**CSEAR Executive Council Meeting Minutes**

**June 12th noon-2pm (UK Time)**

**Topic:** Second Meeting 2019

**Join Zoom Meeting Online**

**Members of Council Present**

Professor Charles Cho, Professor Massimo Contrafatto, Dr Colin Dey, Professor Jesse Dillard, Professor John Ferguson, Professor Matias Laine, Professor Giovanna Michelon, Professor Gunnar Rimmel, Professor Robin Roberts, Professor Ian Thomson**,** Professor Carol Tilt

**Also Present:**

Dr Lori Leigh Davis, Professor Michelle Rodrigue

**Apologies for Absence**:

Professor Carmen Correa Ruiz, Professor Lorna Stevenson, Professor Eija Vinnari

Introduction from the Conveyor Professor Thomson

We warmly welcome the new candidates to the Executive Council. Thank you for taking part in the 2019 Elections. The process shows a good level of engagement from the membership. There was an excellent turnout (88). Much appreciation to both Charles and Lori Leigh for organising, implementing and communicating the progress of the elections.

**To Do** - Lori Leigh: Write to the runner-ups to see if they would like to help with any further initiatives. Email to encourage the remaining 5 candidates if they would be interested in being an active member in the organising committee for a) the Emerging Scholars Colloquium and b) the yearly Congress conference. We welcome their support and want the election time to be a positive experience.

1. **Acceptance/Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes: Yes – approved.**
2. **Agenda Item 5 – CSEAR Sponsorships**

a) CIMA Sponsorships

John: We applied for 20-25k after the encouragement made at the 2018 Congress. The application for the support was completed prior to the deadline and the CSEAR office was diligent in keeping in contact with CIMA about any progress and endorsement. Far later than last year, we received confirmation of an initial £5k, which has since been reduced to £4k. Looking forward, CIMA contribution is likely to be nil. Consequently, we are anticipating we will have to seek other opportunities for next year.

Ian: There are noted ramifications due to the changes in the staff within CIMA.

Charles: The donations were encouraged to support the Emerging Scholars Colloquium. Last year, we had the largest support for the emerging scholars due to the combination of bursaries received.

Charles: The ESC organisers enacted a ‘letter of support’ (by the student’s supervisors) initiative, which has saved £2K. We are still awaiting the final numbers.

We may need to secure a further £2k for further conferences. CSEAR will benefit from the continued support from Robin and Charles in 2019. Without CIMA, we will have to establish further criteria to support as many students as possible. One option may be to provide a discounted rate.

Matias: It is recommended to revert back to the protocols of previous conferences.

Carol: A-CSEAR – not certain if they require amount of CIMA money

To Do - Lori Leigh: to follow up with to see what their needs may be. Determine if they made a separate arrangement with CIMA (to confirm).

1. **Council Elections**

The next elections will be in 2 years time.

Opportunities for Improvement:

* Process: The CSEAR office to potentially purchase the Lime system in time for next elections. Lime system provides a good level of anonymity.

1. **Building Research Capacity**

To Build on Existing Networks in Europe and Secure Required Funding

Massimo (see attachment): Italian Standard for Social Accounting working together.

The purpose is to build discussions, engage support and to share knowledge.

Possible postpone application to April to build up. Ellen, Ian and Matias are helping with this application.

Cost – European Fund Project – Networking different researchers across Europe. The aim is to build research capacity, for further applications, more research projects and higher outputs. The application for funds would be beneficial by taking pressure off existing finances i.e. could go towards travel etc.

The UK situation with Brexit complicates the process and likelihood for European-based approved financing.

Opportunity: To further develop ideas to build capacity at the conferences this year.

Ian – ERC – application for research grant. The more the merrier. We are a financially responsible group.

1. **Satellite Review**

The Council is strongly encouraging conferences and activities at both the local and global levels. If there is anything further the Council can do to help, we are happy to do so.

* CSEAR France – Conference went well. There is a possibility for a surplus of around 500 Euro. To Do – John: A document is required to transfer the funds and will be forwarded to John to be signed.
* CSEAR Africa – There seems to be an interest for a conference in 2020. Charles to assist with the planning and preparations. This is an area where we would be enthusiastic to develop.
* CSEAR North America – Michelle is the current IA for Canada. It is encouraged the position is given to another academic in Canada so they can have the experience.
* CEAR Italy – Next conference in 2020 in Sardinia. The dates will be after the UK conference, likely in September. Massimo to determine further opportunities for funding from sustainability accounting organisations in Italy.
* CSEAR Australia – The arrangements for the conference in December. Stephanie Perkiss is now co-opted onto Council, while Carol will step down. The rotations will occur at the next Congress in St Andrews as per the CSEAR by-laws.
* CSEAR Northern Europe – Looking to conference opportunities in Scandinavia that would dovetail with the CSEAR Congress. The networking pool is relatively small compared to other markets.

