

2.4 President's Report 2021-22

ICED Council Meeting / AGM, 30 May 2022

Dear ICED colleagues, member networks, Council and Board,

In August 2021, and with great excitement, I stepped into the role of ICED President as a Council representative of the Higher Education Learning and Teaching Association of Southern Africa (HELTASA). I am the first black woman president of ICED; a role I take on with great responsibility and commitment to advance the social inclusion of all ICED members. Given the impact of the pandemic on the timing of AGMs, this report covers a shorter inaugural year than usual (August 2021- May 2022). With only 9 months underway, it gives me great pleasure to share some of my highlights in this role. The President's Report, which provides a summary of activities of ICED for the year between the 2021 and 2022 Annual General Meetings (AGMs) is different to the Annual Report which reports on the calendar year as per the UK Charity requirements. This report also provides a snapshot of the current actions and imperatives of ICED and points to the possible future direction of academic and educational development, given the transition of global higher education into an era of online modalities and pedagogies, sustainability and futures thinking. The past year has been focused on getting back into gear as we are slowly being released from the suffocating grip of the global pandemic and easing into 'return-to-campus' and hybrid modes of engagement at our universities.

New ICED Leadership

Changes in ICED leadership signal organisational transitioning. With the past President Allan Goody completing his term and a new President Kasturi Behari-Leak being installed, the Board welcomed a new Vice-President Robert Pardo Silva (Chile) and two new network representatives Patricia Staaf (Sweden) and Mary Kiguru (Kenya). In addition, Donna Ellis (Canada) was successfully nominated for the President-Elect role, the term of 1 year coming into effect from May 2022. Given the almost new Board constitution and its more global representation, induction of new Board members was a challenge and revealed a gap that ICED needs to consider regarding induction generally. The new composition of the Board however provided me with an opportune moment to extend the ambit of the Board slightly to include discussions on global HE issues that could inform the Board's business decisions and actions. We have now included this feature as a standing item at current Board meetings under the heading: Higher Education and ED - ICED's finger on the pulse discussion. We hope to share the outcomes at some stage via our website, social media and/or a webinar. Given the broad-based professional expertise and academic strengths on the Board, I have encouraged Board members to champion specific portfolios which will drive ICED's agenda. This will forge strong links between ICED management/governance and membership on the ground. We hope to explore these strands of work further after the AGM.

Board Decisions and Council Actions

I have chaired 4 Board meetings between August 21 and now, to address the Council action items from the 2021 AGM. Given the infrequency of meetings, held via Zoom, and given that a slightly new modus operandi is being trialled, Board members have kindly agreed to increasing the 1-hourly meetings to one-and-a-half hour engagements. I wish to reiterate past President Allan Goody's words (which I have also found the following to be true), "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 fully or addressed at all. Hopefully, the proposed change to the governance structure of the Board will facilitate a wider distribution of the work. 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 has focused on implementing the changes following the 2021 AGM by responding effectively to the action items and decisions made by the Council. The Council drives the Board and generates an actions list which the Board is supposed to help implement. The central aim is to create a connected network of educational developers and further develop the project of educational development. The Board has progressed a few significant action items from the ICED Council/AGM 2021 – Actions and Decisions List:

1. The Policies and Procedures regarding ICED Board and Elections was amended to reflect that five Network Representative Directors are rotated onto the Board for a two-year term, one from each of five group and that the role of Vice-President is removed. It was agreed by the Board that the two current VP’s who assumed their roles before the motion was accepted, will retain their VP roles until their terms end.
2. The Special Resolution was approved to amend the meaning of “Nominating Networks” as described in Section 1.3 of the Memorandum of Association. This intervention ensures that national, transnational and independent educational development associations throughout the world who nominate an individual for membership of the Charity and whose nomination is approved by the Council, can be included.
3. The Board welcomed two new networks into the ICED fold from Italy (ASDUNI) and Slovakia (AKVV).
4. The Presidents (past and current) contacted the Sri Lankan network but were unsuccessful in making them reconsider their decision to withdraw from ICED. Their exit remarks about ICED’s high cost of participation are well noted by the Board and suggestions will be considered regarding expanding benefits to members.
5. A call for the 2024 conference was issued and one Expression of Interest was received.
6. The IJAD team has provided the Board with a revised version of the Relationship to ICED document which will be circulated to Council.
7. A call for nominations for the Spirit of ICED award was issued. Three nominations have been received and will be considered at the Council/AGM. Winners will be announced at the Conference Dinner.
8. ICED Policy and Procedures were reviewed and documented.

However, certain challenges persist:

- ❖ The main challenge that has re-surfaced is the correlation between membership fees (high for some networks) and perceived benefits (not always clear to members) of being part of ICED.
- ❖ Conference participation is also a challenge as the location and associated costs of travel to certain host countries make it inaccessible for wider participation by existing membership and might be a constraint for emerging member networks. This is something we need to take seriously and respond to in earnest if we are to make good on the ideal that ‘no one should be left behind’.

