes:

ELSA Aberdeen	Present and Voting
ELSA Exeter	Present (Observers)
ELSA Leicester	Present and Voting
ELSA Newcastle	Present (Yet to submit status report)
ELSA Nottingham	Present and Voting
ELSA Queen Mary	Present and Voting

Initiative groups in attendance:

Lancaster University

University of Stirling

University College London

AK Calling out for nominations for a Chair of the meeting. ELSA UK nominates Stephanie Efstathiou. Are there any other nominations? I see none. Anyone seconding the nomination put through by ELSA UK?

ELSA Leicester seconds the nomination.

AK Thank you, I pass the word to Stephanie.

Stephanie accepts the nomination and presents herself.

AK We proceed to the voting of the Chair.

Voting on the election of as the Chair of the NCM:

In Favour:	12
Against:	0
Abstentions:	0
Total amount of votes:	12

Stephanie elected unanimously as Chair for the running of the meeting.

AK I yield the floor to the Chair to proceed with the election of the other workshop officers.

Chair Nominations for Vice-Chair?

ELSA UK We would like to nominate Jacques Stivala of ELSA Exeter as Vice-Chair.

Chair Anyone seconding?

ELSA Leicester seconds the nomination.

Jacques accepts the nomination.

Voting on the election of the Vice-Chair of the NCM:

In Favour:	12
Against:	0
Abstentions:	0
Total amount of votes:	12

Jacques Stivala elected unanimously as Vice-Chair for the running of the meeting.

Chair Nominations for Secretaries?

ELSA Exeter We would like to nominate Mohammad Alzibdeh from ELSA Exeter.

Chair Anyone seconding?

ELSA Nottingham seconds the nomination.

Chair Other nominations?

ELSA Leicester We nominate Agathe Hanrot from ELSA Leicester.

Chair Anyone seconding?

ELSA Queen Mary seconds the nomination.

Chair Thank you. Before we vote could we check that it is alright with everyone to vote on both the secretaries at the same time?

General thumbs-up shown.

Chair Then we shall proceed.

Voting on the election of both nominated secretaries for the NCM:

In Favour:	12
Against:	0
Abstentions:	0
Total amount of votes:	12

Agathe Hanrot and Mohammad Alzibdeh are elected unanimously as secretaries for the meeting.

Chair Call for any amendments to the agenda.

ELSA UK We propose to move the national board position presentation slot from Sunday to Saturday 4 pm and have the Observership and Membership applications moved to Sunday

instead with the exception of ELSA Lancaster since they were unable to attend Sunday's meeting.

Chair Is this clear to everyone? Then we shall proceed with the voting.

Voting on the proposed changes to the agenda:

In Favour:	12
Against:	0
Abstentions:	0
Total amount of votes:	12

Proposed changes to the agenda passed unanimously.

Chair Are there any further proposals to amend the agenda?

ELSA UK We would like to change the start of the Area Workshops to 5 pm, thereby extending the time by 30 minutes.

Voting on the proposed changes to the agenda:

In Favour:	12
Against:	0
Abstentions:	0
Total amount of votes:	12

Proposed changes to the agenda passed unanimously.

Chair ELSA Newcastle has submitted their status report and is entitled to vote. ELSA Newcastle, please come and collect your voting cards. The total number of votes is now 15 with simple majority at 8 and 2/3 majority at 10.

We will now proceed with the nominations for the Directors for ELSA Spirit.

ELSA UK nominates Panayiotis from ELSA Exeter.

Chair Any group seconding?

ELSA Leicester seconds the nomination.

Panayiotis accepts the nomination.

Chair Any more nominations?

ELSA UK nominates James from ELSA Aberdeen.

Chair Seconding?

ELSA Queen Mary seconds the nomination.

James accepts the nomination.

Chair Is it alright with everyone if we vote on both at the same time?

General thumbs-up shown.

Voting on the elections for the Directors for ELSA Spirit of the NCM:

In Favour:	15
Against:	0
Abstentions:	0
Total amount of votes:	15

Panayiotis Papakyprianou and James Kroustallis elected unanimously as Directors for Spirits for the meeting.

Chair Before the break, we have time for OC announcements, I pass the floor to Vaggelis Stefanis.

OC Welcoming and announcements:

- Announcement 1: Tomorrow we start at 9:15 am at the Senate Room, indications to that are on the Facebook group. Please be prompt.
- Announcement 2: Extending the deadline for the spring NCM host nomination to Sunday morning.

Chair Any further questions? None noted, we will go onto the break now.

Break from 10:46 am to 11:26 am.

General ELSA Information Session

ELSA UK President (AK)

- Welcoming everyone
- Presentation of ELSA generally; its functions and structure
- ELSA's history, celebrating 35 years this year, founded by 5 students from different jurisdictions intended to break barriers and turn the association into what it is today across the continent - presently the world's largest law students' association
- Patron: Mr Thorbjorn Jagland – Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- Vision: A just world in which there is respect for human dignity and cultural diversity
- Purpose: To contribute to legal education, to foster mutual understanding and to promote social responsibility of law students and young lawyers.

