

CDAF ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Workshops and Annual Conference

As we moved into the second year in a Covid-19 environment, CDAF have had a further productive year. We held three virtual workshops during the year. Our **first virtual workshop** was delivered on the 5th March 2021. The theme for the workshop was '*New Dawns for Accounting and Finance: Reflections on Business Development*'. Guest speakers included Terry Hodgetts, Director of Corporate Client Solutions, Aston University; Professor Gillian Armstrong, Director of Business Engagement, Ulster University Business School; and Louise McAlinden, Head of Business Development, ACCA.

Our **second virtual workshop** of the year was held on the 10th September and addressed the important theme of '*Assessment and Accreditation: Update and Implications*'. This theme was particularly relevant given the pressures on UK accounting and finance academics to continue to meet accreditation requirements in the absence of formal invigilated examinations. A number of the professional accountancy bodies (ICAEW, ICAS, ACCA and CIMA) spoke at this event which was extremely well attended.

Our **third virtual workshop** was held on 5th November, addressing the theme '*Planning Impact Case Studies: Managing the Process*'. Two guest speakers presented on their experiences of REF impact case studies: Professor Christopher Humphrey, University of Manchester and Professor Kelum Jayasinghe, University of Essex.

All three workshops were recorded and uploaded for view on BAFA's YouTube area (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgPE8zQDurkON4Mwt8efrVQ/videos>). Given the significant interest in accreditation issues by the accounting and finance community during the year, two members of CDAF's Executive undertook a survey of their members, using feedback to write a blog on the subject "*Covid-19: The Continuing Challenges of Professional Accreditation in University Accounting and Finance Departments*". The blog was published on Medium on the 29th November and gained 611 views and 214 reads. Two blogs published towards the end of the previous year on the subject of accreditation continued to attract attention during this year (with 216 and 121 respectively).

CDAF's **annual conference** was held virtually on 6th May. The theme for the conference was '*Teaching in a Covid-19 Environment: Lessons Learnt and the Way Forward*'. Guest speakers included Professor Alan Sangster, Professor Barbara Flood, Professor Greg Stoner and Dr Hilary Lindsay who talked about issues and insights of education in a Covid-19 context from a sector, dean's, head of departments and academic perspective respectively.

Executive Committee

CDAF's Executive Committee met during the year on a number of occasions to discuss and agree the strategic direction of the SIG. The Executive Committee have also been extremely active in terms of identifying issues relevant to our key stakeholders (Heads of Departments of Accounting and Finance). As a subscription based SIG, we have also made good progress in terms of updating our mailing list during the year and increasing subscriptions.

As Chair, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Executive for all their hard work, creativity and resilience in what has been a challenging year.

CDAF Bursary

Given ongoing uncertainty as a result of Covid-19, the planned call for applications for CDAF's annual Research Bursary scheme during 2021 was postponed. The Executive will continue to keep existing bursaries under review and will resume the annual bursary scheme when restrictions from Covid-19 are reduced.

Relationships

During the year, CDAF had on-going discussions with the Accounting Education SIG to strengthen existing relationships. CDAF and the Accounting Education SIG jointly made one recommendation to BAFA for the 2021 BAFA Outstanding Contribution to Accounting Education Award. CDAF also continued to work closely with CPAF to identify potential synergies.

The Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting took place virtually on the 6th May 2021. During this meeting, the following members of the Executive were re-elected as co-opted members: Hafez Abdo, Siobhan Goggin, Parminder Johal and Lisa Weaver.

Joan Ballantine, Chair, CDAF, January 2022