



# Annual General Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019

## MINUTES

Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019  
at the British Council, Spring Gardens, London, SW1A 2BN

\*indicates that there is an attachment

### Chair

Sonny Leong also Trustee and CEC Chair

### Trustees

Alba de Souza (Secretary), Chris Chang, Helen Jones, Neil Kemp, Alastair Niven, Rita Odumosu, Nayan Patel, Mark Robinson, Nayan Patel, Alex Wright.

### Members

Swadeka Ahsun, Joyce Asamoah-Korateng, Nina Davies, Eva Ekehorn, Richard Mawditt, Priscilla Muyunda, Joanne Newman, Lady Sue Tunnicliffe (CASTME), Tim Unwin, Peter Williams, Prof. Shafie Mohamed Zabri (Malaysian HC), Daram Hanizam (Malaysian HC),

**Proxy** for Peter Piot would be Jenny Jenkin

### Apologies

Lord Tim Boswell of Aynho, Lord Tom McNally of Blackpool, Richard Evans Rupert Jones-Parry, Kenneth King, Hilary Layton, Rosemary Preston, Stuart Reid, Keith Stephenson, Kat Thorne, Anja Neilsen, Chandra Dhupelia,

**Invited Guest:** H.E. Karen-Mae, (High Commissioner, Antigua and Barbuda), Ideka Dowe (HC Antigua & Barbuda)

## 1. Chairman's Welcome

Sonny Leong chaired the meeting and extended a warm welcome to all the CEC members present. He noted all those who had sent apologies.

Mark Robinson said he had received apologies to convey to the Chair from Lady Helen Pickthorne. He stated that she must be our oldest member. The Chair was pleased that she had taken cognisance of the CEC AGM and acknowledged her apology in not being able to attend the meeting.

SL stated that this year would be a particularly busy and important year for the CEC as it was the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the CEC and that preparations to celebrate it were in progress. Furthermore 2019 was also the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan of which the CEC has provided an invaluable service through its CSFP Support Group. Additionally, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual CEC Conference abroad, was being held in Grenada from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2019. The Commonwealth Secretariat was also preparing to celebrate its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and CEC would be in touch to see if there were any activities we could collaborate with.

## 2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 22nd May 2018

Minutes of the AGM of the 22nd May 2018 were approved. Eva Ekehorn proposed that it was a true reflection of the meeting and Helen Jones seconded it.

## 3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Although, recently retired from the ACU, Rev Keith Stephenson has accepted to continue to be CEC's examiner of accounts. CEC members were delighted and extended their thanks and best wishes to him in his newly found retirement.

#### **4. Finance**

SL circulated CEC accounts with the AGM papers for the 2019 AGM.

For the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, income was mainly from the membership fee and bank interest (£2,898 and £326). No income this year was generated from events for two reasons: (i) As our reserves are fairly big, the Board agreed not to charge anyone for attending events, and (ii) to maximise attendance at our events. Total expenses from events held were £115.00. Total general expenses were £2,518. This gave a total net surplus for the year of £592.00.

Assets and Liabilities. Total assets were £43,383 (cash in bank £11,082; in bonds £32,301). Liabilities consisted of a line item of Restricted Fund of £953.00 for the Hurricane Appeal.

The final Balance Sheet shows a final surplus of £42,430.00

The trustees consider that this level of finance would provide sufficient funds to ensure that support and governance costs are covered, and this also enables CEC to undertake larger events.

The Chair proposed that the Annual Accounts be put to a vote. The Accounts were unanimously accepted. Richard Mawditt proposed, and Helen Jones seconded its approval.

#### **5. Elections**

Dr. Chris Chang Pro Vice-Chancellor - Global Engagement, Portsmouth University, Dr. Alba De Souza and Dr. Neil Kemp were duly re-elected to the Board of Trustees of the CEC.

Prof. Mary Stiasny and Mr. Nayan Patel had decided to stand down. SL thanked them for their unflinching service to the CEC.

Dr. Joanne Newman, SG of the ACU was elected to the Board of Trustees of the CEC. She was elected by Mark Robinson and seconded by Helen Jones. JN would replace Alex Wright as a representative of ACU.

AGM members recommended that a skills audit be done on the current Board of Trustees, and that the skills gap be filled in with the appropriate people who have those skills.

Mark Robinson shared the paper he had done on the nomination process according to the CEC Articles of Association. The AGM suggested that it be put up on the CEC website

#### **6. Appointment of Examiner**

Rev. Keith Stephenson was re-appointed to be the Examiner for another year. The AGM thanked Keith Stephenson for the work he has done for the organisation.

#### **7. Chair's Review**

There had been five events in the year under review. There were the usual three annual events: The Commonwealth Day Conference/Seminar; the Gladwyn Lecture and the AGM. There was also the annual CEC Conference which biennially is held abroad. There were two Quarterly Westminster events.

In May 2019 CEC's Annual Conference will be held in Grenada and all members are very welcome to attend. About 400 people have registered to attend the event including the Secretary General of the ComSec, the Secretary General of ACU and the Secretary General of COL. There is also a strong showing from the Caribbean, with Dame Cécile La Grenade, Governor General of Grenada, Dr. Nigel Harris, Vice Chancellor Emeritus, University of the West Indies, and Hon Pamela Moses, responsible for Tertiary Education, Skills Development and Education Outreach. A number from the Commonwealth Students' Association would be attending and taking part in the Conference. CEC is gradually building a multi-lateral bond with various Commonwealth Countries – Namibia and now Grenada. In addition, we are strengthening links with the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Commonwealth Foundation, the British Council.

#### **8. Date Time and Venue of Next Meeting**

The date, time and venue of the next meeting will be circulated closer to the time. It has been proposed to hold the AGMs after the tax year.

## **9. Any Other Business**

- i. Eva Ekehorn circulated a paper from CHEC on 'A Call for Emergency Action' on climate change and human ecology which Joanna Nurse had endorsed. She asked for CEC support as education and health is a vital part of human ecology. MR agreed with her.
- ii. Peter Williams encouraged CEC to situate itself and find a niche for supporting the ComSec. Ten years ago, there were six professional staff in education, now there were only two. He suggested that when planning conferences attention should be focused on areas that need attention and to follow up with policy and practice. COL was organising a conference in Edinburgh in September, and CEC could be a part of that. UKFIET was also planning to have some CW themes and there were two events where CEC could engage in.
- iii. Joanne Newman said that areas of interest the CEC and ACU could work on together would include gender, skills and employment, ECE and the SDGs pertaining to education and training.
- iv. SL agreed with the above and reiterated that the CEC should be involved and partner with other organisations and agencies, but that it must be remembered that CEC is made up of volunteers, whose available time was scarce.
- v. Rita Odumosu informed members that the Institute of Education had reinstated the reading rights of CEC members. However, for the above, they wanted something in return. She was going to look into this.
- vi. NK informed members of forthcoming CEC events including plans for the 2019 Annual Conference at St George's University, Grenada in May 2019.