**Chair’s Report 2021-22**

The year 2021-22 has been another year of online rather than face-to-face activity and although this has brought some losses to the BALEAP community, the ability we all have to work effectively online has brought a proliferation of activity and in some respects increased the activity of executive committee members as will be evident from the sessions that are scheduled for the April 2022 AGM event.

Over the course of the year, much of my time as Chair has been divided into work involving the committee as a whole or individual members, and work relating to publications, in particular, the Glasgow *Conference Proceedings* and the *JEAP Special Issue* which celebrates the 50th anniversary of the founding of SELMOUS and the 20th anniversary of the establishment of *JEAP.* I also continued to liaise with colleagues in Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University in China for the joint CEAPA-BALEAP conference which took place in May 2021. BALEAP members contributed papers and a plenary and I provided a welcome speech at the opening of the conference.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The elections at the beginning of 2021 brought four new members to the executive committee, Fiona Orel and Fiona Wallace who were elected to the positions of Testing Officer and Events Officer and Susie Cowley-Haselden and Laetitia Monbec who jointly have taken on the role of Research Officer. I have worked closely with them following their handover periods and also with Anneli Williams, our SIGs Officer as the SIGs continue to grow and new SIGs are proposed. I believe BALEAP is very fortunate to have an executive committee whose members bring so much energy, commitment, and innovation.

The committee has continued to be be extremely active over the last year and I have chaired our regular meetings (in June and November 2021 and 1April 2022) as well as a Financial Strategy meeting in September 2021. This meeting was an opportunity to review our financial planning, in particular the outlays needed to sustain ongoing activity related to funding membership projects (usually research focused), the SIGs, the TEAP scholarship and other TEAP activity; suggestions from the membership on new possibilities for funding. Other priorities that were raised but not discussed in detail were the potential redevelopment of the website and the investment that might be needed in extending our current social media strategy.

ELECTIONS

One election was required in the current year with the resignation of Bella Reichard from the position of Treasurer. Bella has not only made an enormous and invaluable contribution to the work of the BALEAP executive committee as Web Officer and as Treasurer but has also provided huge support to other members of the committee in their different roles. Our new Treasurer is Ben Brown who was elected in January 2021.

PUBLICATIONS

I have continued to liaise with Garnet Education, the publishers of the *Conference Proceedings*, to move towards digital publishing of the *Proceedings*. The ultimate aim was not just to provide an electronic version of the *Proceedings*, but to index individual papers so that they would come up in a Google Scholar search. This proved to be more complex than originally envisaged, but has been achieved, although papers that are deposited in university repositories are not necessarily linked directly to the *Proceedings*, so further refinements may be needed.

A good deal of my time has also been devoted to editing the special issue of the *Journal of English for Academic Purposes (JEAP)* with Olwyn Alexander. The issue, ‘Practitioner voices, scholarship and practice-led research in the evolution of EAP’ focuses on tracing the interactions between practice, scholarship and research across the lifetime of BALEAP, reinforcing the key role of theory in EAP practice and pointing the way to future directions. It is now well on the way to completion with three papers currently available and others at various stages of the editorial/production process. Papers can be found here: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/journal-of-english-for-academic-purposes/special-issue/10S1K1NN1MN>

2021 saw the publication of the report on the BALEAP funded project on ‘The impact of Covid-19 on the UK EAP sector: An examination of how organisations delivering EAP were affected and responded in terms of academic delivery and operational procedures’**.** The research was prompted by a call from members through the discussion list which I took to the executive committee and was carried out between December 2020 and March 2021 and is published on the website here: <https://www.baleap.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/BALEAP-Report-Covid-and-EAP-May-2021.pdf>

LIAISING WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Cara

For some years, BALEAP has provided valued support to the Cara (Council for At-Risk Academics) Syria Programme with a large number of members volunteering to give 1-to-1 tutorials to academics who have been displaced by the conflict in Syria. As a member of the Steering Group for the EAP strand of the Syria Programme, I have continued to provide a connection between our two organisations to maximise the opportunities for academics to access expertise in language development.

CLiE

In 2021 I was approached by the Chair of CLiE (Committee for Linguistics in Education - <https://clie.org.uk>) with a suggestion that BALEAP should be represented on the committee to give a voice to concerns relating to linguistics in Higher Education. CLiE is a joint committee of the Linguistics Association of Great Britain (LAGB) and the British Association for Applied Linguistics (BAAL) and as ‘experts in language and how it works’ recognised that many of their concerns were shared by language specialists in HE. Their aim is to make ‘evidence-based comments on education policy, curriculum & assessments’ and representation on the committee gives BALEAP an opportunity to contribute. Currently I am the representative.

WEBSITE

With a view to investigating the redevelopment of the BALEAP website, I set up a meeting with a website developer who had designed and runs the ALDinHE website. This has given us a basis for planning the future for our website and further investigation will follow in the coming year.

*JEAP (JOURNAL OF ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES)*

I have continued to write the BALEAP News item for each issue of *JEAP*. There are currently six issues a year and each issue of the BALEAP News provides an update of activity over the previous couple of months, often with a special update from one of the SIGs.

MEMBERSHIP

Numbers to be added

ANNUAL TRUSTEES REPORT

This has been written for the period 1 August 2020 – 31 July 2021 and is presented here along with the accounts for this period.

Sarah Brewer

April 2022