

KRYSIA

Minutes of
Teachers and Leaders Meeting 19th February 1992
at
Oriel House, 45 Cotham Road BRISTOL
Meeting led by George Sobol supported by Jane Hera.

The following were present at the meeting:-

Hazel Armstrong, Graham Bell, Jan Davies, Patsy Garrard, Jane Hera, Michael Lane, Andy Langford, Simon Pratt, George Sobol, Angus Soutar, Krystia Soutar, Nigel Stewart, Daphne Watson, Nancy Woodhead.

SESSION 1

Introductions and welcome. 5x5 on our expectations for the day. Review of the issues to be discussed. These were prioritised by each person having two votes. The issues and votes were as follows:-

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Accreditation (5) | 2. Quality Control (5) |
| 3. Graduate Support (4) | 4. Syllabus (1) |
| 5. Teaching Methods (3) | 6. Levy on Courses (0) |
| 7. Convenors' Training (1) | 8. Networking (3) |
| 9. Goals (3) | 10. LETS (2) |

It was recognised that there would not be enough time to have discussion on all these topics. Items 1, 2, 3 and 9 to be discussed by the whole group. Items 1, 5, 8 to be discussed in small groups that reported back. Items 4, 6, 7, 10 to be dealt with outside the meeting.

1. ACCREDITATION

ANDY - Current arrangement with Australia is that people can submit work to the three accredited designers in this country (Graham Bell, Andy Langford and Stephen Nutt). They then send a letter approving the application for full accreditation plus fee to Australia. Applicants have two years to present their qualifying work e.g. ten designs or relevant body of work.

George asked Mike to present his proposal for an accreditation system.

MIKE - The two years is a learning period and requires supervision that the accrediting group cannot provide because of the pressure of time. Suggest six-monthly peer review meetings, publicised well in advance, with one fully accredited person present. A standard checklist should be drawn up that can be applied to all submissions.

GRAHAM - Accreditation is an enabling process, with support built in. I have a copy of the landscape architects accreditation process.

MIKE - Experienced people should be reviewed by the group of three immediately.

DAPHNE - Don't get too involved in systems.

SIMON - Going through the accreditation is very valuable for doing your own work - do your 'Permaculture CV'. If everyone gets through regardless it devalues the diploma.

The two years may not be long enough. Applications should not be rejected, but postponed.

PATSY - Need to create more of a structure for the future, but we need to concentrate on graduate support now.

HAZEL - Can we get together our own portfolios?

NIGEL - Professional insurance could be linked to the diploma.

GRAHAM - This is already in progress.

JANE - We need to think about why people want to be accredited. Is it to practice as a professional? Is it to quality assure design work?

SIMON - I make myself available to give feedback and act as a referee for people who have attended my courses.

GRAHAM - ALL diplomates should be corporately responsible for the work of others.

ANGUS - We must look at the immediate situation, then the more formal long-term.

Mike's proposal was adopted in principal with thanks for all the work he put into it. Mike, Graham and Andy to form a working group in the p.m. to move towards a conclusion re the system of accreditation.

2. QUALITY CONTROL

Going around the whole group, people were asked what they felt were the important issues in quality control.

PATSY - consistency on courses.

JAN - Standards of teaching.

KRYSIA - curriculum/content of courses

JANE - Why do we need it?

ANDY - recourse policy would obviate need for quality control

ANGUS - Philosophy of quality

HAZEL - course expectations

DAPHNE - written feedback at end of course

NIGEL - clarity re content

GRAHAM - the other side of a recourse policy - support

SIMON - learn from feedback

GEORGE - who will police?

GRAHAM - level of detail

NIGEL - clarity re teachers' skills

3. GRADUATE SUPPORT

PATSY - The following suggestions came from the graduate support working group that met during the AGM

Mechanics of accreditation

Catching casualties

After-course care

Contact with other local people

Further programme of design/implementation weekends, advanced/specialist courses.

I think it's vital that we get things implemented - trees in the ground!!!!

We then went round the group again.

ANDY - More courses after the Design course - specialist, advanced etc.

JAN - Weekends organised/catalysed by teachers

PATSY - course re-unions. Local groups built into a network.

NANCY - Design course graduates should express their needs and take responsibility for having them met.

JANE - Support format should be part of the syllabus

GRAHAM - People aren't always looking for accreditation but they still need support e.g. because of geographical location.

