

Rektor's Report – Quarterly Board Report – September 2018

The last Board Meeting was held in late May, coinciding with our graduation celebrations on the 19th of May. The period between May and September has been busy as ever, with numerous events taking place both on and off campus. This has coincided with an unusually hot and dry summer enjoyed by all. Highlights include:

- A new cooperation agreement between UWC RCN and the Norwegian Red Cross was signed on the 19th of June. Richard Lamont, Rektor, and Robert Mood, President of the Norwegian Red Cross signed the agreement at the Red Cross Conference Centre in Hausmanns gate
- Our Baking House was formally opened on the 6th of June. Marianne Andresen and her children Johan, Eva and Brigitte were present at the opening, with Marianne cutting the ribbon to mark the official opening. Thanks to all who helped fund, design, build and launch the Baking House. It promises to be a wonderful resource for students, staff, patients at RKHR, Leirskule and participants in our summer camps – a building that complements our Silent House on the Nordic Yard
- 'Norec', the Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation, also known as Fredskorpset, has recently moved their offices from Oslo to Førde. Their Youth Camp was held at UWC RCN and it was opened by the Director General, Jan Olav-Barrøy. This event was also attended by the Minister for International Development, Nikolai Astrup. We look forward to receiving the Youth Camp next summer and collaborating on future projects
- The 'Flekke Glocal Challenge' kicks off on the 24th September with a workshop delivered by Professor Karen O'Brien from the University of Oslo. Participants will commit to making a difference to the environment for a period of 30 days
- We ran a successful Staff Introduction Week in August. This included: an update on summer & campus events; induction of new staff; review of IB results; staff training sessions on use of our W4 database; a staff field excursion; staff introduction to RCN policies on respectful community, gender diversity, sexual misconduct & sexual violence; talk on pensions (DNB rep. presentation); and awareness of mental health issues (anxiety and depression) among students. We also welcomed Bjørnar Dahle from the Rafto Foundation who led a well-received session on teaching controversial issues
- The World Environment Day Photo Contest was held from 28th May to the 1st of June, with the day being celebrated on the 5th of June
- Biology students visited the deer centre on Svanøy in late May whilst several overnight trips were made to e.g. Jarstadheia, Håheia and Raudbua
- Kai Eide, the former Norwegian Ambassador to NATO and Sweden visited the campus on the 6th of June to deliver our Nelson Mandela Humanitarian Pillar Annual Lecture

- Arnett Edwards, Head of UWC Li Po Chun, Hong Kong, visited the campus mid-June as part of research he is conducting on leadership within UWC and students' understanding and enactment of the UWC mission and values. Arnett met with a range of staff and students during his visit, as well as using the opportunity to try a spot of fishing and parafootball
- Derek Blackman, former professor of Psychology at Cardiff University (Wales) gave a workshop on studying psychology to interested first years
- Students hosted a family camp for families from Florø during the last weekend of the academic year
- In the past months we have had numerous exciting, new fundraising initiatives for College programs, ranging from an art exhibition to a garage sale coordinated by leaving staff. Two recent donations include: two alumni (Kasia from Poland and Ezequiel from Argentina – RCN '07-'09) asking wedding guests to donate to the College's Foundation Year programme; a group donation from a group of fishermen on the River Flekke for the next generation of Survivor of Conflict students
- Nelson Mandela day, 18th July, was celebrated in the Høegh during Student Introduction Week via the 'Mandela 67' event where first year students were introduced to student led projects being carried out in numerous locations world-wide
- Hari Bahadur Tamang (Nepal, RCN '16-'19), a student on our Survivors of Conflict programme, participated in an extraordinary expedition to the Arctic region as part of the Future Talks initiative, and is set to present during our UWC Day celebrations on the 21st of September
- We welcomed a cohort of first year students on to our Summer Course in July. Many thanks to Paco and Lis for returning to deliver the programme and to our willing and energetic volunteers, Eliot, Fanny, Mar and Wouter
- Students participated in the yearly 'Postveitrimmen' walk along the old postal road in the local area
- We welcomed Bjørn Haugland to deliver his talk on global sustainability to staff and students. This formed part of a series of workshops for Bergens Næringsråd trainees and 20 of our students about the UN Sustainable Development Goal
- Our 2nd year students held their 2nd year show and 1st years are now preparing their own show
- Again, this year, in early July, we were invited to join in with the Sogn og Fjordane Red Cross team that headed for the highest peak in Norway – Gjaldehogpiggen. The team consisted of students, staff, recent alumni and friends of the College
- The summer has been exceptionally busy with our UWC Connect summer camps

- Sunniva Roligheten (Norway) received the national 'Drømmestipendet' (dream stipend) in the creative writing category
- Lesson Observation Week was held at the College towards the end of the 2017-18 academic year, giving teachers a valuable opportunity to learn from each other
- Staff visited the 'Nordahl Grieg videregående skole' in early June as part of our ongoing work on updating classrooms
- The Sogn & Fjordane Red Cross team visited the Baking House for the first time in mid-June
- RCN staff were given CPR training by Health Førde

Academic Matters

Peter Wilson, IB Coordinator, is currently leading our IB Review process. This commenced earlier in the year. We are currently having ongoing meetings and reflective discussions as part of completing the Self Study Questionnaire by late October. We also continue to work on the recommendations given by the Council of International Schools (CIS) accreditation process. We aim to enter into the two-year CIS accreditation process by July 2019.

