



AGM May 2016

Chair's report

Thanks to the stalwart efforts of both the outgoing committee, to whom formal thanks should be recorded at this meeting, and to the new ANT committee members who have been in post since the Autumn of 2016, the Association of National Teaching Fellows is, in my view, in very good shape.

I would like to draw members' attention to the following highlights of our activities this year and our future plans:

1. The transition to the new committee has been effected, and particular thanks are due to the Treasurer, Ian Scott, who has valiantly worked to remove former signatories from the ANTF bank account, and get new signatories in place. Anyone who has ever held a similar post in a not-for-profit organisation will know that banks tend not to prioritise the affairs of organisations like ours, and will therefore know that this did not involve a trivial amount of effort. Thanks to the former treasurer and signatories for their patience and cooperation in helping to keep financial affairs viable in the somewhat lengthy transition period. My thanks also go to all committee members who are working really hard to help us be a real community of practice as well as to have an administrative function representing NTFs
2. ANTF colleagues will be delighted to know that in early March I co-signed with HEA colleagues the contract for this year's funding of £10,000 for the ANTF organisation. We have also agreed a schedule for mutual reporting and for payments for the next two years after this, which is very reassuring in terms of our sustainability. A copy of this agreement is available electronically and a hard copy is provided here at this meeting for members to peruse on request. We aim in this next year to work further with the HEA to foster the take up of Fellowships at all levels, particularly by our own NTFs who haven't achieved them yet. We also will encourage NTFs to continue to engage with HEA as accreditors, reviewers and consultants. The relationship between the HEA and ANTF is mutually supportive and collegial, and we are very grateful to the support offered this year as previously by Caroline Stainton and her HEA colleagues, both in supporting this event and in many other ways.
3. We are keen to foster member engagement and as part of this, we have maintained our commitment to support new NTFs and are organising regional and national events both to offer guidance and support to prospective NTFs and their institutional supporters, as well as to foster member engagement for events within the UK nations and on themed topics. The annual symposium is seen as a key annual event to take forward this aim and to showcase the best practice of our NTFs. We are therefore gratified both by the quality of NTFs-led inputs to the symposium and by the high number of registrations this year, including on our second day when non-NTFs will join us.

4. As part of this commitment, we are building on existing good practice in involving our members through effective communication, through social media, the NTFS blog, the JISC mail base and a range of other virtual and face-to-face means.
5. Building on the good work of the outgoing committee and the former Chair we are being successful in achieving sponsorship, in cash and in kind most recently from Hasbro (Playdoh), Palgrave (book launch cake and books), The Postgraduate Experience project (books, conference bags), Routledge, SEDA, Oxford Brookes University (publications) and others. James Intrilligator will talk in his report about future plans for a Sponsorship Strategy.
6. We continue to regard our relationships with sister organisations of National Teaching Fellows and similar in other nations as important, in line with our agreement with the HEA to 'facilitate international engagement' and 'promote engagement between NTFs and internationally-based fellows from similar schemes overseas'.
7. The NTF book that is being coordinated by Tim Bilham and colleagues is making good progress and Tim tells me they are in communication with a number of publishers about getting it in print.
8. A major achievement for the ANTF this year has been our involvement in responding to the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) consultation and to the subsequent Green Paper Consultation, as aligned with our agreement with HEA that we will use our collective expertise to comment on policy debates and consultations. Our next step is to lobby MPs and peers before the Higher Education Bill goes through Parliament, and Pratap will be talking about this in his report next. It has been really heartening that close to 200 of our members have been involved in these consultations in person, at events and electronically. NTF Cristina Leston Bandeira of Leeds University has been invaluable in giving us advice on how to take things forward. I feel this has been a real community endeavour and dozens of NTFs have written to me to concur. Where or not we have a significant impact on the TEF we felt it important to engage in these discussions which centre on the area that brings us all together: Teaching Excellence.
9. In terms of succession planning, we will be making some changes to the timing of elections of roles of officers to ensure smooth transitions. I have indicated I will only be serving as chair for one term and would wish to see a chair-elect agreed within the last year of my term of office.
10. Each of the committee members has a designated role within the committee and for this reason, each will briefly report on their areas next in this meeting: with your agreement, we will hear all the reports and then take questions at the end.

Sally Brown

CANT chair 2015-2018