

ICED Council Meeting / AGM, 20th August 2020

President's Report

The initial part of this President's report serves as a summary of the activities of ICED for the year between the 2019 and 2020 Council meetings. It differs from the Annual Report that is required under the UK Charities legislation (included in the meeting agenda) which is based on the calendar year 2019. I hope this is useful for ongoing network representatives and as an additional source of information for new network representatives about the work of ICED and the Board in particular.

The past year has again been busy compounded by the significant interruption of the pandemic in the second half of the year. This has affected all member networks and their individual members. This has a flow-on effect for the Board and Council with members required to focus heavily on the changing circumstances in teaching and learning and academic development in their institutions and workplaces and their own networks. The Board also recognises the need for members to focus on individual and family health and well-being and the effect that these priorities have on voluntary professional affiliations.

The 2019 Council meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland in June was a great success with good attendance from Network representatives. Thanks to Guðrún Geirsdóttir and her team from the University of Iceland for hosting us. Following the two-day meeting, two half-day symposia were held to support academic developers and academics in Iceland (and Council members and observers in attendance) and to draw on the expertise of the Council members present in Reykjavik. The first symposium addressed "Academic development in a research-intensive university" with a keynote by Professor Chrissie Boughey from Rhodes University, South Africa together with contributions from Council members. The second symposium was "Publishing in higher education" presented by Kathryn Sutherland (New Zealand) and Johan Geertsema (Singapore), two of the co-editors of IJAD. My thanks to members of Council who stayed on in Reykjavik and contributed to both of these events. Our hosts were very engaged in the discussions and the events demonstrated ways in which ICED pursues its aim of contributing to the development of capacity for educational development in higher education and to advance education worldwide.

The biggest disruption for ICED for the past year due to the pandemic has been the cancellation of the ICED 2020 conference that was to be held in Zurich Switzerland in June. The decision to cancel was made after many discussions by the organising committee, the host institution, and the Board. It was made in an environment of great uncertainty and with the aim of minimising financial loss for both delegates and the host institution as well as providing clarity and certainty for all concerned. Little did we know at the time that the pandemic would be as serious as it continues to be. While with hindsight we all agree that the decision to cancel was a prudent one, we also recognise that not having the opportunity to meet face-to-face to share our scholarship, to network and enjoy the company of our colleagues from all over the world is deeply felt by both regular conference delegates and those who were looking forward to attending for the first time.

On behalf of the Board and Council I thank the organising committee for the many long hours of planning and preparation. Many of us know the work that goes into organising an international conference and to see it come to nought must be both disappointing and frustrating. The conference promised to be a great success with innovations introduced by the organising committee including the student ambassadors and virtual presentations. I hope that future conference organising committees consider these innovations.

The organising committee considered postponing until 2021 but after deliberations with SFDN (Swiss Faculty Development Network) and the host institution, the decision was made to not proceed. This

decision was supported by the Board. The opportunity for accepted presenters to publish their work in a local publication was most welcome and again we thank the committee for creating this opportunity and for the work involved in doing so. Also, I want to acknowledge and thank the IJAD co-editors who proceeded with an online writing retreat that was originally planned as a face-to-face three-day event in conjunction with the conference.

The biennial conference is one of the main sources of income for ICED. Without a conference this puts pressure on ICED finances. However, due to the policy of creating and maintaining a reserve “which is at least equal to the cost of two years of administration fees and the essential expenses required to support the effective organisation of two annual Council meetings” adopted in 2012, ICED should weather this period. While there is no conference income, expenses associated with Board expenses and travel grants will not be incurred which reduces the financial impact.

The Board has continued to meet during the year with an additional meeting held in July to maintain momentum and to discuss ways to continue the engagement of networks in the absence of the conference. The Board has addressed most of the action items from the 2019 Council meeting but progress has been hindered by the individual and institutional priorities of Board members. Incoming members of the Board participated as observers at the last meeting of the current Board in July.

Facilitating Board meetings continues to be a challenge with the span of time zones where members reside. For part of the year it spans 17 hours between Seattle, USA and Osaka, Japan and then from the eastern United States and Canada to New Zealand requiring early starts and late finishes for some Board members. We moved to Zoom meetings which provided a more stable platform for meetings. Meetings have been efficient although some items have taken considerable time for discussion. The Board has only so much capacity and the amount of work that gets referred to the Board means that some items do not get addressed or addressed fully. Also, some action items from the Council meeting are directed to Council members more broadly and members need to take initiative on these issues. Network representatives are encouraged to offer support in areas that go beyond the scope of Board work including communications and social media.

The Board is progressing two action items from the 2019 Council meeting. The first creating a place for ICED Special Interest Groups (a discussion paper will be presented at the AGM). The second is a consultation process on ways to have more inclusive representation on the Board through the rotational process of appointment of networks currently done on an alphabetical-by-network-name basis. The Board is beginning a review of the Memorandum of Association (MoA) and Policies and Procedures to ensure they are consistent with practice and operating in the special circumstances such as the current period. One special resolution will be presented to the AGM to make one amendment to the MoA.

