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New directory and forthcoming election

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NAWE HE Committee Chair's Report

New Directory and forthcoming election.

Sitting here on the day of the European elections, I realise there is another forthcoming election - one which is, I hope, unlikely to cause angry protesters to throw their milkshakes over besuited candidates. This poll, which is arguably of greater interest to readers of this publication, culminates at the NAWE conference in York and is, of course, the election of a new HE Committee. Each committee is elected for a term of three years, and the current committee will reach the end of its term in November and elect a new Chair in January 2020. I would urge all those members who work in Higher Education to consider putting themselves forward and encouraging colleagues to do so. There is a solitary, ostensible restriction - only one committee member per university or college should sit on the committee - but where there is distinct need on the committee, even that guideline might be justifiably reviewed. There is an ambition to have as wide a representation on the committee as possible, having as many institutions as possible and all parts of the UK represented, as well as different backgrounds, approaches and kinds of writer, writing and creative writing teacher and researcher. There will be two equally important factors in the reconfiguration of the committee - trying to retain continuity by keeping an optimum number of existing members, so that knowledge isn't lost, while also refreshing faces, ideas and momentum with new members. All are welcome. We have on occasions in the past co-opted international members from the US, Australia and Europe, and might do so again. If you are interested in being involved, watch out for emails, and check the website over the summer, for details about the election (which will be online). Or you can get in touch with me or Seraphima Kennedy, if you have any queries.

I will catalogue some of the achievements of the present committee in the next issue of *Writing in Education*; in many respects the activities of the committee are generated by its members. Sometimes there is need to respond to calls and inquiries from the larger NAWE membership, or from national or international bodies. There will certainly be chance to get involved with the peer reviewed, online publication *Writing in Practice: the Journal of Creative Writing Research*, possibly as an issue editor. All members of the committee automatically become members of the journal's editorial board. This can offer important opportunities, to gain skills and experience and to get involved in peer reviewing and editorial matters. There might also be initiatives to get involved with our international partners in AWP (in the US), AAWP (in Australia) and EACWP (in Europe).

One recent project of the committee was to develop a database of potential external examiners for undergraduate programmes, for MA and MFA programmes, but also for Creative Writing PhD vivas. I'm happy to say that the NAWE membership responded rapidly and generously, and we have now established an incredibly useful list of people –

- see our Directory here: <https://www.nawe.co.uk/DB/nawe-news/external-examiners-directory.html>
- And if you aren't already listed and are interested in being included in the Directory, please see here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TKRCRDV>

This simple initiative, in response to NAWE members' inquiries and requests, is just one example of the sort of subject-community actions you could get involved in. You might think of similar initiatives that NAWE might - or even should - be engaged in. Get involved, put yourself forward for the committee, make things happen, and make NAWE work for you.