- Not only raising awareness for students to contribute to their skills but to extend their skills and possible opportunities.
- Aims:
 - Legal Education
 - International Exchange: NCMs are linking ourselves to the international network. Even if this is only the NCM, it is a way to get idea of how ELSA operates at all levels, including the local one and more broadly.
 - Soft skills training
- ELSA is providing multilateral and international opportunities, including collaborations for programs and activities.
 - Example given: STEP, Delegations, SELS, ELSA Day Webinar
- ELSA International: 43 countries, 375 law faculties, 50,000 student members and introduction to current members of the International Board.
 - Headquartered in the ELSA House in Brussels and partnered with several firms, companies and other associations with examples.
- ELSA UK is the middle ground between the international team and the local groups. We are currently the fourth largest network by count of local groups and with a potential to grow by the end of this NCM.
- The association goes beyond just the European Union: there is often a misunderstanding amongst members that ELSA is about EU law or just for EU students, please note this and remember when promoting the association locally.
- How to know more about the Association:
 - elsa.org;
 - officers.elsa.org; for guidance in particular areas (handbooks, guidelines, further specific information)
 - elsa-uk.org;
 - Synergy magazine
 - The Synergy is produced bi-annually with academics, alumni, and the students contributing to it
 - General marketing packages produced by ELSA International which are disseminated to each member and observer group
 - Let ELSA UK know if any group does not receive any of these
 - Recommending for ELSA Local Groups to look at each other's websites for possible collaborations with other groups, updates from ELSA International, ELSA UK and the whole network
- Further examples of international events
 - SELS Youtube video on ELSA Vienna Law school on Dispute Resolution
 - Encouragement to put on international events
 - International Focus Programme

- Focus on a specific area of law for three years at a time
- Previously Media Law
 - From this year: Environmental Law
 - IFP Week introduced from this year as well 2-9 April; purpose it is to highlight key activities across the network and what ELSA plans on doing in the future within this are
- Explanation of Key vs Supporting Areas
 - Key areas
 - Academic activities
 - Moot court competitions
 - Seminars & conferences
 - STEP
 - Supporting areas:
 - Board management, external relations, expansion = President
 - Financial management = Treasurer
 - Internal management = Secretary General
 - Marketing
- Council meetings: mandatory statutory meetings – bringing the officers of the network together, international decision-making, state of the network, training, experience-exchange, inspiration for ideas etc.

Chair Any questions?

ELSA Lancaster How can local groups mention ideas to ELSA UK?

AK There is a time slot in the agenda for local group updates later today to give you the change to share your ideas with the network. For the rest of the time, please share them with us directly by contacting the respective ELSA officer on the national level.

- Upcoming International Events 2016/2016
 - IBA-ELSA Conferences – 11th – 13th Nov (International Courts and Tribunals, London, UK)
 - ELSA day – 30th Nov (Migration Law – across the network)
 - Christmas Cocktail – 10th Dec (ELSA House, Brussels, Belgium)
 - ICM Prague: 26th March – 2nd April (statutory meeting held bi-annually – more information on how to apply to come)
 - IFP Week: 2nd - 9th April (International Focus Programme on environmental law – across the network)

AK Don't be afraid to ask any questions or to ask for explanations, especially if struggling to keep with terms or abbreviations. We are here for all this. Please feel free also to contact Nikki,

the Secretary General, with any questions throughout the year.

NH When emailing one of the ELSA UK board members, try to use the correct names because there have been issues with our Google+ name changes and we are appearing with the names of the previous holders' names. We are trying to resolve the problem at the moment.

AP Please also join the S&C National Facebook group to get all the most updated information within the area and have informal conversations as well check your emails.

Chair Call for questions. I see none; we will then proceed with the next session.

International Update

ELSA UK President (AK)

- NCM Working Materials
- International update:
 - ELSA UK sent a delegation of 8 people to the ICM in Porto; We will present the proposals that went through, the ones that didn't, and any changes in the statutes alongside the minutes once they are out
 - AK lists statutes voted in at ICM Malta

ELSA Exeter How and when will we get any notification for any changes made in regulations?

AK You will receive an email with a summary from each area since we had almost all areas covered at the workshops. This will come alongside the minutes when they come out. Also the respective national officers are informed of all the new changes and their significance so for further details and questions, please contact them.

ELSA Exeter As a follow-up question, will it be possible to ask through social media for feedback on Local Group Constitutions?

NH We can discuss this during the break.