IB Results (Peter Wilson, IB Coordinator)

A summary of the May 2018 IB Diploma sitting in comparison with the previous five years:

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Average all students	31.70	31.30	33.70	32.20	31.32	33.16	32.76
Average Diploma	33.40	33.10	35.00	33.30	33.53	34.67	34.02
Average per subject	5.22	5.30	5.34	5.33	5.22	5.43	5.43

The IB's own statistics on the school's May 2018 performance:

School statistics	
a) Number of candidates registered in the session:	128
b) Number of diploma and retake candidates registered in the session:	110
c) Number of subject entries in the session:	869
d) Number of candidates who passed the diploma:	98
e) Average points obtained by candidates who passed the diploma:	34
f) Highest diploma points awarded to a candidate:	44
g) Average grade obtained by candidates who passed the diploma:	5.43

The difference between a) and b) is accounted for by the students sitting School-Supported Self-taught language exams as one-year Anticipated candidates.

The results show the maintenance of levels of results across the school and the range of students: 34 points against a global average of 29 points. The percentage of students who did not obtain the Diploma remained the same at 11%, an area to be further addressed.

One factor that continues to contribute to this maintenance of good results is structured Learning Support provided to identified students but also available to students who self-diagnose, through systems such as Study Hall, individual and small-group tutorials, use of CAT test and other assessment data and closer liaison with subject teachers and advisors.

Students who had attended the 2016 Summer English Course performed better than any of the preceding groups: 15 students had attended the course and 13 of these were awarded the Diploma, with an average point score of 29.2; the two students who did not achieve the Diploma scored an average of 20.2.

Of these, four students constituted the original Foundation Year group, although it was not an 'official' programme in 2016. Two of these obtained the Diploma, but all four obtained scholarships and are now beginning their Higher Education careers.

Management and Staffing

A farewell gathering was held for Rektor Richard (Larry) Lamont and Kathini Cameron at Bekker House on the 12th of June, with a gift presented to them by the Sogn & Fjordane Red Cross. Our longstanding supporter and benefactor, Marianne Andresen, also hosted a farewell reception for Larry and Kathini towards the end of June. It was a great honour that her majesty Queen Sonja came to give her best wishes for the occasion. Larry and Kathini have now commenced their new adventure in Canada, where Larry is Headmaster of the distinguished Shawnigan Lake School on Vancouver Island.

In addition, the following academic staff left the College at the end of the year: Cristina Gonzalez, Spanish; Marloes Vrolijk, Global Politics; Simon Ramsay, Biology; Avis Rolfe (sabbatical), English.

Erik Pedersen retired towards the end of the last academic year, and a lovely staff barbecue was held at the Baking House to wish him a happy retirement after many dedicated years of service to UWC RCN.

Helga Ásnes and Solfrid Myklebust, both long-standing members of our vitally important Cleaning team, are set to retire at the end of this year. Plans are underway to secure their replacements and for an event that will see the College community come together to thank them for their dedication and service.

The 2018-2019 academic year has seen the addition of the following new members of staff: Guðmundur Hegner Jónsson, Rektor; Katarina Hegner Jónsson, Advisor; Lesley Robertson, Advisor; Narendra Dalal, Global Politics (returning from sabbatical); Natasha Lambert, House Mentor & Spanish; Laila Andersen, Nordic Languages; Lasse Markus, Advisor; Hamida Massaquoi, Medical Admin (until end of Autumn term); Basel Haidar, Kitchen & Cleaning; Hannah Gaffey, UWC Connect volunteer.

Lisa Jokivirta, English/Philosophy commenced her permanent contract this year. She will be going on her maternity leave at the end of this term, and efforts to secure her replacement are underway.

Thor from the Outdoor Department has left to work in Svalbard. Our first years and selection of staff braved hostile conditions to walk up Jarðstadheia to thank Thor for his work on his last day.

We have recently made temporary changes to our Care Centre provision. A Care Centre office has been created on the ground floor of the Administration Building. Hamida and Lena are working together to support students and perform various health-related administration tasks. We are also in the process of hiring a Care Centre Assistant. This person will be based in the Care Centre facility in Iceland House in the mornings until the end of this term. Lesley Robertson has also supported us in the Care Centre over a period of c. two weeks. We are currently working to review our Care Centre provision with the aim of introducing a revised provision from January onwards.

The AMU team, in collaboration with Stamina Helse, has delivered presentations to staff on the biennial staff survey on RCN's Work Environment. The results and recommendations from this survey will be further pursued as part of our ongoing developments to support staff in the workplace.

Guðmundur Hegner Jónsson, Rektor, has instigated a programme of meeting all staff and visiting lessons in this first term of the year. This is being done in order to facilitate relationship building and to further understanding of the working nature of the College. Hildegunn Arstein, PA to the Rektor, has been pivotal in coordinating these meetings and visits.

Admissions

It was a pleasure to welcome back our 2nd year students on to campus and to witness the joyous celebrations as our 1st year students arrived on buses from Bergen.

5 of our first-year students have had their visa applications denied by immigration authorities and appeals have been unsuccessful to date. Guðmundur Hegner Jónsson, Rektor, Arne Osland, Director of Development, and Leonie Koning, Admissions Coordinator, visited the UDI offices in Oslo to gain a further understanding of the visa application process and were well received by a team of UDI employees. The aforementioned students have successfully been relocated to e.g. UWC Maastricht, and for this we are grateful. Leonie is currently working on filling these places. 2 refugee students from Eritrea that had been air-lifted out of a camp in Libya to Niger by UNHCR are ongoing cases. Leonie and the Admissions Team are working closely with the UWC International Office in an attempt to bring them to the College.

One of our new admissions for the Survivors of Conflict program arrived from Iraq at the beginning of this academic year. Unfortunately, he had to return to Baghdad for a variety of personal reasons.

Guðmundur Hegner Jónsson
Rektor

13th September 2018