

CCEAM Report for 2012 – 2013

Since my last annual report in May 2012, the highlight of the year for CCEAM was our biennial conference held in November 2012 in Limassol, Cyprus. As they did in 2006, our Cypriot colleagues provided wonderful hospitality and an interesting, well-organized conference. The conference included papers and presenters representing research, ideas, and perspectives associated with educational administration and leadership from many Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries. There is a photo gallery and links to many of the paper presentations at the 2012 conference website (www.cceam2012.com).

2014 CASEA/CCEAM conference

As part of the 2012 CCEAM conference, Miles Turnbull (Dean of Education at UPEI and Chair of the 2014 Conference Organizing Committee) and I were busy with various planning and promotional efforts associated with the 2014 conference that we are hosting at UPEI in June 2014. We gave a presentation to the CCEAM Board on our conference planning, which was well received by Board members who promised to promote our conference among the members of their affiliates. During the conference, we had an information table where we provided some conference and travel information for the 2014 conference. We also collected business cards and ballots for draws held at the closing ceremony of the conference. Several Canadian colleagues who were at the conference helped us by staffing our table during breaks between sessions. At the closing ceremony, we presented the conference launch to all the delegates about our conference. Our presentation included a promotional video about PEI along with information about planned activities during the conference. Throughout the conference, the delegates seemed to respond very favourably to our invitations to come to Canada next year.

CCEAM constitutional amendments

At the CCEAM Board and Executive this year, we have been dealing with challenges associated with the transition from the 2008 Constitution to the revised version proposed in 2012. The proposed 2012 document was discussed at the Board level, posted on the CCEAM website, and Board members were asked to notify the members of their affiliates. The intention was to bring the proposed 2012 Constitution to the Biennial General Meeting scheduled during the Cyprus conference in November 2012. Constitutional amendments can only be made at a general meeting, either the regular meeting every two years or at a special general meeting called with adequate notice. However, since the Cyprus conference was held in November and the existing 2008 Constitution required that the Biennial General Meeting be held before the end of October, it was necessary to hold a special general meeting by teleconference in September 2012. CASEA members were notified by e-mail of the constitutional changes and of the September meeting. At this meeting, which had a quorum of members in attendance, the proposed 2012 Constitution was approved in principle, with ratification to occur at the BGM in Cyprus in November. However, at the November meeting, members present from the other affiliates appeared to be unaware of the constitutional changes and were unwilling to ratify the revised constitution.

The biggest changes in the 2012 document related to the composition of the CCEAM Executive. Under the 2008 Constitution, the majority of the members of the Executive were appointed by the President and normally resided in the same country as the President. The 2012 Constitution proposed that the six members of the Executive be drawn from the CCEAM Board such that there would be one member of the Executive from each of the six CCEAM regions: Americas, Europe, Southern Africa, East and West Africa, Asia, and the Pacific. The current Executive is made up of Past-President Anusha Naidu from Southern Africa (South Africa), President Frank Crowther from the Pacific (Australia), Ken Brien from the Americas (Canada), Uche Emetarom from East and West Africa (Nigeria), Christopher Bezzina from Europe (Malta), and Ibrahim Bajunid from Asia (Malaysia). The position of Vice-President is currently vacant.

Ongoing CCEAM leadership matters

In February 2013, the CCEAM Board received notice that the Cyprus Educational Administration Society (CEAS) had decided to suspend its participation in CCEAM for two years (2013 and 2014). CEAS cited the economic crisis in Cyprus and three other major concerns, relating to the CCEAM journal *International Studies in Educational Administration (ISEA)*, leadership practices of CCEAM officials, and unconstitutional conduct of CCEAM Board meetings over the past two years, as the reasons for its decision. CEAS is a large CCEAM affiliate with over 300 members, which makes its decision very significant for CCEAM. We believe that our Cypriot colleagues have no particular issues with CASEA or its members and we are hopeful that they will attend our conference in 2014.

With regard to the *ISEA*, the CCEAM Board has been experimenting with a move from printed to electronic versions of the journal. The cost of printing and mailing three issues per year consumes almost all membership revenue in a given year. The most recent issue, Volume 40(3), was just released in electronic form. CASEA members have expressed support for a move to an electronic format for the *ISEA*, but there are members in other affiliates who prefer the printed format.

CCEAM membership fees for 2014

CCEAM has recently asked its affiliates to consider a change in the membership fee structure in 2014. Under the current structure, annual membership fees are as follows:

- CCEAM affiliate member in a developed country pays £12.
- CCEAM affiliate member in a developing country pays £4.

Each affiliate is asked to consider two main changes to this fee structure. The first is an increase in the annual fee for affiliate members in developed countries to £18. CASEA members currently pay an annual membership fee of \$39.00 (CDN), which includes our CCEAM membership. CSSE forwards our CCEAM fees on our behalf in June each year. At current rates of exchange, £12 represents about \$19.00 (CDN), leaving about \$20.00 for CASEA purposes. An increase to £18 represents about \$27.00 (CDN), an \$8.00 increase. This increase would require either an increase in CASEA membership fees or a reduction in the amount of funds available to CASEA for its purposes.

The second part of the proposal is based on the fact that some developing countries are much poorer than others. The suggestion is to divide the developing countries into two groups based on OECD data on per capita gross national income (Reference: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclistofodarecipients.htm>). The proposed change in fee structure would be as follows:

- CCEAM affiliate or individual member in lowest GNI countries would pay £4 or free.
- CCEAM affiliate or individual in “lower middle income” or “upper middle income” countries would pay £6 or £4 annually.

The countries with active CCEAM affiliates that would qualify for the lowest fee include Kenya and Uganda. Those in the higher category include Cameroon, Fiji, India, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, and Tonga in the lower middle income category, and Jamaica, Malaysia, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, and St. Vincent and Grenadines in the upper middle income category.

We are asked to provide a CASEA response by June 30. The CCEAM Board will likely discuss this issue after this date and provide a proposal to the biennial general meeting to be held at the June 2014 conference.

Connecting Cultures project and support for Trinidad and Tobago affiliate

In 2012, CCEAM received Commonwealth Foundation funding to support a project entitled Connecting Cultures. It is intended to study the uniqueness of diaspora cultures in nine identified countries, working in groups of three, and to create connections between and across these countries by capturing the voices of youth and women. One triad of countries includes Seychelles, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. In March 2013, Dr. Freddy James of the University of West Indies and representing the fledging Trinidad and Tobago affiliate contacted me and asked for assistance from CASEA. Her first request was for some physical resources to support the Connecting Cultures project and for the ongoing work of the affiliate. The requested resources include video cameras, audio tape recorders, digital cameras, and laptop computers. Secondly, they would like to organize a symposium either late this year or early next year with a focus on Leading Innovation in Teaching. The idea is to have a range of presenters who would represent global, regional, and local perspectives on this topic. Freddy would like to know if someone from CASEA would be interested in participating in this project as a feature speaker and perhaps host a workshop. If any CASEA members are interested in pursuing this matter, please contact me.

Leadership Change and Transition Plan

In June 2013, CCEAM Board members were notified that CCEAM President Frank Crowther had stepped down due to ill health. In the absence of a vice-president, the CCEAM Executive proposed that Anusha Naidu, the current past-president, be appointed as interim president until June 2014. This proposal was circulated to CCEAM Board members and I expect that it will be approved without opposition. There is also a call out to CCEAM Board members to fill the position of Vice-President.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Brien
CASEA representative to CCEAM Board
Americas representative on the CCEAM Executive