**BASC Chair’s Report 31.3.17**

The BALEAP Accreditation Scheme (BAS) is a peer-review quality assurance and quality enhancement scheme.

BAS currently has 24 institutions who are members of the scheme with Bristol and Liverpool joining in 2016. Institutions visited for successful reaccreditation in 2016 were Bath, Durham, Glasgow, Strathclyde and University of the Arts. Institutions due for reaccreditation in 2017 are Aston, Kent, Kingston and St Andrews. In addition, Coventry, Northampton and Cardiff have applied to join and Sheffield has applied to have its pre-sessional accredited.

The scheme now benefits from the services of the new BALEAP Administrator, Yvonne Cavanagh, who has been gradually taking over some of the administrative functions, such as keeping a record of accreditation activities and making contact with institutions to initiate the assessment process.

The scheme finances are in reasonable shape with around £16,000 paid in membership fees and around £9,000 paid in expenses. New assessor training in 2015 (expenses only) cost around £800 with assessors’ day, ratification meeting and the training event in May costing around £7,300. HMRC has confirmed that the only ways to pay assessors are through payroll, usually done by the institution being accredited, or if assessors are self-employed and can invoice BAS for fees. BALEAP exec looked at operating payroll in the new online management system but this function is too expensive and complex for the small number of payments involved.

Nine of the ten new assessors who shadowed accreditation visits as part of their training in 2015 took on the role of second assessor for the visits in 2016, with the one assessor who was not able to take up the opportunity shadowing an assessment visit to Kent in May 2017. This meant that the workload for assessment visits and sponsoring reports was much more evenly shared amongst this larger pool of assessors.

A new category for the accreditation visits, exceeded standards, was used again in 2016. Standards were exceeded in criteria such as relationships with university services, teacher induction, quality enhancement through active innovation, resources for independent learning, social and cultural programme. It was decided at the October ratification meeting that this additional category should not be used as it was hard to apply to all criteria. Instead assessors will use the comment function in each section to highlight particularly good practice in each section. An online reporting format is being set up by Richard Telford of MoonDigital.

The next phase of the handbook revision will concentrate on the assessors’ handbook. This is already well in hand with most sections in draft form so should be complete by May 2017.

The next May event will be held at Sheffield Hallam University on Saturday 13th May 2017, following the assessors’ day on Friday 12th. The theme is incorporating Graduate Attributes into EAP syllabus design. This event is free and open to anyone to attend not just members of BALEAP or the accreditation scheme. Applications for this event are now open through the online shop <https://www.baleap.org/event/baleap-accreditation-scheme-may-2017-event>.