

CSEAR Executive Council Meeting

Tuesday September 8th

13:00-15:00 UK Time

Topic: Third Meeting of 2020

Location of Meeting: Via Zoom (Brought to us by Charles with appreciation)

Meeting Minutes

1. In Attendance: *John Ferguson, Stephanie Perkiss, Giovanna Michelin, Charles Cho, Robin Roberts, Ericka Costa, Shona Russell, Eija Vinnari, Colin Dey, Matias Lain, Lori Leigh Davis, Ian Thomson (Convenor), Massimo Contrafatto*

2. Apologies for Absence: *Helen Tregidga*

Summary of To Dos:

- i) Ian and John to contact BAFA re. Tribute to Rob*
- ii) Charles to contact CAAA Canada re. Tribute to Rob*
- iii) Stephanie to contact Lee Parker re. Tribute to Rob in AAAJ*
- iv) John to drop off 'Message and Memory' book as soon as possible.*
- v) Next Council meeting to be a "Strategy Planning Session"*
- vi) All Council members to reflect, look at the current governance documents and the recent survey results prior to the meeting.*
- vii) Lori Leigh to email competitor analysis research to ExecCouncil email. (Completed Sept 8th)*
- viii) Lori Leigh to compile membership consistency report, find number of people who did not renew as a result of no Congress.*
- ix) Website Committee to continue work on first phase of development.*
- x) CSEAR UK to look into current finances before next meeting.*
- xi) Send to csear@st-andrews.ac.uk - Request for Council Members to help with renewing membership by including a bio and why they have benefitted from CSEAR.*
- xii) Stephanie and Lori Leigh to discuss items from planning strategy events attended in Australia. Including, Attracting Members/Keeping Members (Completed Sept 9th)*

Discussed

1) Minutes of Previous Meeting - Approved

2) Matters Arising from the Above Minutes (not on agenda below)

3) Tribute to Rob Updates – The recognition is international

- a. BAFA – Notification of passing To Do: Ian and John to complete.*
- b. CAAA Canada To Do: Charles to complete.*
- c. AAAJ - To Do: Lee Parker to be contacted by Stephanie*

4) CSEAR Sponsorship – Nothing new to report. CIMA – Sponsorship has been paid to both UK and Australia.

5) Council Elections/IA Elections – *(Include Charles Written Comments Here)*

Recognized: This is a big decision to make.

- The membership model needs to be looked at and people's expectations have changed.
- The funding model of membership is becoming more challenging. Yet, there are many interested members, who could be potentially paid members, as shown in our Facebook friends.

6) Membership/Member Survey Discussion

Membership benefits for conference attendance fees and subscription to SEAJ (considering most institutions already have subscriptions to the journal)

Possibility – Look at the information from the recent survey.

Notable:

- 7th ESC increased the CSEAR membership for August.
- The Italian webinar also provided more renewals and new members for the end of the summer.

Summary Points:

Generally, conference feedback is very good. There is an appetite for more online access. Travel behavior has been taken over by the current health situation. SEAJ over half of the readers already had institutional access (something we should discuss). Relative to the social media the website is lacking; a better-managed social presence is also noted in the data. Overall, the rankings of key activities are not homogenous (ie. We don't have clear priorities).

There wasn't anything surprising from the data. We need to take into account the diversity of our members in the plans going forward.

It is recognized our social presence needs to be enhanced.

The upcoming importance of the REF may have some influence on the data results, particularly to the current rankings of SEAJ.

Recommendations: If we want to increase the rankings of SEAJ, we as a community need to support it. Impacts on our understanding of our purpose and what we are doing.

Key Question: Does this really change our purpose/and what we see our purpose is?

(7) ESC Specific

- **Need to Explore and Action {linked to governance issue}:** Should we include an emerging scholar in the Organizing Committee?
It is noted, there is a variety of faculty members on the ESC Organizing Committee.

- **Communications Specific**
There may be an opportunity whereby we can communicate what we do better to our members. This would include highlighting the different faculty, from a wide-array of disciplines and positions.
There could also be practitioners in practice in the Organizing Committee.
We could look at the previous emerging scholars to get involved.
- **Specific Definition of ESC**
We define ECR as someone within 5 years of completing PhD. And ESC student is a HDR student.

CSEAR UK Conference - “Quick wins” can be made by addressing the comments with food and quick turnaround of attendee contact information.

(8) Previous CSEAR Council Subcommittees (As of 2009):

Lesser Developed Countries, Interdisciplinary/Inter-Organisational, Communications, Financial/Institutional Innovation, Practitioner Development Links, Education, Emerging Scholars/Master Classes/Career Development, Towards a less Un-Sustainable CSEAR.

