

CEUC Chair's Annual Report General Assembly, June, 2021

Introduction

The last year has been a very strange one for us all, and that includes your Board. We have not met in person, and for a group of people who know the value of face-to-face meetings, that takes its toll. That said, it is remarkable how easy it is to be sitting here in my kitchen chatting to my wonderful Hungarian, Finnish, German, Danish and Dutch Board member friends! Perhaps I need to appreciate what I have instead of moaning about what I've lost.

Board Meetings

Over the last year, the Board met 8 times on Zoom. The main work includes:

- i) Setting up a website working group – this group will oversee the revisions and updating of the somewhat tired-looking CEUC website
- ii) Seeking a venue for our next Conference in 2023 – we had conversations with a Norwegian team hoping to host in 2021 but owing to the repeated postponements have now given up their hopes to host anytime soon. A Finnish team are now keen to host in 2023.
- iii) Finances and Budget for 2021-22 – see relevant accounts from Risto
- iv) Writing a draft proposal for a Professional Career Development Grant for CEUC members – the Board hopes to circulate this later in the year
- v) Ongoing support for the CEUC's 20th Anniversary Book Project
- vi) Debating issues around membership, associate membership, fees, etc.

What is notable by its absence is the IACHE conference. The Board were gutted that, as with the 2020 Sheffield conference, the 2021 conference had to be postponed again. We hope and pray that the increase in vaccination take-up ensures we can meet 'for real' in Sheffield next June!

Personal Comments

I am honoured to Chair this fantastic organisation. The diversity of people and the vast variety of ways we all seek to support our staff and students inspires me. Never again will I utter the words, "A University Chaplain will always..." It's this rich diversity which keeps us all engaged, active and amused!

Many of you will know by now that my wife Hazel has accepted a new job at the University of Leeds. Both of us, along with our 11-year-old son Fraser will move to Leeds at some point over the summer. It is a crazy outcome of the pandemic, but for the time being, I will continue in my role at the University of Aberdeen. Remote working has its upsides! But as with any move, neither my wife nor I know how things will progress as we bed-in in Leeds. It is, after all, a vibrant city with four universities! We shall see...

Rev David Hutchison, Chair, 31st May, 2021