

Development Studies Association

President's Report

1st December 2014 to 7 September 2015

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Development Studies Association



connecting and promoting the development research community

DSA Objectives

1. To mobilise collective capacity and knowledge on development to accelerate development ('good change')
2. The nurturing of the next generation of development professionals
3. To invest in the infrastructure necessary for world-leading development studies research and teaching

DSA – Core activities

- Annual Conference
- Heads of Centres meeting
- Publications
 - JID
 - Bulletin and website
 - OUP Books Series
- Study Groups
- Student/Next Generation Activities

Main activities since 1st December

- Preparation of Business Plan
- Implementation of Business Plan and drive for sustainability (higher income and lower costs)
- Redesign, tendering and appointment of external support services provider
- 'Hand-over' of support services to NomadIT
- Heads of Centres REF 2014 review and 2020 plans
- Study group meetings
- Student activities (and dissertation prize)
- Convening of DSA Conference 2015 and future plans
- Negotiation and initiation of OUP Book Series
- Redesign of membership categories and fees
- Representation with other bodies

Financial position

- Council plan - reduced losses 2014/15 and small surplus 2015/16
- 2013/14 - £35K deficit
- 2014/15 - £17K deficit
- 2015/16 – £5K surplus projected (better?)
- Reserves at end FY 2014/15 of £39K
- Increased income – premium institutional fees
- Reduced costs – Council and administration
- More good news - Conference income

External Support Services

- Transfer from Findings Research to NomadIT
- Many thanks to FR, Frances and colleagues
- Welcome to NomadIT and Rohan Jackson
- Smooth handover
- NomadIT priorities
 - continue FR's good relationship/comm'n with members
 - simplify admin system to improve member retention
 - redesign website to give more control and facilitate updates
 - redesign Bulletin to an email-based format

OUP Book Series

- Research monographs to shape theory, practice, and teaching of international development for a new generation
- Single-authored manuscripts, 70-100 thousand words, allowing for longer elaborations of theory, data and analysis.
- Critical scholarship encouraged, within the spirit of DS as an interdisciplinary and applied field.
- Focus on national & global processes of accumul'n/structural transformation, & associated political/social/cultural change.
- Highest quality standards to nurture and advance the field (as per DSA mandate).
- 'Gold' Open Access option available
- Editors: Andrew Fischer, Uma Kothari and Giles Mohan

DSA – Future Plans

- Last AGM was ‘future aspirations’ – more modest
- Becoming a sustainable scholarly association with strong focus on social relevance/impact
- Improvements in all core services to members
- Representation of collective interests of DS members
- Creating an energetic membership and Council that contributes time/energy to DSA
- Avoid dependency on episodic external income

Key Questions

- Is a 'scholarly society with major interests in application' the right focus for DSA?
- Are there any major collective interests of the DS community we are not covering/neglecting?
- How important is it for DS to be a recognised discipline in REF 2020?
- Should we be looking more closely at a shift of policy from 'evidence' to 'knowledge' or 'understanding'?
- How can DSA best contribute to nurturing the next generation of DS scholars and professionals?