**Chair’s Report 2023-24**

Over the course of the last year, my focus has been on liaising with other Executive Committee members re events, the upcoming bi-annual conference at Warwick University, the BALEAP JEAP news, reviewing the Membership fees, meeting BALEAP members, engaging in discussions about the name of BALEAP and participating in the everyday emails that are take place between members of the Executive Committee.

**Executive Committee:**

Mr Conrad Heyns BAS Chair (April 2021 – April 2025)

Mr Ben Brown Treasurer (April 2022 – April 2025)
Ms Fiona Wallace Events Officer (April 2021- April 2024)

Ms Anna Ziomek Testing Officer (April 2023 – April 2026)

Ms Panagiota Tzanni SIGs Officer (April 2023 – April 2026)

Ms Lisa Hanson Information and Publicity Officer (April 2023 – April 2026)

Ms Joanne Raynor Web Officer (April 2023 – April 2026)

Ms Susie Cowley-Haselden Joint Research and Publications Officer (2021-2024)

Ms Laetitia Monbec Joint Research and Publications Officer (2021-2024)

Ms Bee Bond TEAP Officer (April 2023 – April 2026)

Ms Lia Blaj-Ward BAS Chair (April 2022 – April 2025)

Ms Natasha Ingall Ordinary Member (April 2023 – April 2026)

Ms Laura Connolly Ordinary Member (April 2023 – April 2026)

Mr Andrew Hewitt (April 2023 – April 2026)

BALEAP is very fortunate to have dedicated and enthusiastic Executive Committee members who take on these volunteer roles in addition to daily jobs and often it takes up a significant amount of time.

The committee has continued to be exceptionally active over the last year and I have chaired our regular meetings (in June and November 2023 and one in March 2024) as well as two meetings regarding membership fees.

**Bi-annual Conference:**

The hope with this conference at Warwick University was to encourage a critical look at every aspect of EAP. The organisers hoped that the community would feel bold and brave enough to challenge the status quo, offering ideas, opinions, research, practices, and suggestions that can take the field in new directions.

We would like to thank the organisers at Warwick University for a very successful conference which was stimulating, prompted many worthwhile discussions and afforded opportunities for networking and collaboration.

**What’s in a name?**

BALEAP was founded in 1972 as *SELMOUS* (Special English Language Materials for Overseas University Students) and changed its name to *The British Association of Lecturers in English for Academic Purposes* in 1989 and then to *BALEAP* in 2010 dropping the full name and meaning.

However, it was subsequently noted by many members that whenever we spoke to those not familiar with BALEAP, an explanation was often required to explain this change and the resulting stand-alone acronym.

In this context, a survey was sent to the BALEAP membership (August 2022) asking for initial thoughts and comments. The results of which were then shared and discussed further with four different focus groups:

1. BAS Assessors Focus Group
2. Directors Focus Group
3. International Focus Group
4. Individual Members Focus Group

This consultation culminated in a discussion at the 2023 BALEAP conference and AGM.  Two decisions were reached:

1. Whilst problematic, there is considerable sector recognition in ‘BALEAP’, and changing the name would be disadvantageous.
2. There was a clear desire within the consultation process for the organisation’s history to be celebrated. This means that we will re-embrace the original *British Association for Lectures in English for Academic Purposes.*

With the development of the new website, a full introduction acknowledging the different viewpoints, debate and beliefs about ‘who we are’ and ‘what we do’ will provide a background narrative to these decisions.

**JEAP News:**

Since the launch of Special Interest Groups in 2020, SIGs have continued to offer opportunities for likeminded members to share experiences, expertise and developments to meet the needs of the wide range of practitioners working in the field of EAP.

There are also now twelve Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to allow members to develop interests in specific areas that might not be covered in the same depth by existing events and training opportunities.

The SIGs are:

* Academic Literacies
* Creative Disciplines
* Developing, Teaching and Testing Academic Listeners
* Doctoral Education
* In-sessional
* LAW
* Social Justice
* STEM
* Teacher Education in EAP
* Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL)
* Testing, Assessment and Feedback
* Transnational Education (TNE)

Over the period of August 2022 - July 2023, the SIGs have continued to develop their programmes and build membership.

To promote these, we invited individual SIGs to showcase their activities in instalments of the BALEAP news in JEAP.

**Liaising with other organisations:**

I am currently an inspector for Eaquals (<https://www.eaquals.org/>) as well as still an Assessor for the BALEAP Accreditation Scheme (BAS). BALEAP and Eaquals have signed a MoU in the past and are having ongoing conversations about how we may work more closely together.

We are also working with the University Pathway Alliance (UPA) to see where we overlap and where we could possibly work together.

BALEAP has also participated in discussions about a Coalition for Language Education.

This *Coalition for Language Education* is committed to developing the communicative capacities of individuals, groups and institutions and the range of languages and linguistic styles – the ‘linguistic repertoires’ – that they can draw on. We are involved in different fields and sectors of language education, working as individuals, organisations and associations, but we are drawn together by the conviction that more can and should be done to acknowledge and develop the linguistic potential of people in the UK. Shared language is vital to social life, and in the UK, English plays a key role. But language diversity is also central, and it needs to be seen as a source of enrichment, not as a deficiency or threat. Learning languages and knowing about culture and communication extends the relationships and situations that we can participate in. When education broadens our ability to understand and communicate across social, cultural and linguistic differences, drawing flexibly and creatively on a range of media, it enhances well-being and strengthens democracy.

For the most part in the UK, language education is too narrow. Change takes time, but those who seek it can gain strength from coalition. Coalition facilitates the exchange of ideas and experiences of what works, of what’s challenging, how to overcome obstacles, and how to support cooperation across locations. Individual initiatives can show that they are not isolated or eccentric, and that they are part of a much broader general development that provides inspiration and strength. Coalition can help us see the bigger picture, and add weight to what we say in conversations with local and national policy makers.

Our Coalition comes together around six tenets or fundamental orientation points, drawn from our values, experience and expertise.

Following a period of consultation that started in June 2023, the Coalition is now seeking supporting signatures from individuals and organisations, and they will be setting up a website with the list of signatories. The BALEAP Executive committee has agreed to be a signatory.

**Elections:**

We held elections for several BALEAP Executive positions, and the results are as follows:

* Research and Publications Officer (April 2024 - April 2027): Angelos Bakogiannis
* Events Officer (April 2024 - April 2027): Fiona Wallace
* BAS Chair (April 2024 – April 2027): Karin Whiteside

Future Projects

* Website – developing a new website.

**Annual Trustees report:**

This has been written for the period 1 August 2022 – 31 July 2023 and is presented here along with the accounts for this period.

Conrad Heyns

April 2024