

National Association of SACREs

Secretary's Report, May 2024

Our NASACRE Executive 2023-24:

Officers (5):

Linda Rudge (Chair), Sue Holmes (Secretary), Saquat Ali (Treasurer), Paul Smalley (Assistant to the Chair), David Levien (Vice Chair May23-Feb24)

Members (8):

Anne Andrews, Jo Backus, Denise Chaplin, Sheila Gewolb, Catherine Hughes, Manjit Kaur, Sukaina Manji, Bill Moore

Co-opted (2): *Claire Clinton, Michael Metcalf*

Admin: *Marie Cooper*

Webmaster: *Matthew Tullett*

Your NASACRE Executive Committee has met twice each term over the last year, but only one of those meetings was in person, in September in London. Zoom has proved much more flexible and convenient for meetings and in-between conversations and catch-ups, and it's an infinitely cheaper option for the expenses budget. For the first time for many years, we've had a full quota of elected Exec members for most of the last year, though having been elected to Vice-Chair in May, David Levien resigned for personal reasons in the new year. Bill Moore was also nominated for VC in 2023, so he is currently Acting VC. Bearing in mind that all Executive members work for NASACRE in a voluntary capacity - many in their own time - we owe everyone a huge debt of thanks for their commitment to everything we've achieved this year.

For the first time, we shall not be holding an AGM at our annual Conference 2024, as we have yet to transition to Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status. We'll be electing a new Executive Board when we have adopted a new CIO constitution. Our intention is to hold an online AGM as soon as we're ready to do so. We are mindful of the importance of electing the right people, and it is only when experienced SACRE members offer the benefit of their wisdom, skills and ideas, that NASACRE can continue to move forward. There are several Exec members who will be standing down at the AGM, so those elections will be key to the future sustainability of the organisation.

Additional to the full Exec meetings, members work in 3 strategic sub-groups - development, communications and conference - throughout the year. The sheer volume of work continues to increase; NASACRE representation at other RE association meetings, contributing to national initiatives, website development and preparation for CIO status, have all taken up much Exec time.

Meanwhile the number of questions coming in from SACRE members to the Chair, to the Secretary and to Admin has increased considerably year on year since COVID.

We have revised and updated our NASACRE Development Plan for 2023-25 and streamlined the website to make it more user-friendly and easier to search. It is incumbent upon SACREs to continue to share their success stories, publications, and recommendations of good practice, and feed back to help us improve it further. Meanwhile, it's clear that our ultra-successful webinar programme which continues to attract a large number of participants, is providing new opportunities for discussion, support and sharing.

A third FOI request to all LAs regarding their funding for SACRE, is due later this year, and we hope to see an overall upward trend in core support for SACREs over the last 4/5 years.

Deborah Weston (RE Council's Policy Unit) has been updating the Exec regularly on matters pertaining to the REC - such as the National Content Standard, teacher recruitment and workforce data - thus ensuring we are kept well informed for our regular strategic partnership meetings with DfE officials and in linking with others such as OfSTED.

Thirty-one years after NASACRE began, we hope soon to enter a new phase. Trying to register NASACRE as a new legal entity has proved an extremely drawn-out process, fraught with difficulties along the way. We have now engaged Mike McMaster (Barnabas Consulting) to help us, and we trust we'll soon have some good news to share; then we can elect a new Executive to serve NASACRE with its brand new identity!

Sue Holmes