Recommendation: Since the Bylaws and governance documents are 10yrs+ old and may need to be revised.

(9) Strategy Planning Session

Recommended: Next Council Meeting Agenda to be Cancelled – Instead a wider engagement exercise of the strategic planning session to take place.

To Do: All Council members to reflect, look at the current governance documents and the recent survey results prior to the meeting.

To Do – To Plan (Michelle happy to help organise):

- Strategic Meeting to be scheduled to include – membership, conferences including ESC, SEAJ and social media.
- **Recommended:** To start the planning session with what is our Mission, Vision and Objectives for the future.
- To include in planning session: What are we committed of quitting, in order to include more?
- Note to schedule to include the price of attending both Congress, ESC and online webinars.
- Strategic Planning Resources to refer to: In addition to survey results, competitor analysis reports and other reports.

To Do: Lori Leigh to email competitor analysis research to ExecCouncil email. (Completed Sept 8th)

To Do: Lori Leigh to compile membership consistency report, find number of people who did not renew as a result of no Congress.

Other Comments Noted:

- CSEAR has done a great job of developing talent. We also have a group of new dedicated members. Perhaps, it could be a matter of organizing sub-committees, considering the limited number of resources we currently have. Recognizing the capacity and resources available when structuring our strategy is important.
- There is value in being connected to CSEAR in order to influence practitioners.
- Think about activities that we would like to organize and then send out a communiqué that encourages people to get involved (to broaden our circle to more people). Events could include a career development day.
- Further interest could be garnered by including providing links to events on the Facebook page. Online conferences and webinars could be live streamed on the Facebook page.
- In agreement to continue supporting the ESC.
- Engaging with the profession – there is definitely more we can do.
- A sense of urgency related to the global (environmental and ecological) – students Masters and PhD want to be engaged with something that makes a difference.
- Policy relevance with our research, discussed at a CSEAR UK conference a few years ago, Emerging Scholars may want to be more engaged with the opportunities here.
- Survey – Emphasis with online seminars, website agreed
- Opportunity to share our information. Specifically, to policy on the website.
- *Social and Environmental Accounting Journal* → Social and Environmental Accountability Journal title could provide further opportunities. The word “finance”, for instance, is not included.

Reminder: Matt Sorola’s Reading Group Session could help with the communication of events and requests for individual help.

(10) Conferences and Events

Emerging Scholars Colloquium Updates

Overall an online success. 32 Students presented this year. We worked with different time zones, with more students than usual. We did not officially do coffee breaks. In the first session, there was an informal lunch with Charles and Matt. The second session were put into small groups and encouraged to ask any general questions (position paper, how to publish, how to respond to a referee). These events broadened circles and delineated hierarchy of participants. In some respects, the engagement was stronger than in person formats. Many of the students this year were very enthusiastic. Special note that Jesse was involved non-stop for nearly 7hrs. Oana did an amazing job in placing the presenters into themed. Recognition: the Organizing Committee should be commended; the Council is so pleased with the time, work and effort made in this event. Excellent conversations were discussed including job market opportunities around the world and strategies to get work.

Noted: 2021 UK Conference may need to consider format, if there are potentially 80 presenters.

Italy (September 2020) Webinar

Certainly a good experience. The first-time event for the CSEAR community. Trying to organize something similar in the future (next September, date unknown). Thank you to Charles, Ian and Michelle for your support. For both the UK, Italian and other CSEAR communities, it is recommended to have a “blended” approach where we offer an in-person and online event. Inclusion of the event was well noted.

Australasia (December 2020)

July Brown would rather not provide an event this year. We are going to wait to next December for the event, likely in Tasmania.

No other comments for: Portugal (November 2020) or Africa (November 2020)

(11) Website Updates

Survey has been shared with the web team. We are in the phase of ‘way finding’ and determining the mission, vision, objectives and layout of the website.

To Do: Website Committee to continue work on first phase of development.

(12) Items Relating to SEAJ

Notice of New Contract has been signed. Need to discuss the impacts of the changes of the costs for the hardcopies.

(13) Finance

To Do: be looked into within the month by CSEAR UK.

The accounts are expected to be stable.

Lack of injection of funds from the Congress is noted.

We have comfortable reserves and no expected sanctions from the University of St Andrews.

(14) All Extras

- Request for Council Members to help with renewing membership by including a bio and why they have benefitted from CSEAR.
- Matt Sorella Reading Group – to exchange ideas and support each other for hybrid format in ‘Meet the Member’ online format.
- Survey to be summarized and then sent to members who have requested a document and then posted on the website.
- **To Do:** Stephanie and Lori Leigh to discuss items from planning strategy events attended in Australia. Including, Attracting Members/Keeping Members

Considered Date for the Next Meeting: October 2020