

REPORT TO COUNCIL NOVEMBER 2018 BY KENNETH VALL (PRESIDENT ECCE)

INTRODUCTION

Since the last meeting of the ECU Council in May 2018, the ECCE has started work on preparing a new application for membership of ENQA. This is at least a 2-year process. In the mean-time, ECCE has applied for affiliated status which has now been granted by the ENQA Board. This means that ECCE will have access to all meetings and discussions within ENQA but will not be able to vote on issues coming up at ENQA Council meetings.

ENQA

The failure to secure full membership of ENQA was clearly disappointing. Analysing the result, the failure to interpret the way “Thematic Analysis” should be conducted was our main downfall and we are already working on conducting several themes for analysis such that this will not be an issue next time around. There are a number of other areas where we need to improve and again we are working on these as well. One issue identified by ENQA is the membership of our Council which should be open to more lay people with appropriate educational expertise as the Council is now completely dominated by chiropractors. There will thus be proposals from the Executive to our General Council to respond to this issue. Although ENQA was impressed by our financial planning and increased revenue, it wanted to see sustainability particularly as they identified a need to increase our administrative efforts.

FINANCES

With the increase in revenue both from accredited institutions and the ECU, the financial position of the ECCE has improved but as pointed out above this needs to be sustained long term such that the organisation is professionally and efficiently run which is vital for a successful application for ENQA membership. Continuous support from the ECU is therefore essential.

COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (CoA)

No new accreditation of institutions has taken place since our last meeting except the accreditation of the second McTimoney College of Chiropractic course delivered in Manchester and Abingdon in the UK.

Re-accreditation visits are taking place this autumn to the University of Johannesburg and RCU Maria Cristina Madrid. As our training programme of evaluators have been very successful we now have a number of different personnel to draw on.

We have received an official letter of application to start an accreditation process from the Bahcesehir University (BAU) Istanbul. Initial discussions with their representatives will take place during our General Council meeting in November. We have also invited the head of the new chiropractic programme at London South Bank University to attend as an observer at the General Council meeting.

QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE (QAC)

The QAC continue to refine our internal quality assurance, developing new questionnaires and working with our quality assurance consultant on the thematic analysis and ENQA application. Following comments from ENQA it is possible that this committee will be amalgamated with the Executive rather than as a separate entity in order to reduce the number of meetings.

CONCLUSION

With increased number of institutions accredited, the work of the ECCE Council and Executive is becoming more arduous and as already pointed out we need to improve and extend our administrative capacity. Members of Council also need to reflect a greater expertise and a variety of educational backgrounds.

We have a good relationship with our accredited institutions and are engaging much more with them and their students. We are also trying to be more open and are encouraging new institutions to become accredited by ECCE. Both the president and the quality assurance consultant have been asked to give presentations on accreditation at the WFC Educational conference in London in October reflecting the growing importance of the ECCE.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Vall', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kenneth Vall
ECCE President