

HUMANE Chairman's Letter

May 2016

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to bring you up to date with news of forthcoming HUMANE events and some new developments regarding the future of our Association.

Steering the future strategy of HUMANE

It is with great pleasure that I inform you that our colleague and longstanding member of HUMANE and its Executive Committee Ian Creagh from King's College London, will be moving on from King's in the late summer and offering us his consulting services from the Autumn of 2016. As a contracted consultant he will work with me and other members to steer the implementation of HUMANE's future strategy, as well as take care of our network management with the help of Tim Evans, our network administrator. During the academic year 2016/17, Ian and the Executive Committee will be designing a set of new services and activities to serve you and your senior staff.

Transition discussed in HUMANE

We recognise that European universities are more and more global, interconnected and facing greater competitive pressures than in the past, not least because of the astonishing rise of the Asian economies. Also, we are having to deal with increasing layers of national and international regulation and accountability, demonstrating both global impact and local relevance. The demand for globally aware, professional management and administration is now a crucial ingredient of success in all of our institutions.

HUMANE's future strategy more than ever before will need to respond to these challenges to enable our members to contribute even more to the success of European universities.

Hitherto, we have offered services to our members (annual conference, seminars, study visits) and our senior staff (Winter School). These activities have been tremendously successful so naturally, we will continue organising these high quality events in the future.

But we are now looking to build on this success and develop new services and activities to help our members navigate the abovementioned challenges. In the future, we may want to pay more attention to professional and leadership development in an international context, and seek a closer collaboration with our partners such as EFMD, EUA and the national associations of HE leaders.

There may also be scope for HUMANE to play a role in developing opportunities for international mentoring, coaching and high-profile cross-border networking. We have also recognised a specific need for HUMANE to serve new members who come from the non-university sectors, as is more and more common in most countries. Furthermore, there are several professions (e.g. human resources, finance, facilities) for whom we could in the future facilitate the development of international professional communities of practice.

As we are in the process of defining the future scope and scale of member services activities, I want to encourage you all to contribute. We will be discussing these matters in all of our meetings in 2016/17.

As Ian moves into post as a consultant to HUMANE, he will be in touch with you to get your views and encourage your participation in the future development of our association.

Annual Conference 2016

Our next meeting is the Annual Conference to be held on June 17-18 at the University of Groningen in The Netherlands.

The conference theme is **Global University Rankings and Institutional Strategic Positioning**, and is highly relevant to all in university leadership. A wonderful array of speakers has been assembled, including some recent Winter School graduates, and as always, registration places are selling fast, so I urge you not to delay in making your registration.

Prior to the conference, the Executive Committee and Round Table will meet and discuss the HUMANE 2.0. strategy. There are some vacancies in both the Executive Committee and Round Table to be filled. Our Network Manager Han Borg has already been in contact with the relevant constituency members. Regardless of vacancies, do not hesitate to express your interest if you are interested in contributing to our Association.

Seminars in Autumn 2016

In April we had a very successful seminar at the unique Ca' Foscari University of Venice. The Shape of Things to Come: System and institutional responses to higher education marketization was sold out. For all of you who could not come, all the presentations are now available on our website.

In the autumn, there will be two events. The Winter School Alumni Network (WSAN) will be holding their annual event in Rotterdam on the topic **New Roles for University Support Professionals: Enabling viable innovation and excellence with university business models in transition** (September 30 – October 1) and HUMANE will be delivering its Autumn seminar at the University of London (November 4-5 - *please note the date change*). The theme of the seminar is **Affordability and Access in Higher Education: System-level and institutional responses in the early 21st century**.

Both events will offer stimulating discussions on how universities are handling some of the big challenges currently facing all of our institutions.

More info on HUMANE and WSAN websites.

Concluding remarks

HUMANE is on the move to a new and bold destiny. The coordinates for the new course are almost set, but we are still open to new exciting initiatives and ideas for collaboration. All feedback and input is welcome.

I look forward to seeing you at our forthcoming events.

Esa Hämäläinen
Director of Administration, University of Helsinki
Chairman of HUMANE