

Report of the Formation Commission

Oxford: 1st December 2007.

Br Benedict Foy

Present: Aidan Dowle, Barry O'Sullivan, Benedict Foy, Michael Worthington and Siobhan Simms. John Deeney was present for discussion of item 1.

Apologies: Benet Conroy, Owen Smith, Vin Kilty
The meeting started with prayer for Benet and Owen.

Agendum 1. The Australian Lasallian Leadership Course

John and Benedict gave an account of the training done in October with Trish and Gerard and clarified matters which the Commission members raised. After discussion it was agreed that the following points be discussed by Benedict with Malta, Ireland and Australia and present our proposals to the Head's Conference for information in January. It was requested that Benedict keep commission members informed by e-mail about developments on these fronts.

- Tutors should work in pairs and collaboratively as a European group – model association. In future only those who have done the course or Tutor training will be acceptable to Australia. The material is copyrighted and may not be used for other formation programmes. Students will be evaluated on whether their “action-research” is satisfactorily completed – or not.
- Approx 12-14 students, from amongst people in middle and senior management, be selected for the first cohort – at least two from each country. Costs for first cohort will be £265 per person per module (1/3rd actual costs!) Hidden costs will be the cost of the preliminary weekend before each module and initial start up costs re advertising and information packs.
- We propose that the modules run from October to January with the preliminary weekend in September and from March to June with the preliminary weekend in February (taking account of holidays, the need to be able to access school and pressures of the demands of the school year across the three countries).
- The question of validation was discussed and it was agreed that we should follow up with Alan Murphy about the possible validation of the course at St Mary's University College, Strawberry Hill.

· The recruitment process should begin this coming February with the following aspects

- a general advert / information about the course should be announced within an advert for Lasallian Formation Services offerings in the Tablet / Catholic Schools Gazette – and others? addressed to Primary and Secondary teachers listing the Australian Programme and the NQT session.
- Lasallian connections to be leafleted inviting schools / heads etc to bring the course to the attention of potential students.
- Possible students be provided with a pack about the course and application forms (which will require a reference).
- Completed application forms to Benedict by 30th April (giving students time to negotiate their funding of the course with their own schools – there should be no District financing of individuals following the course).
- Tutors to examine applications, agree and notify successful candidates by mid-May for start in September.

Agendum 2. Heads Conference

Disappointment was expressed about the lack of support from Lasallian Schools for the NQT course which was very successful and following which participants requested a further session for themselves, especially focusing on Prayer within school. It was agreed that they should each be invited to the next Lace Session.

It was agreed that Benet be asked to present a report about the NQT session and challenge the Lasallian Heads' lack of support – (Aidan will do a report if Benet is unable to do this). The next session is already booked with Kintbury for September 2008.

Benedict will report about the Lasallian Leadership Course.

Michael will report about the last LACE conference.

Michael will also comment about the INSET proposals (a pilot of which is being carried out in St Peter's Gloucester) – three year programme being offered

Relationships in a Lasallian School

Challenging behaviour and the Lasallian approach to Correction : Punishment

Spirituality for Schools

Agendum 3 Lace Conference

Benedict reported that Owen had spoken to Alan Murphy who had expressed interest in being involved again in May 2008. It was agreed that Alan be asked to participate both this coming year and next year on Leadership. We agreed that the theme of the next Weekend should be "Challenging Behaviour ! ?" and that Alan should present / facilitate including practical applications.

It was also agreed that our sessions are intended to be inclusive of the primary as well as the secondary sector.

Benedict / Owen to negotiate with Alan about the Lace Conference before the next meeting.

Agendum 4 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Oxford: Saturday 1st March 2008

Main item for the agenda the LACE Conference 2-4 May 2008.