

Annual General Meeting 2017

Chair's Report

In summer 2016, one year ago, the **sigma** Network was constituted as a professional association for people working in HE mathematics and statistics support. Until then, **sigma** had been a nationally funded project, receiving money from HEFCE and the HE STEM programme to run activities, create resources and pump-prime new maths support centres across the sector. This funding has now stopped, but the good will and commitment of those involved has meant that the **sigma** Network has remained active and sustainable over the past year, and will hopefully remain so into the future.

At last year's inaugural AGM, a Steering Group was ratified to manage the day-to-day business of the **sigma** Network, and did so most impressively. Many of you were at the presentation yesterday afternoon, when we described in detail what has been achieved over the past 12 months and, more importantly, how well this has been received by the wider mathematics and statistics support community. For this report, allow me to simply list some summary highlights:

- 9 regional networking meetings and CPD events around the country;
- 4 training events for new maths support tutors (London, NW, S Wales, Midlands);
- Production of MS-MAPS, a resource for maths support tutors applying for HEA Fellowship;
- Three Special Interest Groups (Accessibility, Employability, Statistics Support) that bring together practitioners from within the maths support community and beyond, to develop resources, share experiences and hold dissemination meetings;

We have maintained communication with the mathematics and statistics support community through:

- A mailing list that has grown to 312 subscribers, including some international members;
- A new look Newsletter, published twice a year (contributions for September issue please!);
- A website that is kept as up to date as possible.

We have developed our links with other bodies:

- The IMA (witness this conference, that incorporates CETL-MSOR and has a dedicated maths support strand);
- The Association for Learning Development in Higher Education;
- The national Q-STEP project and the Nuffield Foundation;
- And not least, our friends in the Scottish Mathematics Support Network and the Irish Mathematics Learning Support Network have agreed to actively support the **sigma** Network through co-opted membership of our Steering Group.

In summary, I believe that over the past year the **sigma** Network has demonstrated that it has coped admirably with the transition from a funded project to a voluntary professional association. In a moment I will ask this meeting to ratify the membership of the Steering Group to continue this work

over the coming year, and also ask you all for your views of what the **sigma** Network could focus on in the next twelve months that could help you in your work in mathematics and statistics support.

For now, I would like to express my thanks to the Steering Group and everyone else who has contributed to the continued success of the **sigma** Network this year.

- David Bowers

Secretary's Report

A Secretary's report would typically cover matters relating to association membership. However, during this first year as a constituted professional association, we have not implemented a formal membership scheme – the maths support “community of practitioners” has been strong and supportive enough to carry the work of the **sigma** Network on a self-sustaining basis.

In the future we might wish to consider a more formal membership arrangement, but only if this would have clear benefits and sufficient support. Nothing will be done without consultation and approval from a future AGM if any subscription-based model is proposed.

- Eugenie Hunsicker

Treasurer's Report

This is a very brief report. Over the past 12 months, the **sigma** Network has been able to sustain its activities through the voluntary involvement of the Steering Group and other key players, with the support of their institutions. We are particularly grateful to Loughborough University for continuing to host our websites, and the IMA for enabling this conference. Also, we acknowledge the generosity of many institutions in hosting meetings and events on behalf of the **sigma** Network this past year (including Birmingham City University, Cardiff University, Coventry University, De Montfort University, Kings College London, Lancaster University, London South Bank University, Loughborough University, University of Bath, University of Essex, University of Sheffield. Apologies for any omissions!)

We have not received any monies, and we have not needed to make any expenditures. Our bank balance remains zero. No formal audit was necessary.

However, in the coming year we will be looking more actively at ways of generating income in order to be able to invest in future development work. Ideas of how to go about this without risking the good will that currently exists within the maths support community would be welcome.

- Chetna Patel