

Foreword.

As your new Chairman I am delighted to take over the role that Carson Stewart filled so admirably over the past three years. Carson's efforts have ensured that PHEE has now become a considerable influence within the committee of the Engineering Professors' Council (EPC), and in wider circles. I hope that I will be able to guide and influence the future of PHEE in a similar way. I am very happy that Ray Thomas and Stuart Poole have agreed to continue as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Ray and Stuart do terrific jobs behind the scenes.

Looking ahead, I believe that the high priority issues for the short term are:-

Finance – PHEE has no direct income to sustain its activities, and relies upon the surplus generated from the Annual Conference. We have been greatly helped by the generosity of the IEE in its support for Committee meetings and the Annual Conference. We need to increase the reserve held in the accounts to about one year's annual running costs, and I am exploring in liaison with our Treasurer various possibilities to improve the position.

Constitution – It is timely to review and update the constitution, and a revised version will be presented to members at the Annual Conference next January. Although no radical changes appear necessary, the Committee proposes some minor amendments. Higher visibility of our Aims and Objectives would be helpful.

Events – Traditionally PHEE has organised two conference events each year : The annual January conference focuses on major issues of concern, and has enjoyed good attendance and high-profile speakers; The Easter "Course Leaders" Conference explored some of these issues in more depth and targeted a wider range of senior academic colleagues. Due to diminishing attendance at the Easter event over the past few years, we did not run an Easter event in 2003. In the current climate, the committee believes it is still inappropriate to resurrect it, but would welcome comments and ideas on how to proceed in the future.

Membership – Although our membership database is updated regularly, we depend on being notified of changes within Schools and Departments. We would like to explore the concept of a 'corresponding member' from each institution so that a more direct and informal communication channel can be implemented between the membership body and its committee. Development of our website should also assist with improved communication.

I wish you every success in the coming academic session. I look forward to receiving your comments and suggestions and I hope to see you at our annual conference.

Hugh McCann (Chairman)

<p>PHEE Annual Conference 2004 Venue: IEE Savoy Place, London. Date: Wednesday 7 January 2004</p>
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Annual Conference 2004

The theme for the next Annual Conference, to be held on **Wednesday 7 January 2004** at the IEE, Savoy Place, London is 'Engineering Change'. Currently many facets of engineering education are changing, indeed many seem to be changing concurrently! Three conference sessions have been identified each of which focuses on a particular aspect of change which is occupying our thoughts at this time.

The first session seeks to explore a number of issues affecting universities and which arise from external bodies. Presentations will review experiences from both sides of the new QAA process, the effects of the new EC-UK pronouncements, and the findings on the Smith Enquiry into mathematics teaching. As normal there will be ample time for discussion integrated into the programme.

Consultation on the recommendations of the Roberts Review on research assessment has taken place this summer and many PHEE members will have responded. The outcome of the consultation exercise should be known by the time of the conference and presentations from appropriate government, research council, and academic speakers should ensure a lively discussion session.

The final 'change' which arguably will have the biggest long-term effect on engineering education is the potential amalgamation of professional engineering institutions. We aim to explore the latest position with contributions from IEE, IMechE and IIE representatives. As ever the success of the conference depends on your active participation, so please make a note in your diary now. Registration and booking details will be circulated shortly.

PHEE Website: <http://www.tech.plym.ac.uk/spmc/phee/>

Please note that the site is still under construction, but when it is completed we hope that it will represent a useful medium for members to communicate. We would greatly appreciate constructive feedback about the facility.

If you have any comments on this issue, or indeed on any other topic, please contact any of the PHEE committee. Committee membership for the current session is:

Dr Donard de Cogan (East Anglia)	Prof Emmanuel Ifeachor (Plymouth)
Prof David Lidgate (Napier)	Mr Jonathan Ling (IIE)
Prof Hugh McCann (UMIST) (<i>Chairman</i>)	Dr Dik Morling (Westminster)
Rev Stuart Poole (<i>Treasurer</i>)	Prof Ed Powner (Sussex)
Prof John Senior (Hertfordshire)	Dr Derek Shields (IEE)
Prof Carson Stewart (Queens Belfast)	Prof David Howard (York)
Prof Roger Pollard (Leeds)	Prof Phil Witting (Glamorgan)

Dr Ray Thomas (Brighton) (*Secretary*) - email: r.thomas@bton.ac.uk

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