

Foreword.

I believe that we have made significant progress on a number of the priorities that I identified in last year's newsletter. On *Finances*, our current bank balance is much healthier than this time last year thanks largely due to the excellent patronage we have received from the IEE in organising and running our Annual Conference. As your Chairman, I would thank the IEE for their support of PHEE and its members. However, as I reported last year, we need to increase the reserve held in the accounts to about one year's annual running costs, and I am continuing to explore in liaison with our Treasurer various possibilities to improve the position.

Representation of both the IEE and IIE at PHEE is facilitated by membership on our committee of representatives from these organisations. Next session PHEE will explore ways of formalising its representation within the IEE and IIE in order to build upon these good relationships. As PHEE is a sectoral group within the EPC, the office of Chairman is an ex-officio member of EPC and hence I am able to represent member's views on all relevant issues. Last year PHEE formally responded to the HEFCE consultation on the development of the funding model for teaching, and this summer it has been invited to submit nominations for panel members for the 2008 RAE.

Our revised *Constitution* has proved helpful and I have begun to address the issue of more regular and phased changeovers in the committee membership and its officers. The concept of a 'corresponding member' from each institution was raised last year and needs to be progressed next session. I hope that this will lead to a more direct and informal communication channel which will be implemented between the membership body and its committee. Once again I would ask you to assist in updating our membership database by notifying the Secretary of changes within Schools and Departments.

The key *Event* in our calendar will be the annual January conference. Over the past three years we have tried varying formats and different venues but it appears the IEE central London venue is by far the best for the majority of members. The conference format of allowing ample time for open discussion has also proved successful. However the committee would like to hear your views and I would ask you to complete the questionnaire that you will shortly be receiving in order to provide this feedback. I would also welcome any comments and ideas on how to develop conferences and other events in the future.

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

Hugh McCann (Chairman)

<p>PHEE Annual Conference 2005 Venue: IEE Savoy Place, London. Date: Wednesday 12 January 2005</p>

Annual Conference 2005

Three major topics have been identified for the next Annual Conference, to be held on **Wednesday 12 January 2005** at the IEE, Savoy Place, London.

The first session seeks to update members on the current state of progress on UK-Spec and Output Standards and their interpretation by the IEE, IIE and the BCS.

The second session will focus on the Research Assessment Exercise. Although 2008 may appear to be a long way off, membership of the various subject panels and their chairs are currently being sought and your PHEE committee has been active in identifying suitable representatives for nomination.

Arguably the final session goes to the heart of our problems and will focus on student recruitment (or lack thereof) and university finances. We are all aware of the reduction in engineering applications to degree courses and the difficult times of recent years. EPC has formed a working group to study this issue and we hope that PHEE can benefit from hearing about its findings. The professional institutions themselves may have to take on a more pro-active role in attracting students into our profession. There is some evidence that similar trends are happening in other European countries and it may be interesting to link these discussions to the Bologna Agreement to see whether there is anything to learn from our colleagues in mainland Europe.

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 visit our website for the latest conference information and booking details. Comments on the design and usefulness of the website will be appreciated.

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 Brian Culshaw (Strathclyde)
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 Roger Pollard (Leeds)
Prof Phil Witting (Glamorgan)	

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

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