

NEAS Advisory Council Meeting

Date & Time: 10 October 2019, 2.00pm (local time)

Location: NEAS Office, Suite 211, 25-29 Berry Street, North Sydney + Zoom video conference

Attendance:

Advisory Council

Heidi Reid, Times Academy, NSW (video)

Rosa Park, Kaplan, NSW (video)

Visal Sou, ACE Cambodia, INTERNATIONAL (video)

David Hill, NSW (video)

NEAS Staff

Patrick Pheasant (video)

Jacky Ronan (NEAS office, minutes)

1. Meeting open

Patrick opened the meeting at 2pm and welcomed attendees.

Apologies: Callum Cowell (University of Western Australia), Julian Wilson (University of Queensland), Ivano Buoro (TAFE NSW).

2. Conflicts of Interest:

None.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes accepted by Heidi Reid.

4. Update on NEAS Strategy

Patrick provided the following updates:

- New office premises and website, which aligns with future strategy, emphasizing NEAS growth. Feedback from AC members was positive. It was noted by Heidi that the school search functionality on the website wasn't there.
- **Action: Pass this feedback onto Cameron Heath.**
- Currently developing future strategy and some concepts shared with the AC for their input and feedback.

- The updated NEAS vision/mission statements were discussed and AC agreed they are strong and well-articulated.
- Feedback and suggestions from the AC: Consider liaising with the embassies in each country before offering support to ELT peak bodies or offering endorsement to Australian transnational education providers.
 - There was agreement that there is appetite in Japan for quality assurance, eg. Visal's His discussions with JAL regarding endorsement revealed that centres in Japan are keen on becoming endorsed. David agreed there was appetite in Japan for quality assurance.
 - Nonetheless, many Asian countries do not recognise a benefit to being endorsed. There is a lack of NEAS recognition internationally in comparison to British Council.
 - In Australia, NEAS is considered second to ASQA/TEQSA in regard to obtaining information.
 - The connection between the recruitment of students and the language centres was seen as valuable.
 - The AC preferred that the NEAS brand become more internationally recognised than domestically, and as such resources need to be allocated carefully.
 - Excluding Saudi Arabia as a target for future growth area was queried. Limited resources means that international growth needs to be targeted.
 - NEAS's new Business Development Manager, Joel Manning, will be commencing next week.

5. Role of Advisory Council as Expert Panel

The following areas were discussed:

- Consideration of using the AC as an expert panel from 2020 was discussed.
- Meeting attendance. The AC members agreed that AC membership requirements/regulations should be upheld, and members should attend 60% of meetings in order to remain eligible to be on council and 100% of meetings to be eligible for funded NEAS conference registration.
- Patrick proposed that there should be 8-12 (ideally 8) members for council moving forward.
- **Action: AC members liaise on email between now and next meeting to discuss prospective AC members.**
- Patrick advised that NEAS can draft up the membership criteria and then nominations can be discussed at the next meeting and balanced against the criteria. The AC agreed.
- Aside from regular council members, Heidi suggested inviting certain industry stakeholders to the meetings (ad hoc) for their expertise. Patrick suggested there could be a special topic for each meeting i.e. homestays, visas etc and we could invite people to join the AC meeting for their input. The AC agreed this was a good idea and that it would be a good opportunity for stakeholders to see what NEAS does and have input into our work.

Rosa and Heidi left the meeting at 3.00pm

- At the last meeting, David volunteered to be Council Convenor for next year and he confirmed his interest in the position at this meeting.

Action: Patrick to send an EOI for nomination for Council Convenor to the Advisory Council in the first instance (with notice period) and then if required, will send then EOI to a wider audience.

6. Membership

Heidi Reid's membership on the AC is up for renewal and she has opted to review. Motion: to renew Heidi Reid for another term (PP/DH) The AC agreed.

7. Update on Advisory Council Meetings 2020

The meeting schedule for next year was presented. **Action: Patrick to obtain feedback from AC members re availability.**

8. Any other business

None.

Meeting closed 3.15pm

Next meeting: AGM, 24 October 2019

Action items	By Whom
Email an EOI for nomination for Council Convenor to the Advisory Council.	Patrick
Email to chase up other AC members for feedback on 2020 meeting dates.	Patrick
Check centre search function on website with Cameron.	Jacky