**HDCA Executive Council Meeting Minutes**

**March 4, 2022**

**3:00 pm UK**

**Present:** Melis Cin, Tom de Herdt, Jay Drydyk, Ann Mitchell, Sophie Mitra, Oliver Mutanga, Sammia Poveda, Jack Simpson, Graciela Tonon, Elaine Unterhalter, Melanie Walker

**Chair:** Jay Drydyk

1. **2022 conference**
   1. Call for Proposals is closed; 409 proposals received: 295 individual papers; 35 thematic panels and more than 30 junior scholar meets senior scholar. Proposals by region: Europe - 184 , Asia – 67, North America – 51, Sub-Sahara Africa - 42, South America - 29. Now matching proposals to reviewers.
   2. ‘Global Dialogue Day’ (pre-conference day) program includes 13 sessions.
   3. Summer School is being organized.
2. **Progress report on committees**
   1. Membership, Conference and Sustainability committees have been formed.
   2. Membership Committee members: Graciela Tonon, - Chair, Paul Anand, Andrew Crabtree, Ann Mitchell, Jack Simpson, and Melanie Walker. The committee will address these questions: Is any particular membership size preferred; what activities should be reserved for members only or available to all; whether current dues structure and membership categories should be changed; how to address regional imbalances.
   3. Conference Committee members: Elaine Unterhalter - Chair; Melanie Walker, Sandra Boni, Faith Mkwananzi, and Jack Simpson. Ann Mitchell, will be kept informed and consulted. The committee will undertake a review and consultation on HDCA conferences and virtual events with a view to identifying achievements and gaps in the ways in which conferences have been organized, looking at forms of scholarship, participants, regional imbalances, partnerships, and environmental sustainability.
   4. Sustainability Committee members: Andrew Crabtree – Chair, Johannes Waldmueller, and Mandy Yap. The committee will recommend standards/guidelines to follow to make our operations, including conferences, as environmentally sustainable as possible.
   5. Final decisions on any recommendations made by the above committees will be taken by the EC.
   6. Other committees not yet formed: Ad hoc committee on regional networking and addressing regional imbalances; Next steps committee - a synthesizing committee to consider how all committee recommendations fit together and support identified priorities; Fundraising committee- it’s an important task but we need to know what we’re fundraising for.
3. **GSN name change**
   1. There was unanimous approval of the GSN proposal to change the name of the Graduate Student Network (GSN) to Early Career Researchers and Practitioners Network (ECRPN).
4. **Mentorship program proposal**
   1. ECRPN is eager to provide support to early career scholars. They propose to start with a pilot mentoring program, with assignments to a senior scholar who meets several times per year, providing academic mentoring support. Melis, Carmen, Oliver and Guilia will work with ECRPN to present a detailed proposal at the next EC meeting.
5. **Changes to investment portfolio**
   1. Results of the survey on investment priorities show EC members prioritized environment, especially climate change, pollution and waste. Social capital issues were identified as next highest priority, and there was also concern for ethical corporate behavior. The results provide guidance for First Republic to look for appropriate ESG investment funds.
6. **AOB–** 
   1. Jack is organizing a public discussion in Leeds, to get the City Council to discuss capabilities.
   2. Sophie announced that the call for nominations for 2022 EC positions will go out soon. Open positions: Secretary, Information Coordinator, Director at Large.

Minutes submitted by Kathy Rosenblum