



University of Brighton

To ALL PHEE Members

Dr Ray Thomas, PHEE Secretary

NEWSLETTER No. 6

September 1999

PHEE Chairman

After three years at the helm, Ed Powner has stepped down from the role of chairman to spend more time on his many university and professional activities. He will however continue to remain a member of the committee. I'm sure you will all endorse the committee's thanks to Ed for his hard work over the past few years. Our new Chairman is Carson Stewart from Queens University of Belfast. Carson is well known to many of you and takes over at an interesting time in the development of engineering education. He is keen to ensure that members views are fully represented and that PHEE develops into a more coherent and influential force within EPC and IEE.

PHEE Annual Conference 2000

This session the conference will be held on **Monday 10 January 2000**, at our usual venue, the IEE headquarters, Savoy Place. The registration fee has been held at £80 per head to include lunch, coffee and tea.

With celebrations for the New Millennium in everyone's mind the committee thought it opportune to try and 'look into the crystal ball' and see where the future of electrical and electronic engineering may lie. To this end the committee has invited a number of speakers from industry, commerce and academia, to present their views on the opportunities and threats that lie ahead. We all have our own opinions of this and I am sure a lively discussion will follow. The RAE2001 census is fast approaching and the opening session of the day will focus on research. As well as obtaining an insight on the RAE electrical panel operation, presentations will include a Research Council overview on the current status of UK research and funding, as well as on the wider European research perspective. Although SARTOR is now in the implementation phase, an update on its progress and on the output standards debate is of interest. Finally the committee wished to discuss and clarify the inter-relationship between PHEE, IEE and EPC to ensure the best possible modus operandi for the future.

The programme will be finalised at the October committee meeting, after which I will circulate full registration details and the conference programme. In the meantime please circle the 10th January in your diary and look out for the next posting.

PHEE Committee

Over the summer many of you will have received my email requesting opinions of the CVCP agreement to the QAA proposal that the Master's title should be reserved for postgraduate awards. I emailed over 80 addresses on the PHEE database and had an excellent 60% response rate. Of those replies, 50% were against the proposal, 38% were supportive, while 12% were uncommitted. Of those who were against the proposal a majority thought that the MEng was arguably a postgraduate qualification.

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

Prof Gerry Cain (Westminster)
Prof Paddy Farrell (Lancaster)
Rev Stuart Poole (*Treasurer*)
Prof John Senior (Hertfordshire)
Prof Garth Swanson (London)
Prof Don Whitehead (Hull)

Dr Donard de Cogan (East Anglia)
Prof Emmanuel Ifeacher (Pymouth)
Prof Ed Powner (Sussex)
Prof Carson Stewart (Queens Belfast)
Dr Ray Thomas (Brighton)
Prof Phil Witting (Glamorgan).