MIKE - Support for all members - summer camp (Tony Wrench is organising)

HAZEL - Lists of people need to be available

ANGUS - Modelling - we need good models for all practices.

DAPHNE - Getting in touch with people locally

NIGEL - Sharing rather than teaching less money involved.

All course graduates should be given list of the 300 graduates. The above should be published in PCNews. Whole minutes available from the office. (5x18p stamps)

4. SYLLABUS

ANDY - There is a 72hr course syllabus handbook available. Came out in 1985 in Australia.

SIMON - The Designers Manual supercedes the handbook. Existing syllabus is good. There is an international working group of which I am a member.

6. LEVY ON COURSES 7. CONVENORS TRAINING

JANE - Will convene a course/group for convenors which will include discussion of levy

10. LETS - ANGUS ready to go on this. To be left in his capable hands.

SESSION 2

After lunch we met in small groups which then reported back to the whole group. First of all there was a go round sparked off by the question of Networking

8. NETWORKING

GEORGE - to what extent can courses be co-ordinated?

MIKE - course convenors should check with the office.

GEORGE - people do let the office know of their planned courses. If there is a clash does this mean that one of the courses should not run? Usually different locations so does the clash matter?

ANGUS - should co-ordinate info and not try to organise. Some courses are not notified to the office or to PCNews. Some want to keep it local.

GRAHAM - some clash but should not be competitive. Courses can become unviable if there are not enough people.

ANGUS - should look for niche to avoid clashes. Some want to act independently

NIGEL - burns on seats should be local problem, not national

ANDY - should there be a standardization of course fees?

JAN - fair for more experienced teachers to be paid more than less experienced reflected in the course fee.

GRAHAM - commitment to share experienced convenor/teacher group throughout the network - valuable as a model.

NIGEL - on Ian Lillington's course previous graduates invited to help facilitate

JAN - Ali and I will be running a teacher training W/C at Ragmans Lane

DAPHNE - if supporting can anyone sit in on a course?

JANE - apprentice teachers on a course are part of graduate support

MIKE - would like input on teaching before teaching myself, hence holding back from teaching.

PATSY - need to look at teaching methods e.g. WEA courses on teaching adults.

MIKE - Waiting for teacher training course before.

ANDY - choose a convenor, choose a teacher, run a course.

HAZEL - I have notes from Lea Harrison's teacher training course.

REPORT BACK FROM SMALLER GROUPS.

1. ACCREDITATION

Mike's procedure will be adopted, based on weekends:

North 1st - 2nd August 1992

South 12-13th September 1992

Next available in March 1993 i.e. every six months.

Some accreditations could be done outside these times by approaching the diplomates directly (for those who are now ready). Different methods will be described in a guidance document to be prepared by Andy and available mid-year. Peer group review basis and feedback emphasised. Stephen Nutt to be informed.

5. TEACHING METHODS.

Teachers should be left to teach. Adult education resources are available.

JAN will be co-ordinating a teaching workshop at Ragman's Lane 16th-17th May 1992.

Need to deal with group dynamics/leadership roles as well.

Apprenticeships and co-teaching available.

8. NETWORKING.

This received quite a lot of coverage elsewhere in the meeting, but -

- convening often done by teachers. Are they two separate jobs. Could apprentice teachers be convenors?

- targeting different groups with different sorts of courses, giving expansion away from design courses.

- Simon and George to produce monthly newsletter that would go to those on the graduate register. Serve as a noticeboard. Planned courses could be advertised between issues of PC News plus any other information of interest to active graduates that is received by the office or gleaned by graduates from other sources e.g. adult education networks.

9. GOAL-SETTING AND VISIONING

Make 'permaculture' a household word

Activate existing graduates

Funds for the PC Association

Complementary health workshops

Local action

Fundraisers and treasurers (sic)

Maintain flavour of existing organisation

Plants in the ground

Instantly achievable goals

Increased membership

International LETS system

Sauna/hot tub for next meeting

Leadership training - recognise it!!!!

More convenors

PC for children

Ideas for future meetings - two day meeting to make trip more worthwhile.

- range of venues and timings.

- next meeting northern location Middlewood?

The meeting was closed with a round of feedback about the day. No notes were taken, so I will close with my feedback - the warm, co-operative atmosphere led to a very productive and thoroughly delightful day.

Minutes were taken by various present and deciphored and written up by George.

5th MARCH 1992