

Introduction

HEDQF was established around 20 years ago as an initiative of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) to have a stronger understanding of issues affecting its clients and to promote high quality design in university buildings and estates. Its membership is balanced with representatives from HEI's and from the design and construction professionals.

HEDQF has had a strong relationship with the Association of University Directors of Estates (AUDE) and has organised exhibitions, films and workshops at conferences, often with accompanying booklets, which have included "RESOLUTION - Architectural Solutions for a Changing Higher Education Sector" in 2009, "Small budget – BIG IMPACT" in 2011 and "Estates Matter – a report on a survey of student's views of their universities estates" in 2013. It has held a number of successful debates including the most recent at Oxford Brookes University on Designing Contemporary Buildings in Historic Settings in partnership with Design Engine.

A New Future

As part of a review of its activities, the RIBA has encouraged HEDQF to become independent, though it may help with individual projects and initiatives. HEDQF members have responded positively to this and, following legal advice, HEDQF is in the process of establishing itself as Charitable Company limited by Guarantee. Part of the reason for this is that it follows the constitution of the RIBA out of which HEDQF has sprung. The object of HEDQF will be to advance higher education through high quality design and planning of buildings and facilities, and lawyers have been appointed to progress the new structure.

In meeting its objective, HEDQF will build on its successful activities over the past years including visits to buildings of interest, (with data sheets provided to AUDE), dissemination of information on best practice and latest thinking through conferences, workshops, seminars and debates, sponsoring and publishing research and working with AUDE and other partners across the higher education sector.

Finances

As a newly-independent organisation, HEDQF obviously had no funding of its own for start-up costs. Such is the strength of support for its future, that 36 Members from the higher education sector and professional firms have agreed to become Founder Members at a contribution of £500 each. The aim is for higher education representation to come from across the sector and the incoming Chairman Professor Philip Ogden is a former Senior Vice Principal of Queen Mary University of London. At the Members' Meeting held on 23rd February, it was agreed that Members annual subscription would



be £100 (excluding Founder Members who do not pay in the first year). Members who cannot attend meetings may send a deputy. This subscription is to help fund everyday costs while HEDQF becomes established and has its first year of running, after which it will be reviewed. It is planned that events such as its annual conference that will enable a surplus to be reinvested in the activities of the organisation.

Governance

The constitution will allow for up to 20 Trustees/Directors balanced between the Higher Education Sector and associated institutions and the design and construction professions.

Incoming Officers include Professor Philip Ogden from Queen Mary University of London as Chairman; Ian Caldwell from King's College London (Past Chairman); Julian Robinson from the London School of Economics (Deputy Chairman) and Ian Goodfellow from Penoyre & Prasad LLP (Deputy Chairman).

Proposed future activities

Future activities are planned to build on successful activities of the past. HEDQF is involved in the AUDE Conference through the workshop on Design Competitions and a one-day conference is being arranged in Manchester on the 16th of June on the theme of the "University and the City".

Research themes are being developed and there is an appetite for research on innovation (looking forward) and lessons to be learnt (looking back) from projects in terms of student satisfaction, research and teaching outcomes and operational success over time, also perhaps looking at relevant parallels in other sectors such as the Pharma Industry and high technology companies.

Membership

HEDQF currently has 76 Members, of which 33 are from Higher Education Institutions and associated organisations and the aim is to have a membership which is balanced between Higher Education Institutions and design/construction professionals. HEDQF membership is open to Estates professionals and academic clients involved in creating high quality buildings for the future success of their institutions and the sector. Members will be expected to play an active role in the activities of HEDQF. There will be an associate membership for organisations such as HEFCE.

Contacts

We are keen to increase membership across the UK and Ireland in both the Higher Education and built environment sectors. For further information please contact:

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