- ❖ We need to work towards ICED becoming a more inclusive, member-centred organisation going forward as we amplify and strengthen the work of academic/educational development globally. New membership from diverse networks ensure that ICED is more representative of the broader diaspora of higher education and its educational development focus.
- ❖ I feel strongly that ICED should connect with member network events throughout the year, (made more possible in online mode), to improve relationality and communication across the membership. We hope that our Special Interest Groups and Projects will enable us to make these connections through collaborative endeavour and common interests in promoting specific interest and projects that cast the participation net wider than the annual Council meeting and biannual Conference.

Responding effectively to the above challenges provides us with the chance to foreground ICED's intentionality and purpose as we work towards broadening and deepening academic development in ways that embrace inclusivity, social justice, epistemic justice and parity of participation.

Finance

ICED maintains its strong financial standing, with contingencies and reserves built in, to ensure smooth operations and to mediate possible contextual eventualities. ICED has been able to continue to support member networks, where they have been able to demonstrate need, through a partial waiver of membership fees and grants for emerging networks. This has ensured that despite the high costs related to membership fees and conference attendance, member networks were enabled through travel grants, kindly made available this year through SFDN to support travel expenses for scholars unable to attend. This generosity is highly appreciated. As mentioned earlier, ICED might need to articulate the benefits of membership better as there may be an imbalance between the fees and the benefits, especially in the non-conference years. Hybrid conferences may help with relatively low-cost attendance.

ICED 22 Conference

When DUN (Denmark) agreed to host the 2022 conference, great excitement (and trepidation given the uncertainty of the pandemic) started building at the thought of having an in-person conference after the hiatus. Given the extreme regret associated with SFDN (Switzerland) having to cancel the 2020 conference and bear the brunt of the financial loss, we were extremely pleased when the possibility of having the 2022 conference slowly became a reality. On behalf of the Board and Council I thank SFDN for their gracious handling of the cancelled conference despite the huge preparatory effort and costs that were borne. I commend DUN for coming on board at short notice and for being generous in their effort and time in organising and preparing for our biennial conference which is one of the main sources of income for ICED. We have received an expression of interest for the 2024 conference hosting. The proposal will be presented at the 2022 Council meeting and AGM.

The International Journal for Academic Development

IJAD, which is ICED's journal, published by Taylor & Francis, is the only international journal with an express focus on academic development research. The ICED Board continues to share a convivial and collegial relationship with the editorial team who work tirelessly to promote AD as a rigorous field of scholarly inquiry through IJAD. Over the last few years, the journal has grown in visibility and significance through the considerable increase in

downloads and citations. ICED and IJAD said goodbye to Peter Felten, co-editor for two 4-year terms (2014-2021), who will be missed by all, not least for his strategic leadership and his outstanding input as a seasoned scholar but also for his unique sense of humour that put a smile on many faces. As one term ends, another begins, and it is with excitement IJAD and ICED welcome Mary Wright as co-editor. I want to offer praise and thanks to the past and present IJAD editorial team, for their dedication and commitment to the journal and for ensuring that its reach and scholarly reputation are maintained.

ICED Advocacy

The Spirit of ICED award has been resurrected in 2022 to promote advocacy by recognising and celebrating individuals or groups who have made an outstanding contribution to advancing the aims of ICED. This year we received three nominations which will be taken to Council for a decision. Winners will be announced at the ICED Conference Dinner on 31 May 2022. This prestigious award enables the winner to act as an ambassador for ICED in promoting its values and vision. An additional Recognition Scheme, initiated by Allan Goody, targets those who contribute to ICED in meaningful ways, opens up an alternative range of awards possible for advocates of ICED who are not Spirit Winners. This scheme will be explored in the 2022-2023 cycle to be developed further.

A snapshot of my areas of activity as President, where not covered elsewhere in this report, is presented here:

- ❖ Board meetings and actions
 - ❖ 2022 Council Meeting preparation of documents and meetings with special reference to the Consortium and Business Days/AGM. I would like to thank Board members Ariane Dumont, Robert Pardo Silva and Donna Ellis for steering and shaping the Day 1 Consortium Day Programme with such creativity and expertise.
- ❖ Network activities
- ❖ Conference matters
- ❖ IJAD matters
- ❖ Administration

In closing and noting the many human losses we have borne, the severe cost to our mental health and well-being and increased family responsibility, extorted by the pandemic, I pay tribute to and give thanks to the ICED Board, Council and member networks who have stayed the course. Thank you to all our ICED stalwarts and newcomers, who have continued to volunteer their time and energy. You are highly valued and much appreciated. A special thanks to our administrator Roz Grimmitt who supports ICED with dedication, commitment, professionalism and strong organisational memory, which I have leaned on greatly.

Warm regards
Kasturi Behari-Leak
ICED President

21 May 2022