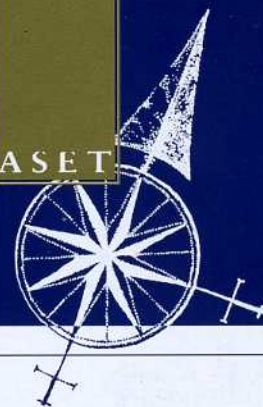


newsletter

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THE ROLE OF ASET IN 2001

ASET held an Annual General Meeting during its conference at Cambridge in early September 2000. During this AGM I reported on the discussions which were ongoing between ASET and the National Centre for Work Experience (NCWE). I promised to report to the members of ASET when a significant stage had been reached in these discussions. I am now able to honour that promise.

ASET has been established for some 20 years. Its current mission statement was adopted in the early 90's. More recently the Association agreed that while its' primary focus would continue to be sandwich education and training in Higher Education, it would not limit itself exclusively to this form of Work Based Learning and it added the by-line "integrating work and learning" to its publications to signal this intent.

In many different ways ASET has been rigorous and effective in contributing to the expanding and changing work experience scene. These contributions have included:

- Publications, conferences, seminars, workshops
- Meetings to discuss Policy and Practice with Ministers, Civil Servants, representatives of universities, colleges, employers, students and

other associations whose interest overlap with those of ASET

All of these activities will continue to be central to the role of ASET in the future.

ASET noted the establishment of NCWE in 1998. Prior to this establishment, and since then, ASET has expressed the view that NCWE should act as an umbrella body for ASET and other similar bodies, so that matters of common interest to these bodies within the umbrella body, could be discussed and, wherever possible joint proposals could be made on behalf of the several bodies to Ministers and the central organisations of the universities, colleges, employers and students.

The Executive Committee of ASET knows that this view is supported by NCWE and as a consequence ASET is rapidly developing a potentially fruitful collaboration with NCWE. In this collaboration, the two organisations will retain their separate identities and structures, and will collaborate together (and hopefully with other bodies in the future) on matters of common interest.

ASET has appointed two persons from NCWE to its Executive Committee. An especially important appointment being that of Peter Forbes as Chairman of the Conferences,

Seminars and Workshop Committee of the Association. This will ensure that many of the activities are jointly organised, branded and offered by ASET and NCWE. Each body also reserves the right to itself organise and offer other events.

In turn members of ASET are involved in NCWE committees.

The Executive Committee of ASET hopes as other bodies establish their own relationships with NCWE as an umbrella body that this collaborative focussing of activities will result in the enhancement of both the scale and the quality of all aspects of work based learning and other desirable outcomes.

ASET intends to continue as a "membership organisation". I hope that all members of the Association will be supportive of the developments outlined above.

I also hope that readers of this newsletter article who are not currently members of ASET will seriously consider joining it to strengthen its work and to benefit directly from the full programme of activities which are being planned for 2001 and subsequent years.

Edwin Kerr, **President, ASET**

POSTSCRIPT 19th July 2001

The above article was written in April 2001 and was factually accurate at that time.

Since then there have been several changes in NCWE which now has become part of CSU. Also discussions, involving ASET, are occurring to establish a National Network of Bodies concerned with aspects of work based learning.

Further information on these developments will be available in the next newsletter and at the ASET Conference at Cambridge in September 2001.

Edwin Kerr

WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION INC

The World Association for Co-operative Education (WACE) was founded in 1983 to promote work-integrated education programs worldwide. The non-profit organisation is a resource of information assistance to schools, employers and governments endeavouring to initiate or strengthen programs. With its rapid growth, WACE now has over 1000 members representing 43 countries.

Biennially, WACE hosts an international conference on work-integrated education. This year the 12th World Conference was held on July 23-28, 2001 in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand, on various issues regarding work-integrated learning and its trends in globalisation.

For more information, please contact the WACE International Secretariat by calling the United States at 617 373 8885, by fax at 617 373 3463 or by email at I.Arsenault@neu.edu

Peter Franks, Chief Executive, WACE

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