**Chair’s Report 2019-2020**

FIRST YEAR IN POST

This has been my first year as BALEAP Chair, taking over from Maxine Gillway who made such significant progress in developing BALEAP as a global community. I have worked to continue our drive towards inclusivity and global reach, strongly supported by the Executive Committee, who are all committed in their various roles to developing the BALEAP community and supporting EAP practitioners wherever they work.

Of particular significance this year has been the introduction of the Special Interest Groups. There had been indications for some time that members wished to set up groups with more specialised interests than could be catered for by the PIMs and other events organised by BALEAP. After preliminary work on writing Guidelines and inviting proposals, a call went out to the membership and eight applications were received. These were all accepted and the SIGs went live in early February with a good deal of activity already taking place.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership has continued to grow and individual membership now stands at 273 individual members with many hundreds of other members included within the 93 institutional memberships. Individual memberships span the globe with members in 30 countries, including the UK, representing the range of contexts where EAP is taught.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

This year the Executive Committee has had two meetings before the PIMs in Northampton (June 2019) and Goldsmiths, London (November 2019). The face-to-face meeting that would have taken place before the PIM in Northumbria this month has had to be replaced by a meeting on Zoom, planned to precede the AGM on 27 March.

Members of the Committee have also been in regular communication to support activity related to BALEAP such as the Accreditation schemes, the funding initiatives, the MA Dissertation award and the events that are a regular feature in the BALEAP calendar. This year, members of the Committee have also spent a good deal of time working on the setting up of the Special Interest Groups and we are now in a position to ask for members’ approval of a new Committee role of SIG Officer.

The 2020 AGM will also mark the end of the second terms of office for several Committee members who will therefore be stepping down from their roles. BALEAP has been extremely fortunate to benefit from their commitment and expertise and I would like to thank them for all that they have contributed over the years. Lia Blaj-Ward has served on the Executive Committee in various capacities and is now leaving the role of Treasurer; John Wrigglesworth, who has also served on the Committee in a range of roles is leaving the role of Research and Publications Officer; Clare Poulson is stepping down from her role as Information and Publicity Officer and Jane Bottomley is leaving her role as Ordinary Member. In addition to this, Maxine Gillway, Chair from 2016-19 steps down from her role as Outgoing Chair. They have both shaped and supported the development of BALEAP over the last decade and I would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution they have made.

A Call for Nominations to these various positions on the Committee went out in December 2019. There were nominations for the Treasurer’s role (Bella Reichard, currently Web Officer) and the Research and Publications Officer (Steve Herron). No nominations were received for the Information and Publicity Officer and Ordinary Member positions. Bella Reichard was elected unopposed as Treasurer and a further call was sent out for the roles of Web Officer, Information and Publicity Officer and Ordinary Member. Anna Rolinska was nominated and elected unopposed as Web Officer; Lisa Hanson was nominated and elected unopposed as Information and Publicity Officer and there were no nominations for the Ordinary Member role.

*JEAP (Journal of English for Academic Purposes)*

I have continued to write the BALEAP News item for each issue of *JEAP*, but we will now be including reports from members of BALEAP working in different global contexts. Our first contributor wrote about the experience of teaching EAP in mainland Europe and further contributions will appear from practitioners in other environments.

ANNUAL TRUSTEES REPORT

This has been written for the period August 2018 – 31 July 2019 and is presented here along with the accounts for this period.

Sarah Brewer

March 2020