1. **Community Efforts to Consider**

Michelle: North America – Next July, back-back with the Critical Perspectives on Accounting conference. APIRA Event – The programme just came out. Nothing officially organised. Global Challenges Workshop, A Royal Holloway initiative = Helen (15 researchers involved alongside Oxfam) to look at the South Pacific as a region to focus more research. To take place in Auckland.

CSEAR type tracks – special issue in the AAAJ on global issues.

To Do - All Executive Members: Send any information on any potential events to Lori Leigh to circulate to the CSEAR membership.

1. **EAA Corporate Reporting Committee (Gio and Matias to discuss)**

**EAA 2019 Symposium**

CSEAR aims to engage with the EAA as much as possible. The recent symposium and following presentations were overall very well received. Strong capital markets and qualitative research presented. Many of the CSEAR members did a very good job with their presentations. Next year, the events will be held in Bucharest and provides a good opportunity for our CSEAR community.

Roles in the EAA:

Matias – EAA submission committee member

Gio – Accounting Research Centre

Charles – Involved with the corporate reporting committee (name change to be determined)

To note: SCA - 1000 submissions, 20% social and environmental accounting (high ratio) of 2/3 never made it to the programme. 90% of EAA papers are included.

1. **Sustainable Travel**

Colin: The Question: *What* should we do about enhancing the sustainable travel by all CSEAR members. There is an inclusive argument here, to provide more opportunities for our members to attend and get involved. There is no intention to completely reduce the person-person conferences.

The Council recognises that world-wide, academic funding has been cut, particularly for travel. Plane travel is often a barrier for many members, including PhD students.

Notice, the current technology is proficient. Recordings would be beneficial for people who live in Australia or New Zealand. To increase the scope of exposure, we could also incorporate for the Emerging Scholars Colloquium.

Options

* One positive step is to provide the opportunities for people to watch virtually.
* Secondly, the presentations could be recorded.
* Thirdly, the conferences could be rotated on a two-year basis. Instead of maintaining the conference in St Andrews, the CSEAR conference could be the UK Conference.

Robin: In support of creating new ways for more people to be engaged/attending. Travel constraints are an increasing for both academics and students. Reminder that the funding model of CSEAR depends on the traveling of delegates to the conference. Recognition there could be substantial savings for e-conferences including food and room space.

Matias: Adapt on a small, step-step basis. Consider a casual meeting in St Andrews (i.e., pub) to discuss possibilities.

Ian: Better communication to travel options and costs. Perhaps, to support ride-share programmes.

Massimo: It would be advantageous to determine the benefits of sustainable travel for each individual.

To Do – All Executive Members: At the Congress, have a session as to how we could enhance this and offer for the 2020 Conference. Members have voiced the encouragement to be able to learn from esteemed colleagues, who would otherwise not be able to attend the Congress.

1. **Membership Update**

Lori Leigh: Currently, there are 180 paid members. Excitingly, there are 35 first-time members. It is expected there will be an increase of new student memberships this year with mostly new emerging scholars. It is probable that the membership for 2019 will be higher than 2018.

1. **Finance**

John: We continue to maintain a strong bank account statement.

1. **Conference UK Congress**

Congress

Charles: 70 submissions – down from last year

62 final number = 3 parallel sessions

Social Activity – not this year: due to not reaching their purpose/objective.

In agreement: to encourage new delegates to interact.

To Do – Lori Leigh: Activities board to put up

ESC Committee

Thank you to Gio and Carmen for their efforts. Jesse to help with the Colloquium. Matias, Ian and John to help out.

To Do – Lori Leigh: Send out an email to all members to encourage registration to the Congress.

1. **Social Media Efforts**

Colin: 715 FB

420 Twitter

Website – shift process to WordPress – i.e., To Do - Colin to help. Others to invite those who were set for elections. To Do - Jonathan to be contacted to help.

1. **SEAJ**

In the process of compiling the Second Edition. Submissions are looking ok. Reviews team are doing well. Process of nominating the joint editor starts today. The call for nominations will go out immediately with a 3-week turnaround.

1. **Any Other Business**

Jack Christian – Card of condolence sent, £50 donated to his local wildlife trust,

Will keep his paper in the calendar of the Congress and Council members have shown interest to present his paper.

Reconsider the Convenor - At the next Council meeting, the next Convenor will be elected. Co-opting of Charles and Matias will need to be considered for the next agenda.

Next Meeting: To be held on Tuesday August 27th during the Congress