Changes listed in brief:

- Basic overview
- Revision of the Statutes and Standing Orders of ELSA International
- Market research eliminated
- ELSA Law School Fee Increase & Administrative Fee
- Quality of trainings: not passed
- ICM changes & ICM Autumn 2016, ICM Spring 2017 hosts
- Network Support Inquiry and Network Support Report eliminated
- ELSA House Procurement

- FM (Budget Revision 2016/2017, quality management, EDF changes, allowance>remuneration)
- STEP: Number of proposal most significant of which to the UK include data protection, the question of paid vs unpaid traineeships with agreement that we can have unpaid exceptionally and finally the fact that provider can also include

ELSA UCL How was the consensus reached about not covering expenses?

AK I was not present in the discussion itself and can only say what Natalie, who was attending the workshop, has raised in reporting time. As far as I know the discussion surrounded the question of whether this would mean having less traineeships in general, particularly in certain countries.

JA Key here is the distinction made between opportunities that could not be available otherwise, that is if a firm cannot have the opportunity to pay but is otherwise willing to offer the traineeship. It is a difficult balance to strike but necessary in order to have more chances available.

AK Similar reasoning came into play with the fee increase with ELSA Law Schools. We are ultimately all aiming to increase the number of opportunities available across the network through our flagship projects.

ELSA Leicester Did STEP discussion at the ICM cover the fact that there are currently more traineeships accessible for postgraduate students than for undergraduate students?

AK I believe yes but for the full account on this please either contact Natalie or refer to the minutes.

JA I would say that this is not an issue because there is enough variety on both levels.

NH This has been discussed also a lot in previous years. I believe the problem may lie in that law is a competitive field and some employers will always prefer postgraduates, so it is not an issue on the part of the officers but rather in the requests of the employers.

ELSA Exeter Can we create a STEP programme out of something local to the university's activity?

AK Clarification - you mean provided from the faculty? Yes, academic traineeships are now considered included.

- Final discussion is on the topic of ELSA as a non-political organisation.

This was heavily debated in Malta where the question lay as to whether to change our status description from 'non-political' to 'non-partisan'. Even though the change was voted against in Malta, this was raised again in Porto.

The argument is as to the fact that our activities often verge on the political and also whether we should have a say in any way in major political affair, such as releasing

statements in regards to what goes against our principles. This includes those of human rights which were argued to be an example of a political stance.

The national group has been vocally against this for a number of reasons. We would want to hear your views. Firstly, the issue of representation to externals and students and how this change will affect how we will be perceived to these as well what the aims of the association appear to be. This could result in a major shift in the nature of the organisation, but most importantly it is not taking into account that we are student organisation, working towards increasing legal education of members and in order to have the platform to educate and encourage critical debate one would have to take into account these inevitably overlapping areas, however, doing so for the purposes of academia or professional development need not include political activity itself.

VS Some event topic, especially in the UK right now, may be more politic in nature than others but it is also true that they cannot be ignored by us, it is often a very good learning experience. What you can do to eliminate any potential issues is to avoid advocating for either side and instead created a balanced discussion with several speakers, for example, as part of a panel discussion.

JA This may arise with ELSA Day as the topic this year is migration law and we have received some questions about this. We do have to be careful but also remember that when a speaker expresses an opinion that does not translate immediately to our opinion on the matter as an organisation. Further, what usually happens is simply an assessment of a situation, such as stating facts, the law on the matter, etc which is permissible.

AK If you do have any doubts at any point about what you can, please email ELSA UK and we'll help with how to make it work. I pass the word to the other nationals to complete.

JA With regards to the EHRMCC, please be reminded that you can have more than one team registered from one faculty but that only one can go through to the oral rounds. Also there has been some discussion on the IFP week being in April and potentially moving it due to the different circumstances of each country; it is not as strict as ELSA Day but we will give further ideas on our part.

Chair Any general questions to be raised with regards to international matters?

ELSA Queen Mary With regards to the moot courts, should participants have to be law students?

JA Will double check to be sure but there is nothing to show in the rules that you have to be a law student – maybe presumption that law students capable to do mooting

Chair I will ask that we proceed with the next point in the agenda as we have overran. Please raise any remaining questions with the National Board during the Miscellaneous.

National Updates

ELSA UK

INTERNAL MANAGEMENT - Secretary General (Nikki Hadjivasiliou, NH)

- Internal Management is very administrative, especially this year, so a lot of focus given to communication with local groups and providing support
- Additional focus given by ELSA International is trainings so I am working to promote this
- Updates and plans will be included in detail in my workshop and these include:
 - Online calendar: have a calendar which all LGs can have access to with their events (bring LGs closer) - IT-permitting will be launched end of November
 - Newsletter: once a semester – brochure (2-3 pages) with what every key area has been doing – launched end of November/December
 - Coaching system: depend on LGs – each member of NB would be allocated a LG to support
 - Online discussion forum – ask questions, other people will be able to answer: to avoid people always asking the same question – will be launched in second term

I also encourage you to share any possible improvements or ideas with me, simply get in touch via email and we can discuss further.

ELSA Exeter Will SGs of Local Groups have a Facebook group?

