

2.4 President's Report 2021

ICED Council Meeting / AGM, 24th August 2021

President's Report

The President's report serves as a summary of the activities of ICED for the year between the 2020 and 2021 Annual General Meetings (AGMs). 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 2020. 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 ongoing significant interruption of the pandemic for the whole 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 continue their focus on the changing circumstances in teaching and learning and academic development in their institutions and workplaces and their own networks. The Board also recognised 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.

Following the 2020 AGM, the Board has dealt with a number of action items and consequences of decisions made by the Council. The first was triggered by CHED's (China) withdrawal of their membership in ICED. CHED was hosting the 2022 conference and following their withdrawal, they forfeited their hosting rights. Hence, a new host network had to be identified. SFDN (Switzerland) was offered the right to host but they chose not to take up that offer. DUN (Denmark), the hosts for the 2024 conference, were asked if they would consider bringing forward their hosting to 2022 and they agreed. The host for the 2024 conference will now have to be identified by the incoming Board.

On behalf of the Board and Council I thank DUN and the organising committee for stepping up and taking on the hosting role. The committee has moved very quickly with planning while considering the many challenges that still exist in the continuing uncertain environment.

The biennial conference is one of the main sources of income for ICED. No income from a conference in 2020 was mostly offset by little expenditure particularly expenses associated with Board expenses and travel grants. Membership fees received have also remained strong. 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 is maintaining a strong financial position.

The Board has continued to meet during the year with two additional meetings held during the year to maintain momentum and to address a couple of pressing issues. The Board has addressed most of the action items from the 2020 AGM but progress has been hindered by the individual and institutional priorities of Board members. Incoming Vice-President Robert Pardo participated as an observer 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 up to 17 hours between North America and New Zealand requiring early starts and late finishes for some Board members. Meetings were held via Zoom and 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 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.

In addition to identifying the host for the 2022 conference, the Board has progressed three significant action items from the 2020 AGM.

1. Finalise guidelines for the creation and operation of ICED Special Interest Groups (SIGs). This document is presented to the AGM for endorsement.
2. Develop a proposal to change ICED governance and the structure of the Board to create a more inclusive representation on the Board. A proposal is presented to the AGM for discussion and referral back to the Elections committee.
3. Defining the meaning of “region” in the change to the MoA approved at the 2020 AGM. A review by Kasturi Behari-Leak and Patricia Staaf suggested that the word “region” was problematic and the Board then took their recommendations and developed the special resolution to amend the MoA again which is presented to the AGM.

It is disappointing that a couple of items that I would like to have progressed further during the past year or two have not been accomplished. These include a review of the Spirit of ICED award and development of other forms of recognition and a more extensive review and documenting of ICED Policy and Procedures. I would also like to see more regular communication from the Board to the Council on the progression of action items raised by Council at the AGM and other matters on the Board agenda. I hope that the incoming Board maintains a focus on these items.

It was unfortunate that CHED withdrew its membership from ICED. However, interest in ICED and the formation of new networks continues with applications for membership being submitted from Slovakia and Italy. It is expected Iceland will apply for membership in the coming year. Interest has also been shown from Portugal, Brazil, Brazil and Qatar.

With Roz Grimmitt, the ICED administrator, on extended leave, the Board was capably supported by Louise Loughlin for 12 months to April 2021. After Louise finished her appointment, administrative support has been extremely problematic. For the first month after Louise’s departure, I could not make contact with anyone at ACU (our contracted administrative support). Once contact was made, the currently appointed administrators have done their best but come to the role with no knowledge of ICED and even the ability to edit the website and post to the listserv. There was a handover by Louise to a temporary administrator but that person left and no handover was done with either of the temporary replacements. This has created extra work for for the Board and me in particular including organising Board meetings and the AGM. We have been advised that Roz will be returning the week before the AGM.

A summary of my activities as President follows.

- Chaired Board meetings in September, October, November, January, March, May, June and July.
- Network activities
 - Corresponding with CHED regarding their withdrawal from ICED and subsequent forfeiting of hosting rights for 2022 conference.
 - Finalising application of network from Italy
 - Finalising application of network from Slovakia
 - Correspondence with emerging networks.
- Conference matters
 - Discussion with 2020 conference team (SFDN) regarding potential for hosting 2022 conference
 - Liaising with DUN Network on hosting the 2022 conference team and subsequent planning.
- Working with the IJAD team on matters including
 - appointment of new Editors/Co-Editors
 - letters of thanks to retiring Editors
 - Documenting relationship between ICED and IJAD

- Increase in page allocation from Taylor & Francis.
- Administration
 - Liaising with Robert Pardo (REDCAD) regarding hosting the 2021 Council meeting
 - Planning for the online AGM in August
 - Meeting with ACU (contracted administrative support) regarding ICED finances.
 - Extensive correspondence with ACU regarding administrative support (or lack thereof) and assisting ACU designated personal to understand ICED and our support needs.
 - Writing the 2020 ICED annual report
 - Writing the 2021 President's report
 - Writing the Elections Committee report (on behalf of the committee)
 - Writing welcome letter to new network representatives in preparation for the AGM
 - Responding to various correspondence including interest from emerging networks.

I wish to express my appreciation to the IJAD Editorial team, both current and those who stepped down at the end of 2020, who continue to raise the reputation and profile of IJAD. You will read in the IJAD annual report, the significant increase in downloads. Also submissions and hence workload of the team continues to increase. After many years of persistence, the IJAD team has been able to secure additional pages per issue from Taylor & Francis, the publisher of IJAD. This is a significant achievement and means more of the scholarship and practice of academic developers across the world to be disseminated.

My sincere thanks to all the members of the current ICED Board for their work during the year and in supporting me in my role and input to many of the activities listed (and early starts and late ends to their days on meeting days). It has been another challenging year. Thanks to Louise, who quickly picked up the administrative needs of ICED and the Board, for her support and significant contributions.

This AGM marks the end of my four-year term as ICED President and my eight-year term as HERDSA representative to ICED Council. It has been a privilege to be a part of Council and the Board and contribute where I could. Thank you for the trust you placed in me. I am proud of the progress that we have made over the past four years, in particular assisting emerging networks and then bringing them into the ICED family and starting to improve the governance and work of ICED including the establishment of the President-elect position and (hopefully) the new governance model.

I wish Kasturi and the incoming Board and the Council all the best as ICED continues to promote teaching and learning and support academic developers in the important work that we do. I believe that the pandemic has brought the work of academic developers greater visibility and more prominently into the sights of higher education administrators and academics as they struggled to adjust to the new reality of teaching and learning. Even though I am supposed to be retired, I hope that I maintain my connection with ICED and the colleagues and friends I have made through ICED dating back to being on the planning committee of the ICED 2002 conference in Perth.

Allan Goody
ICED President
4 August 2021