

Annual Report: April 1999 - March 2000

Chair's Report

RAGnet has had another good year. We have moved our agenda on well and have managed to meet many of the objectives set out in our Strategic Plan.

Membership has increased. We now have over 350 members representing 90 different universities with a split of 45:55 between research centres/departments and central offices. Of those in research centres and departments, just under half are from social science departments whilst 35% are from science, engineering and medicine with the remainder being from the arts and humanities.

With the funding received from both membership fees and the surpluses generated by our professional development activities, RAGnet has been able to build up sufficient reserves to enable the employment of a part-time Executive Officer. We are actively recruiting at present.

This appointment will help strengthen the voluntary effort of the Executive Committee in providing long-term benefits to our members. RAGnet's accounts are presented here.

Over 450 delegates attended various RAGnet training events during the year. See below for further details.

An Advisory Committee has been set up to provide advice to the RAGnet Executive Committee on current policy and strategic issues within the HE sector of interest to the membership. This will enable us to provide more strategically targeted services and events to members.

We have strengthened our links with some of our partner organisations by collaborating with them as 'Associated Organisations', including UKRO, HEURO, EARMA and ARCISS.

A bursary scheme has been launched which enables members, who would not otherwise be able to raise funding, to attend relevant training events, workshops and conferences whilst reporting back for the benefit of the membership.

We have refined our website and made provision for on-line enrolment for members and an on-line booking facility for all RAGnet training events.

A further two issues of RAG *Times* have been produced.

In summary therefore RAGnet has had a successful year and one that we can look back on with pride. I would like to convey my thanks to everyone, particularly the members of the Executive Committee, who have contributed to this success. I hope that many of you have benefited from some of the training and the networking opportunities offered over the last twelve-month period and will continue to support RAGnet in the future. RAGnet is an organisation run by members for members and indeed our bid for charitable status was not successful because our objectives and activities were not deemed to be for public benefit but primarily for the benefit of our members. We shall therefore continue undaunted as an 'unincorporated association' doing our best to provide the networking and training services as demanded by our members. On the eve of our 10th Anniversary and with the much longed-for luxury of having dedicated support, I can only be excited by what the next year holds for RAGnet.

Charlotte Wellington
Chair, RAGnet

RAGnet Training Review of the Year 1999-2000

Spring Workshop, 5-6 May 1999

Lancaster House Hotel, Lancaster: 'Assessing Research: Aiming for Excellence'

Over 80 delegates attended this workshop with speakers from CVCP, HEFCE, EPSRC and the RAE Manager, John Rogers. The focus was on assessing research with a particular spotlight on the current RAE and a forward look as to what future assessments may look like.

RAE Expert Seminar - Guidance on Submissions

30th June 1999, Birkbeck College and 2nd July 1999, University of Glasgow.

These workshops, free to members, attracted over 90 and 30 delegates respectively and were led by John Rogers, the RAE Manager.

Clinical Trials Expert Seminar

22nd July 1999, University of Birmingham

This expert seminar was attended by 38 delegates and looked at the complex issues surrounding the management of a mixed portfolio of clinical trials.

Second Induction Workshop: An Introduction to Research Administration

27-28 September 1999, Burleigh Court, Loughborough University.

This interactive workshop was attended by 41 delegates and was aimed at people with less than one year's experience in research administration, either from a research centre or from a central position. The programme looked at the varying roles and responsibilities of a research administrator, gave information on funding for research and how to apply for funds, looked at negotiation skills and gave an insight into project management and into the financing and administration of research projects. Above all it offered delegates the opportunity to network with other new research administrators.

Research Administration and VAT Expert Seminar

13th October 1999, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge

This expert seminar attracted 45 delegates and looked at some of the more tricky aspects of VAT in research including a discussion of the most common problems faced by research administrators.

Joint AUA/ RAGnet Workshop at Aston University

2nd March 2000: 'An introduction to Research Administration, The Tools of the Trade'

Twenty seven delegates attended this introductory session looking at the skills and knowledge required when starting in the field of research administration.

RAE Expert Seminars on Software and Panel Criteria

16th March 2000, University of Central Lancashire, and 17th March 2000, Birkbeck College

These seminars concentrated on the Panel Criteria and Working Methods released earlier in the year and on the Test Software recently released. They were attended by 35 and 67 delegates respectively.

Financial report: April 1999 - March 2000

Current account			
Start balance 1/4/1999			£8,780
Expenditure			
Bursary awarded	-£88		
Committee expenses	-£1,625		
Stationery	-£312		
RAG Times	-£708		
Professional fees(legal and accounting)	-£915		
Bank charges	-£254		
Transfer to deposit account	-£10,000		
Surplus/deficit on events			
Expert seminars:			
RAE London/Glasgow 1999	-£13		
Clinical trials		£1,065	
VAT		£564	
RAE London/Preston March 2000 (1)		£1,590	
Spring workshop 1999 (2)		£969	
Induction 1999	-£103		
Spring workshop 2000 (3)		£8,355	
Membership fees		£9,450	
<i>Total expenditure/income</i>	<i>-£14,018</i>	<i>£21,993</i>	
End balance 31/3/2000			£16,755
Deposit account			
Start balance 1/4/1999			£16,103
Transfer from current account		£10,000	
Interest earned		£345	
End balance 31/3/2000			£26,448
TOTAL ASSETS AT 31/3/2000			£43,202

Notes

- (1) no expenditure has yet gone through. Predicted surplus is around £500.
 (2) some transactions went through in the previous financial year. Total surplus was £2,994.
 (3) no expenditure has yet gone through. Predicted surplus is around £2,500.