NH This was not used last year and will be discussed during the workshop to hear feedback.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES - Vice President Academic Activities (Jessica Allen, JA)

- A lot of collaborative and concrete plans, especially with ELSA Ireland
- National essay competition with Amicus and ELSA Ireland (more in the workshop) – deadline 9th December – start from next week to send info to LGs on how to promote this
- European Law Review with ELSA Ireland – new platform for publications – focusing on EU law but also other areas – discussing whether this should be opened to non-ELSA members still going on
- Might be opening to new editorial board members and also looking for national coordinator for the legal research group
- A number of appointments, crucially a director for moot court competitions
- Working with ELSA Ireland to establish a linguistic editor pool – organise legal research groups with different countries – way to help this – (UK = English speaking country)
- Legal Research Groups will be focused on on the international level

SEMINARS & CONFERENCES - Vice President Seminars & Conferences (Anastasija Piazenko, AP)

- Starting from 0 due to resignations in previous years
- Create a system to work with the other S&C – collect all the contact details
- Delegations – call in the end of September, not very popular because of the time – next call will be more promoted
- Appointment of Director
- ELSA day: price for the best ELSA Day,
- IFP and focusing on how to practically organise and engage all groups
- Study visits: set a map/system to help LGs with study visits because currently not clear

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT - Treasurer (Vaggelis Stefanis, VS)

- Problems - membership fees of some LGs not paying from last year – trying to reach all for these
- New invoices imminent
- Expenditures and incomes currently recorded in excel forms
- Training will cover transparency, balancing budget, creative fundraising, relationship and monetary opportunities with students' unions

BOARD MANAGEMENT, EXTERNAL RELATIONS, EXPANSION - President (Anastasia Kalinina, AK)

- Group initially in need of a lot of administrative matters creating backlog
- Board management first issue was the resignation of the marketing position before our term in office started and having the position be vacant through the start of the year and despite recruitment; specific work (IT, graphic design) was outsourced and the rest covered as much as possible
- Board-related also establishing of good communication between team members
- Approaching partners and changing the structure with a view to include partners in the areas required by the group: IFP, human rights, conference, language and others such as transport and accommodation
- Currently working on starting something new with former partners; PILnet conference opportunity with pro bono
- Expansion is a massive topic: there is a lot of rapid expansion (currently at 15 group with a change to increase by the end of this NCM); we are looking into the practicalities as well as rising issues with this - we wish to expand but we are also careful to do so at the speed of balance because this is starting to cause issues of workload
- Besides supporting new and existing groups to become active and involved, also working towards creating a system for the future that would enable there to be quality expansion

NH On that note, I have been in touch with local groups' Student Unions to make sure that they are affiliated, abiding by regulations and active.

Chair I will now open the speaker's list for the questions, please raise your cards.

ELSA UCL Question to NH on the overview of the network, it is not clear what the network is in London. Is the information not updated on the website?

NH The information that we have is on there, but as for regional activities, the newsletter will be a good way of keeping up with these.

AK We confirm that the information currently available on the website is accurate.

NH If it is not updated with respect to local groups then this means they did not provide this information to us. The issue with that also often lies in the fact that groups do not comply with the Local Group Handbook which outlines the format needed for ELSA emails, instead they use their personal emails which we cannot publicise on the website as a form of contact so until they make these and share them we cannot make them available.

Chair Call for final questions. I see none. We will proceed to announcements, an energiser and lunch break.

Lunch break from 1:26 pm to 3:20 pm.

Local Group Updates

ELSA ABERDEEN:

- Explained how they funded the NCM
- No major difficulties
- Funding from law school – very helpful
- Planning a trip to London, more conferences and activities to plan

ELSA LEICESTER

- Joint socials
- ELSA Day
- S&C about environmental law
- Legal weeks (informal discussions)
- Documentary day
- Joint debating competition
- ELSA Barcelona – Study Visit
 - An academic program
 - Parliament and supreme court

- Social events with their local group

ELSA NOTTINGHAM

- Refugee Project in LG:
 - She has been to the International summer law school in Croatia about the migration crisis/refugee crisis
 - They wanted to help individuals do something to help on a local level: created a team of 10: sending refugees and migrants to NGOs and refugee help – this project seeks to expand the team’s knowledge and raise awareness on the local level
- ELSA Day
- Panel discussions (with amnesty...): speakers to stimulate the discussions over these crises
- Law firm – partnership for Immigration Law
- Study visit to Vienna in April
 - Looking at options about law school

ELSA QUEEN MARY

- Just set up the committee (a week and a half previously) - starting now with their plans
- Mooting team formed
- ELSA Day with AA, S&C
- Stall on campus to market the ELSA Day
- Trying to engage more postgraduates who are in another campus

ELSA NEWCASTLE

- 25 members
- Socials planned, social page quite active = networking
- Networking event with international firms
- Pop quiz to raise money
- Trips to European cities (London, Paris..)

