

SECIS ASSEMBLY 2016: ROME: 27-28 November

27 November

Present: Pierre Devos, Hermann Weber, Alois Koelbl, Alvaro Moto, Patrick de Rond, Roberta Canning.

28 November. Avin Kunnekkadan SVD.

Apologies; Marco Cattaneo

Pierre welcomed everyone and distributed papers. He spoke about the SECIS Assembly 2015 in London and the board meeting in Namur in February 2016.

He reported on the Articles of Association for SECIS. It is established in Belgium under Belgian law. There are 3-5 members of the board including President, Secretary and Treasurer. In Belgian law one board member must be Belgian and all members retire when they have reached 75. Pierre recently reached 75. Marco has resigned as treasurer. Avin is seeking a successor as he is now provincial. A discussion followed. Members asked whether there could be fewer constraints. Pierre will consult a lawyer.

We noted that SECIS specificity is international students, scholarship programmes, pastoral care and enrichment programmes and exchanges. CCEE is concerned about faith development for young people.

Barcelona CCEE Congress will bring together delegates from different sectors – young people, schools and university chaplaincy, catechesis and vocations. Patrick, Alois and Roberta will be attending and Alvaro is involved in the organisation of the Congress.

Alois said that the Vicariate of Rome conferences for Catholic Universities had been useful.

There was an extensive discussion of the SECIS role now the pontifical council is ending. We agreed that the Church still need a manual of good practice not a doctrinal text.

Agreed:

Pierre will remain president of SECIS until the 2017 assembly when he will still be 75.

Patrick joined the board and Alois will come to the next board meeting.

Roberta will continue on the board till the next board meeting in February 2017.

We will consider practical guidelines for the SECIS website. They would include the secular context, use of new media and online courses.

The board will review the situation after the Congress.

Robinson joined us and agreed to give us the draft guidelines the following morning.

Guidelines: the board will draft a response to the guidelines when it meets in Namur.

We agreed that the work of SECIS and international students' provision and pastoral care will be better placed under the migrants' section inside the new Dicastery than under the Education Dicastery with its priority of Catholic universities. This priority was reflected in the draft guidelines but most international students are in secular universities.

Pierre left a summary of our concerns:

Expertise of SECIS in accompanying international students coming to study in Europe
Chaplaincies must be open to all students (Catholic, non Catholic, national, international)

First of all help International Students to feel at home.

All institutions of Higher Education – Art, Drama, Music

Build links with dioceses and parishes, enable them to support international students

Bring opportunities for learning about scriptures, doctrine, social teaching, justice and peace.

Help students prepare to return.

Good practice suggestions
Meals, particularly after Sunday Mass
Volunteering opportunities
Fostering integration and authenticity
Houses with gentle accompaniment
Living together, cooking and eating together
Students devising programmes
Healthy cooking lessons
Enabling interreligious dialogue

Future dates:

Board meeting Namur 3-4 February 2017 –lunchtime to lunchtime

NB SECIS pays travel costs for board meetings

General Assembly Paris 29 June-1 July – Pierre will explore possible meeting places.