

NEWS FROM ACLALS (Michael Wessels, KwaZulu Natal):

ACLALS news.

I have been in contact with Shaun Viljoen of Stellenbosch University. We have started planning the triennial to be held at that university, with participation from UCT and UWC, in the second week of July 2016.

I attended the EACLALS conference in Innsbruck and had discussions with a number of branch chairs or representatives and also with the head of the Commonwealth secretariat, David Kalete. The survival of the branches that depended on Commonwealth funding is threatened. They can no longer hold conference or bring out journals. It is very difficult for students and academics from most of the Commonwealth countries to travel to conferences. David Kalete suggested that Geoffrey Davis and I come to London to put our case to more Commonwealth people there. We hope to do this in the month or two. They will not give us funding directly but will advise us on what we have to do to get it. I will be circulating an email asking for ideas for those meeting if they do go ahead.

Daria Tunca of the university of Liege is keeping the ACLALS website going. Her email is: dtunca@ulg.ac.be

There is not much more to add at this stage. So much depends on getting funding. Without it, we will be an association of wealthy countries only.

FURTHER REPORT FROM ACLALS (M. Wessels):

This has been a tough period for ACLALS. Many of our branches are struggling to continue their activities without direct Commonwealth funding as in the past. We are still continuing our efforts to raise funds from the Commonwealth. In the meantime, I'd like to ask branches to appeal to their senior members to contribute, where possible, to a fund to help the wonderful Sri Lankan journal *Phoenix* to continue to be published this year, as it has done for several decades. SLACLALS need about 550 GBP to do this. Any contribution, however humble, would help.

Geoffrey Davis and I hope to meet with some Commonwealth committee representatives and leaders in the next month or two to discuss the association's funding problems and get advice about the sort of projects we could undertake that would procure us funding. I will send around an email asking for ideas if these meetings do go ahead.