Chair The rest of the present groups will present their activities during their application presentations. Now call for questions - none noted. We proceed with presentation of ELSA Lancaster for observership.

The Observership Application of ELSA Lancaster and the Presentation of Candidate for Position of Vice President for Marketing

AK and NH present the voting procedures.

Chair First, ELSA Lancaster’s presentation for observership.

Presentation of ELSA Lancaster for observership status.

Chair Questions?

ELSA Nottingham What are your plans for ELSA Day.

ELSA Lancaster We will be organising a lecture talk on the topic of migration.

Chair Any more questions? Thank you ELSA Lancaster. We will now proceed with the application for the position of VP Marketing for the National Board of ELSA UK 2016/2017. The same presentation and questions procedure applies.

Ethan Dodd, candidate for VP Marketing, gives presentation.

Chair Any questions - I see none. Thank you Ethan. We will proceed with the revision of the list of votes and voting.

Chair shows box for voting and seals it.

Revision of the list of votes:

ELSA Aberdeen	Present and Voting
ELSA Exeter	Present
ELSA Leicester	Present and Voting
ELSA Newcastle	Present and Voting
ELSA Nottingham	Present and Voting
ELSA Queen Mary	Present and Voting

Casting and counting of the votes follows.

Energiser break follows.

Chair Announcement of the voting results. There was one invalid ballot sheet so the total amount of votes is 14.

Voting on the observership status of ELSA Lancaster:

In Favour:	14
Against:	0

Abstentions: 0
Total amount of votes: 14

ELSA Lancaster is unanimously voted in as observer of ELSA UK.

Election of Ethan Dodd as VP Marketing of ELSA UK 2016/2017:

In Favour: 14
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0
Total amount of votes: 14

Ethan Dodd is unanimously elected as VP Marketing of ELSA UK 2016/2017.

Chair Congratulations to both being unanimously elected. Now I pass the floor to the OC for announcements and explanation on the different area workshop distribution and locations.

Area Workshops (5:00 - 6:00 pm)

ELSA UK

Alumni Presentation (6:00 - 7:00 pm)

Andy Unger

Founder member of ELSA England & Wales, now ELSA UK; First President of ELS

Plenary closed at 7:10 pm.

Sunday, 30th of October 2016

Opening of the National Council Meeting

Plenary opened by Chair at 9:45 am.

Energiser start.

Vice-Chair Welcome and run-through the agenda. Can we have clarity on the situation with the NCM Host applications?

NH There is still time to apply. We are currently experiencing some technical issues with receiving the applications so please indicate if you have already applied or intend to before the deadline.

ELSA UCL, ELSA Westminster and ELSA Queen Mary raise intention to apply.

NH According to our Statutes (s 10.3.1), only Observer and Member groups can host an NCM so I take it this means ELSA Westminster and ELSA Queen Mary are applying. Are these local groups happy to proceed as such?

ELSA Westminster and ELSA Queen Mary agree.

NH Please send me the NCM host application form. Besides this, we also have ELSA Newcastle.

Vice-Chair We will then proceed with the remaining presentations. I call upon ELSA UCL and then ELSA Stirling for observership presentations. These will be followed by ELSA Exeter's presentation on full membership.

Applications for Observership & Membership Status

Vice-Chair I give floor to ELSA Stirling to start.

Presentation of ELSA Stirling for observership status.

Vice-Chair Opening questions for Council.

ELSA Exeter How did the Students' Union reply to their plan? And what status with law school?

ELSA Stirling They received our constitution, really supportive, approached already by academics within the law school for the events.

ELSA Leicester How will you be able to fund and prepare for attending the next NCM?

ELSA Stirling Grant funding should cover the expenses.

Vice-Chair Any more questions? I see none. Thank you, we proceed with ELSA UCL's presentation.

Presentation of ELSA UCL for observership status.

Vice-Chair Before we proceed to questions, I give floor to ELSA UK.

ELSA UK We would like to inform Council that, following the ICM of last week, we were informed about a member of the ELSA UCL board; namely Claus Gawel, and his previous involvement in ELSA from various sources within the network. Formerly of ELSA Austria, three years ago as VP STEP, there were allegedly internal issues within the national board that resulted in all the other members of the team resigning and an arbitration followed. Last year, part of the delegations team of ELSA International there were further issues with the end of term of office for the position. As a National Board, we were informed about this just recently and debated heavily on whether to present it or not, but we felt it was necessary to make sure Council was making an informed choice knowing information in full. We wish to propose to extend the Q&A time in order to allow for Claus to explain further what happened and have the opportunity to answer all questions thoroughly. To be clear, the National Board has encountered no issues with ELSA UCL as an initiative group or with Claus personally and we are not in any way showing or inciting any opinion as to the matter. We are sharing this simply to be upfront and inform groups with what factual information we currently hold. We leave Council, as the supreme decision-making body, to ask questions, make any decisions or draw conclusions as appropriate.

Vice-Chair Opening now the floor for the Q&A session.

