

CDAF ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Addressing the challenge of COVID-19, CDAF have had a productive year. Our first general meeting was held at ACCA Headquarters, London on the 6th March 2020 (a few weeks prior to the UK national lockdown). The meeting addressed the theme '*Managing in the Context of Resilience, Wellbeing, Work life Balance*', an issue that was unexpectedly going to have great significance given the pandemic. At this meeting the ACCA also provided a professional body update. Our second general meeting was held on the 2nd October (via Zoom) and addressed the important theme of '*Assessment and Accreditation*'. 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, CIMA) spoke at this event which was well attended. Reflecting significant interest in this area, a further follow up online 'discussion' on *Assessment and Accreditation* was also held by CDAF on the 13th November. Both '*Assessment and Accreditation*' events were recorded and uploaded to BAFA's YouTube area. Additional activity also took place on the subject of '*Assessment and Accreditation*' – the Chair and one other committee member writing two blogs on the subject of *COVID-19: Managing the Challenges of Professional Accreditation in University Accounting and Finance Departments*'. Both blogs were published on Medium.

Due to COVID-19, the annual CDAF conference, which was scheduled to be held on the 6-7th May 2020 in Winchester, was cancelled. The planned theme for the conference, 'Understanding Scholarship: Issues and Challenges', it to be carried forward to a future date.

As a result of COVID-19, the planned call for applications for CDAF's annual Research Bursary scheme during 2020 was postponed. The six bursaries (to the value of approximately £12,000) awarded in late 2019/early 2020 commenced during 2000. A number of these bursary holders have been awarded extensions to their original projects as a result of restrictions imposed by COVID-19. CDAF will continue to keep existing bursaries under review and will resume the annual bursary scheme when the restrictions from COVID-19 are reduced.

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 2020 BAFA Outstanding Contribution to Accounting Education Award. CDAF also continued to work closely with CPAF to identify potential synergies.

The Annual General Meeting (originally scheduled to take place 7th May) took place on the 26th May 2020 at 12.30am via Zoom. During this meeting, the co-option of Hafez Abdo and Lisa Weaver was ratified. During 2020, a number of changes to CDAF's Officers took place. Ian Crawford resigned from the Committee: the Executive would like to express thanks to Ian for his contribution to CDAF. Two new members were appointed to the Executive: David Trodden (LSE) to the position of Treasurer and Darren Sparkes (De Montfort University) was co-opted.

Joan Ballantine, Chair, CDAF, January 2021