



<b>NEON Executive Committee Meeting</b> <b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2019</b>	
<b>Location</b>	Lancaster University
<b>Distribution</b>	These minutes are for circulation to <b>Executive Committee</b> members.
<b>Purpose of meeting</b>	<i>The purpose of the meeting is to update the NEON Executive Committee and attendees of the AGM on NEON's progress to date and invite views on the directions being taken.</i>

## MINUTES

### 1. Welcome and Introductions from the Chair

Steve Kendall (SK), Chair of the NEON Executive Committee at the time, welcomed the Executive Committee and AGM participants and gave a brief overview of the agenda.

### 2. Financial Report and Forecast 2018-19

Graeme Atherton (GA) gave an overview of the finance paper.

This paper surmised that NEON is in good financial standing with a carry-over figure in surplus of £55,000 and a 20% increase in turnover. This can be attributed to the success of the 2019 Symposium, secured research projects, event income and ongoing membership income.

GA stated that NEON will focus on maximising project income and continue to construct an events programme that addresses pertinent issues and appeals to members in the coming year. GA further added that the NCOP in schools project is set to continue in the coming year.

SK closed this segment confirming that all attendees accepted the finance paper.

### 3. Activities 2018–2019

Martin Webster gave an overview of the activities paper.

The question was asked as to how NEON can better help delegates implement or share insights taken away from events with their wider teams.

Although it was broadly agreed that this responsibility primarily lies with the institutions representative at the event, SK concluded that NEON should consider providing more

systematic support and assistance to membership organisations who send delegates to events.

SK closed this segment confirming that all attendees accepted the Activities paper.

#### **4. Chairs report**

SK addressed the exec. and other attending members, remarking on NEON's exponential growth over the years highlighting the following:

- Record number of submissions for the 2019 NEON Awards
- Greatest media coverage of NEON research by national news outlets.
- Most executive committee applications received
- Largest symposium delivered to date with highest number of attending delegates and session choices on offer.
- Entry into the international arena through World Access to Higher Education Day (WAHED)

In his parting statements SK went on to express thanks to the NEON secretariat, the outgoing executive committee, predecessors, and hosts of the 2019 Summer Symposium - Lancaster University.

#### **5. Appointment of NEON Chair 2019 -21**

Martin Webster spoke on the appointment the successive NEON Chair.

In light of Steve Kendall's imminent departure from the organisation, NEON conducted a search for a new independent chair and received a letter of interest from Sir Les Ebdon, previous head of the Office for Fair Access (OFFA).

The question was raised as to whether the meeting approved the appointment of Sir Les Ebdon as next chair of NEON.

All those in attendance were in agreement and none in opposition.

Sir Les Ebdon was formally adopted as successive NEON chair to the delight of the NEON secretariat.

GA formally thanked SK on behalf of the exec. for his commitment and pioneering work in NEON.

#### **6. Appointment of NEON Executive**

Martin Webster returned as voting officer for the election of the 2019-21 executive committee.

19 applications were made for 10 places this year.

The 10 successful candidates are:

- 1) Chris Bayes  
Outreach and Student Success Manager, Lancaster University.

- 2) Emma Church  
Widening Participation Research & Evaluation Coordinator, East Midlands Widening Participation Research and Evaluation Partnership (EMWPREP).
- 3) Sam Dunnett  
Deputy Head of Widening Participation, University of Sussex.
- 4) Mike Garnock-Jones  
Director, Higher Education Progression Partnership (HEPP).
- 5) Meghan Hubbard  
Project Manager, DANCOP
- 6) Nick Marsdin  
Development Manager (Schools), Lancaster University
- 7) Hannah Merry  
Operations Manager, Higher Horizons+
- 8) Hannah Purkiss  
Director of Operations, IntoUniversity
- 9) Jon Rainford  
Digital Learning and Development Officer, University of Bedfordshire
- 10) Mark Walmsley  
Lecturer in the Humanities and Widening Participation Officer, University of East Anglia

GA formally thanked everyone who stood for the committee this tenure, encouraging all to remain involved with NEON and congratulated successful candidates.

7. **Any Other Business**

No further issues were raised for discussion.

***The Annual General Meeting concluded.***