ELSA Nottingham Did the members and/or your committee know about this and what exactly happened?

Claus Gawel No, I thought this was in the past and didn't feel the need to discuss this with the current board of UCL, you may find they are surprised to hear this now. What happened was that the then president of ELSA Austria had a very particular style of management. There were issues that occurred, he somehow got the board on his side and tried to get Council to vote me out. There were three rounds of voting, Council was on my side. They understood that these were just games. This became worse when the rest of the national board members threatened the Council saying that otherwise they will all step down. At this point I said that this is too much and that I stepped down myself. It was a ridiculous affair and I am very surprised that the

UK board brings this up without knowing the full story. I appreciate being given the chance to explain myself but in ELSA I just found that there are times when you simply cannot get along with certain people. This is the reality of the situation. I suspect this has to do with some kind of power play between Robert Vierling and the president of the ELSA Austria board of the time, Rainhard Fuchs. This often is the case unfortunately in ELSA and this is a shame because it drives a lot of motivation out of the work. In our term in Austria a lot of people got very tired of this kind of power play as well. I do not understand why Robert felt he had to inform the UK board now about this. There are minutes from that NCM in Austria so if anyone wants to view these they are free to do so. Otherwise I do not know what to say.

ELSA Exeter You mentioned you knew Council was on your side, how did you know this?

Claus There were three rounds of voting and then in the arbitration I won. We did a lot of good things in our term, I am not saying it was not a good year, in my area we secured traineeships and there was other general success, but there was also this strict leadership approach throughout. After these three rounds of voting to try to remove me from the board the Council just felt that it is a question of just getting along with one another. So it was a personal thing and I am still very sad it unfolded this way. When all the board threatened to step down this marked chaos and really affected our national network.

ELSA Leicester How do you plan on dealing with similar situations in the future?

Claus My background in leadership is not only from the managerial side through a lot of programmes but I also had a position as an officer in the German military so I am happy to say that I know how to lead people and have done this since I was fourteen in a youth council. The single most important thing, as you may have already experienced, is that when things get tense there is no willingness to even have an open dialogue and I have noticed this.

ELSA Queen Mary Even if we assume these were just personal issues, even though they involved the resignation of the whole of the national board, then why did you choose not notify you new board of this information?

Claus For me in the end having all that support was a purist victory, but in the end nobody won, even though I won the arbitration because there the issue with the president was presented clearly as a personal issue. The president managed to emotionalise the rest of the board which is a good skill however it proved to be destructive and the Council at the NCM saw that and did not want to believe it so there were three rounds of voting. I do not need this for myself but what was surprising to me that they decided to pressure the network. Now it's better in Austria but even in the year before that people in ELSA Austria were still demotivated. Even though in the end he won because I resigned, nobody won. For me the reason why I did not bring this up is because I thought the people involved in this were no longer in ELSA but then I saw that Rainhard was at the ICM and maybe he brought it up there.

Vice-Chair We need to open up a speaker's list. Please raise your cards to be noted.

Chair Also just as a matter of proper procedure, could you please give the chance for the secretaries to have the time to take down everything and remember to speak up. Thank you, please proceed.

ELSA Exeter Just to clarify - you won the vote?

Claus Yes I won back the voting rights, the three rounds of voting and the arbitration after.

ELSA Nottingham Follow-up question to my first one, knowing what you know now would you feel better going back to your board and discussing amongst yourselves before any voting takes place. Just because from my personal experience on various committees, this is obviously a very difficult situation to be placed in. Would you feel more comfortable discussing this first or are you confident with your leadership at the moment?

Johanna So far working with Claus has unveiled no issues, this is surprising to hear but I understand it is something that happened in the past and I am sure we could go forward with this.

Niccolò Same here, no concerns. So far has helped us a lot with his knowledge of ELSA.

Alexander I also support this, I have known Claus now four weeks which I know may not be a lot but what from what I do know about him I do not think that this will affect my trust in Claus or our work in the future together.

ELSA Aberdeen Two points: firstly, shouldn't the members be law students? I am not familiar with the Constitution so I am just asking. Secondly, if admitted into the network how would it be certain that a similar situation would not arise again in yourself challenging the hierarchy.

Claus As to the first question, the Union at UCL has policy about being inclusive when it comes to societies, I checked it with the responsible person. We have a constitution also that is reflective of that inclusiveness, even though we are involved in or have a background in law we want to extend that. As to the second question, I am never looking for a fight. I was head boy in my high school and always working in groups and this was the only single time I had in a team. It was also the only time that the issue re-escalated in the same team. This was a very unfair decision to remove me, if I had realised earlier that this leadership is not something I want I would have left before. I really underestimated the repercussions that would follow, if I were to say whether it was worth it, I would say no. Knowing also now that Rainhard was at the ICM and spreading these things and influencing the national board here I did not expect something like this. If I knew this would happen I would have been more careful with board management.