Interest in ICED and the formation of new networks continues with discussions with colleagues in Portugal, Slovakia (and potentially Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic), Italy and Taiwan. Italy and Taiwan both have established networks and are working towards ICED membership. Enquiries have also come Turkey, Brazil and Qatar with individuals expressing interest in forming networks although these have not progressed.

This year brought a significant change to the structure of the Board with the creation of the position of President-elect. This change came about through discussions that started at the 2018 Council meeting. Council tasked the Elections Committee to come up with a proposal to reflect the wishes of Council members. The final proposal was endorsed at the 2019 Council meeting. The President-elect will serve one-year on the Board and then take up the ICED Presidency for two years. The rationale for this change was to provide more consistency on the Board and a smoother transition to the Presidency. The proposal required an extension of one year to my term as President. An election was held in November and Dr Kasturi Behari-Leak (HELTASA) was elected. Congratulations Kasturi and welcome to the ICED Board. I look forward to working with you over the next year.

At the end of April, Roz Grimmitt, the ICED administrator, started maternity leave for a year. Louise Loughlin has stepped into Roz's role and has ably supported the Board and Council for the past few months. Thanks to Roz for the thorough handover conducted in the difficult circumstances of the pandemic.

A summary of my activities as President follows.

- Chaired Board meetings in August, November, January, March, May, June and July.
- Preliminary discussions with David Green and Deandra Little on the developing the program for the (now cancelled) symposium on day 1 of the 2020 Council meeting.
- Liaising with Benno Volk and team on planning for the 2020 conference in Zurich with intensive discussions about the decision to cancel the conference and its implications.
- Liaising with Like Wang and team for the 2022 conference in Shanghai including themes and managing finances.
- Finalised appointment of Julie Timmermans, University of Otago (New Zealand) to replace Kathryn Sutherland, Victoria University Wellington (New Zealand) as Co-Editor of IJAD. Wrote letter of appreciation to Kathryn.
- Wrote letter of appreciation to Klara Bolander-Laksov for agreeing to extend her role as IJAD co-editor.
- At the invitation of Susana Gonçalves, gave a keynote address at the SATHE annual conference at the Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra, Portugal. This was an opportunity to promote ICED and to further explore a network in Portugal.
- Met with Gabriela Pleschová, Comenius University (Bratislava, Slovakia) on progress on the Erasmus+ project led by Comenius University (with partner institutions in the Czech Republic and Poland) where ICED is an Associate Partner. Met with academic developers from across Slovakia and the Czech Republic about academic development activities and the potential for establishing a network in the region.
- Continued discussion with Anna Serbati and Ettore Felisatti from ASDUNI, the academic development network in Italy about ICED membership. Progress has been stalled due to the pandemic.
- Extensive discussions with TPOD (Taiwan Network) and CHED regarding ICED membership application from TPOD. This also involved seeking advice from the original signatories (Trustees) to the ICED Memorandum of Association.
- Responding to enquires from Turkey, Brazil and Qatar about the process of forming networks.
- Noting updates needed for website and referring to Louise for attention.
- Worked with Roz and Louise on the handover of administrator role.
- Planning for the online AGM in August in the absence of the traditional two-day Council meeting.
- Meeting with ACU (contracted administrative support) regarding ICED finances and managing finances for ICED 2022.
- Wrote the 2019 ICED annual report.
- Wrote welcome letter to new network representatives in preparation for the AGM.

I wish to express my appreciation to the IJAD Editorial team who continue to raise the reputation and profile of IJAD. The number of submissions and hence workload of the team continues to increase. In the coming year the Board will work with the IJAD team to negotiate a better outcome for the journal form Taylor & Francis (the publishers of IJAD). Thanks to Kathryn Sutherland (New Zealand) who is stepping down after eight years as a co-editor. Welcome to Julie Timmermans (New Zealand) as co-editor. The IJAD editorial team is represented on ICED Board by a former IJAD co-editor. David Green (USA) is stepping down from that role and I thank him for his many contributions to the Board and support of and advocacy on behalf of the editorial team. Welcome to Kathryn Sutherland who replaces David on the Board.

My thanks to the members of the ICED Board for their work during the year and in supporting me in my role and input to many of the activities listed. A special thanks to Roz and Louise for their support and significant contributions.

Thanks to Deandra Little (POD) for her contribution as Vice-President and welcome to Ariane Dumont (SFDN) as the new Vice-President.

Thanks to Santosh Panda representing NetSED for his two years on the Board representing one of the two appointed Networks and welcome to Donna Ellis representing POD as the next appointed Network to the Board.

Thanks to Benno Volk (Switzerland) co-opted to the Board for the past three years as the convenor of the ICED 2020 conference. Benno will now step down from the Board.

Allan Goody
President