I am inclusive and will always want to have an open discussion and decisions that include everyone. I hope I answered your question.

Vice-Chair Just before we continue there is a comment by ELSA UK.

NH Just to quickly say that the ELSA UK Statutes are silent on the matter with non-law students being part of a local board, there are groups who include these.

ELSA Leicester Why was this brought up now?

Claus There is always this kind of power play happening. Last year I was part of the Delegations team in ELSA. That was a very good experience, the last ICM I attended was the last one in Malta in March. I was there as part of the Delegations team and we had a great time. I could not make it to Porto, but I have seen photos and clearly Rainhard was there and if you want to set fire to something you can do it just like that by talking around to people. I know that Rainhard is close with Robert, the current IB President and I would not be surprised that this is how it all happened. I know that Robert knows about what had previously happened because he was joking with me about this in Malta. I suppose now it is to be brought up again to hurt, confuse, create mistrust and difficulties for us. This is why I am sad to see this brought up again to this Council.

Vice-Chair repeats finger rules and priority of speaking.

ELSA Queen Mary The situation is obviously very vague, but let's assume it was done for transparency issues, how would you ensure transparency going forward?

Claus I am happy to share the NCM minutes from that time to make clear what I recounted here. This situation in Austria made me understand that even if you are on the right side, it may not be even worth fighting for it. I would avoid making something like this happening again and will be sensitive to board management issues. This current board does not know that there were also good things that happened then, but I will not brag about this now, but I realised that a single thing can overshadow all of that. This is human psychology I suppose.

ELSA Aberdeen I see that you are mostly postgraduates on your team. Is there any interest from the other students from UCL to get involved in ELSA?

Alexander I am myself an undergrad and will work to reach out to my peers once we get going.

Claus When we needed the thirty signatures to apply to our Union, we were surprised to see how easy it was. There was a lot of interest from different levels and across faculties because of the scale of opportunities on offer through ELSA. Policy and economic issues are also covered

through these, especially with delegations, those going beyond law. You can make very good connections through these and so we can definitely appeal to undergraduates of various areas.

ELSA Exeter In our experience, we also easily got 58 signatures to set up our group last year but when it finally came to payment most of them didn't follow through. How would you deal with this if the same happens?

Claus I was thinking this with the marketer, but it may prove to be successful because of the potential that this may have for someone's future and life. They may not follow through with payment, but there will always be interest from others. ELSA offers a lot in addition to delegations. Through further marketing we can definitely convince people that this is worthwhile to be part of. I come from a very established group with a strong membership basis, frequent socials and other events. I know all that a group can offer so although I cannot make promises, I know all the potential things that can work out.

ELSA Leicester What about the other members in your board who are not present here, will you discuss this further with them?

Claus Yes we will have to discuss this. I still consider it to be strange to be brought up by a board who is uninformed about this. I just think there is someone who holds a grudge still and wants to give damage personally to me.

Johanna We will talk to others, but from how we worked with each other previously, I am quite sure that the rest will support Claus, a couple of them know Claus personally for many years.

ELSA Westminster How do you plan to prevent any damage to ELSA UCL's work or reputation after this?

Claus The procedural matter is that if we get observership then I would ask the NB talk to the IB and see what happened. I would like full transparency. This is the third time I am being asked about preventing it in the future, sometimes, there are situations in which you do not have a say and it may also be another person's fault. I cannot guarantee you anything, there are several factors that come into play. I understood a lot about board management through all these experiences. There are always going to be people who bring up personal problems through things like arbitrations, voting and spreading rumours.

ELSA Nottingham I have question about funding, do you have any?

Niccolò We have submitted the documents to the Union, we are awaiting for the answer very soon. We will start with trying to receive grant funding from it. We already have a bank account though and we will just after transfer the money.

ELSA Exeter Let's assume that other groups in the network find out about that, how do you think this is going to affect you? This is for the rest of the board.

Alexander I am new to UCL and I am very new to this. If this is an association that focusing on these kinds of things then I am not sure I want to be part of it. I would not want someone's past to be a factor to play like this.

Niccolò Just to mention again, we did not know all this beforehand so we will discuss it between each other as well. Though we stand by him, I think all of us and the rest of the guys would also want to find out exactly what happened and read the minutes.

Vice-Chair Officially closing Q&A time and passing the floor to ELSA UK.

AK Just to note a few things - firstly, the reason why this was raised is because it is, in our view, our duty to present such information. If there was an issue in one part of the network then it is natural that it is raised again, although in a different national network, in a different Council, because we are part of one larger organisation and all working with the same people. I appreciate that for most of ELSA UCL here this is your first encounter with ELSA and my sincerest apologies about that. It is not intended to intimidate you or put you in a difficult position at all. Also with regards to why this was raised particularly now; this is because in this manner it can be presented to all, in one go to everyone at the same time in the most neutral and unbiased way alongside a Q&A session in the most fair and professional way. This was the reason behind the timing and the way it was raised. Another important factor - there were no names named on the part of ELSA UK as to who gave this information and we cannot and will not reveal this. The only thing we can say is that it came from multiple sources. I remind everyone that we are the National Board, just like with any other application, we remain neutral on this and do not have a say in the decision-making. You, as the local groups, hold this decision-making right as the Council, we are simply making sure that that decision is an informed one. This is not intended to swing the vote one way or another, especially because expansion to the network is always welcomed. We will support ELSA UCL no matter what happens, but considering the situation, if admitted, we will have to apply extra scrutiny to the group as thereafter it will be up to the discretion of the national board to evaluate the matter further.

Chair Now we will proceed with the agenda, specifically with the presentation of ELSA Exeter for membership status.

ELSA Exeter gives membership application presentation.

Chair Any questions for ELSA Exeter? I see none. We are now overrunning with the time on the agenda, so we need to proceed with the the NCM host presentation without a break. We can have a quick energiser instead.

Applications for Host of NCM Spring 2017

ELSA Westminster and ELSA Queen Mary gives presentation.

Vice-Chair Call for questions, I see none. We will proceed with the application of ELSA Newcastle which will have to be read out by the Secretary General as it was received by her as the group is absent having taken their train earlier today. I therefore give the floor to Nikki.

NH presents application of ELSA Newcastle.

Vice-Chair We will now proceed with voting for all, that is, observership and membership applications as well as the NCM host. I give the floor to ELSA UK to present again the voting procedure and the explain the ballot sheets.

AK and NH explain voting procedure.

Revision of the list of votes:

ELSA Aberdeen	Present and Voting
ELSA Exeter	Present
ELSA Leicester	Present and Voting
ELSA Newcastle	Present and Voting
ELSA Nottingham	Present and Voting
ELSA Queen Mary	Present and Voting

Vice-Chair grants 10 minutes deliberation time.

Vice-Chair shows that the box is empty and seals it.

Announcement of the Results of Voting

Voting on the observership status of ELSA Stirling:

In Favour:	12
Against:	0
Abstentions:	0
Total amount of votes:	12

ELSA Stirling is unanimously voted in as observer of ELSA UK.

Voting on the membership status of ELSA Exeter:

In Favour:	12
Against:	0
Abstentions:	0
Total amount of votes:	12

ELSA Exeter is unanimously voted in a full member of ELSA UK.

Voting on the NCM Spring 2017 Host:

ELSA Westminster & ELSA Queen Mary	7
ELSA Newcastle:	5
Total amount of votes:	12

Voting on the NCM Host inconclusive as majority had not been reached.

Voting on the observership status of ELSA UCL:

In Favour:	6
Against:	3
Abstentions:	3
Total amount of votes:	12

Voting on observership status of ELSA UCL inconclusive as majority had not been reached.

Vice-Chair ELSA UCL and NCM Spring Host has been inconclusive. We need to take a short break to prepare new ballot sheet and vote again.

Break from 12:30 pm and 12:45 pm.

ELSA Leicester in leaving submits proxy via ELSA Nottingham.

Vice-Chair We proceed to the second round of voting now. You have had time to discuss during the short break so we expect you to cast the vote immediately in the interests of time. We will call out the groups to collect ballot sheets and immediately after will call out all again to come and cast the vote so please be prompt. If all clear we continue with the revision of the list and the casting of votes.

Revision of the list of votes:

ELSA Aberdeen	Present and Voting
ELSA Exeter	Present
ELSA Leicester	Represented by Proxy and Voting

ELSA Newcastle	Present and Voting
ELSA Nottingham	Present and Voting
ELSA Queen Mary	Present and Voting

Casting and counting of the votes follows.

Announcement of the Results of Voting

Voting on ELSA Westminster & ELSA Queen Mary as NCM Spring 2017 Host:

In Favour:	9
Against:	3
Abstentions:	0
Total amount of votes:	12

ELSA Westminster and ELSA Queen Mary voted in as co-hosts of the NCM Spring 2017.

Voting on the observership status of ELSA UCL:

In Favour:	5
Against:	4
Abstentions:	3
Total amount of votes:	12

ELSA UCL is not voted into observership status.

Chair There was actually a mistake made in voting again for ELSA UCL, the necessary minimum $\frac{2}{3}$ majority was not obtained from the the first round so there was no need for a second round of voting. ELSA UCL has not been voted into observership. ELSA Westminster and ELSA Queen Mary have been voted in as the hosts of the next NCM, ELSA Stirling as an observer group and ELSA Exeter as a member group. Voting is now complete.

Vice-Chair We will now proceed with the agenda and the training to be delivered by Stephanie Efstathiou. I pass the floor over to her.

ELSA Training (1:10 to 1:45 pm)
Stephanie Efstathiou

Closing Words, Certificates and Thanks
ELSA UK and NCM OC

National Council Meeting officially closed at 13:59 pm.