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| ***Why are AURIL and PraxisUnico recommending the creation of NEWORG?*** | We believe we are stronger together. The Directors believe it is in the best interests of the sector for AURIL and PraxisUnico to join forces to create A SINGLE VOICE for the Knowledge Exchange and Commercialisation profession and to drive consistent PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS across the whole range of activities covered by our combined memberships. |
| ***Why now?*** | PraxisUnico and AURIL have been working together successfully and increasingly over the last few years and have demonstrated that by advocating and working together on behalf of the sector we are CREATING BENEFIT FOR MEMBERS AND STAKEHOLDERS eg joint responses, joint representation internationally, collaboration with State Aid guidance, dual representation on various panels, shared perspectives and understanding (as demonstrated at our recent joint Directors' Forum). |
| ***What would the creation of NEWORG enable that PraxisUnico and AURIL don't already offer as two separate organisations?*** | NEWORG would provide a STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND and:    (1) better cater for the needs of our combined memberships, from the smallest to the largest, from teaching to research intensives and from regional to globally focussed institutions;  (2) develop and deliver a broader curriculum of training and professional development programmes and events to further improve KEC skills, professional standards and connectivity;  (3) better engage with the different KEC policy contexts emerging across the UK, particularly through English Devolution and in the Devolved Administrations;  (4) generate critical mass to better attract government and industry funding and support and to develop and promote a consistent approach to professional best practice in KEC  (5) pool resources - financial and people (executive and volunteers) to enable expansion of strategic, proactive advocacy and communications initiatives. |
| ***I thought PraxisUnico and AURIL did completely different things.*** | In fact, it has become increasingly difficult to differentiate our advocacy, membership and conference offers. As the profession evolves, PraxisUnico and AURIL's traditionally defined 'markets' are converging. Whilst we acknowledge that a level of 'competition' is generally good for customers, both PraxisUnico and AURIL are 'not for profit' and rely heavily on finite amounts of volunteer time. We are also very conscious that a large number of our members pay two membership fees and we believe that through a combined offering we will be able to provide an improved and expanded (and potentially more cost effective) service to members of NEWORG. |
| ***Would PraxisUnico and AURIL continue to exist?*** | Once NEWORG is established, AURIL and PraxisUnico would transfer all activities to the new entity. We would carefully manage a transition period to ensure that the considerable brand value associated with both the AURIL and PraxisUnico names is not lost. |
| ***Would NEWORG do exactly the same as PraxisUnico and AURIL combined?*** | All current services would continue. It is our intention to engage members in the definition of future EXPANDED services. |
| ***I work in a small/large/research intensive/globally focussed/non research intensive/ regionally focussed organisation - how would NEWORG ensure that my particular needs are met?*** | AURIL and PraxisUnico contributors and members would WORK TOGETHER TO DEFINE THE FUTURE OFFERING to ensure that all member requirements are well catered for within NEWORG. |
| ***I volunteer for PraxisUnico/AURIL currently - would I still be able to do this?*** | Both AURIL and PraxisUnico are very special networks with high levels of volunteer commitment and expertise which enable a dynamic and well-informed offering based on current practice. This VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTION would remain a fundamental component of NEWORG. |
| ***Would the annual membership fees increase for NEWORG?*** | As the future offering is defined and service provision expands, the fee structure for NEWORG would be designed to ensure maximum value for member organisations. Our aim would be that in future the majority of organisations would pay no more in NEWORG membership fees than they did previously for both PraxisUnico and AURIL memberships. |
| ***How would NEWORG be structured and governed?*** | It is expected that NEWORG would be incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG), governed by a volunteer Board, and informed by relevant volunteer advisory groups. KEC practitioners would continue to play a key role in NEWORG. |
| ***What would NEWORG be called?*** | Branding for NEWORG would be confirmed after consultation with both PraxisUnico and AURIL membership representatives. |
| ***Where would the NEWORG office be located?*** | PraxisUnico currently has an office in Cambridge. AURIL exec work from an office based at the University of Strathclyde. It is expected that NEWORG's executive team would continue to work flexibly from these offices and elsewhere around the UK. |
| ***Would all current PraxisUnico and AURIL staff continue to be employed by NEWORG?*** | Yes |
| ***How much would all this cost?*** | We would invest a small proportion of PraxisUnico and AURIL financial reserves in establishing NEWORG for the benefit of the sector. Both PraxisUnico and AURIL have always operated prudently and professionally to ensure financial sustainability. Expenditure will be kept to an appropriate, conservative level |
| ***Who has been involved in the development of the NEWORG proposition?*** | A Working Group has been established consisting of members from both the current PraxisUnico Board and AURIL Council. This Working Group has been developing the NEWORG proposal which the governing body for each organisation will be expected to recommend to its members in due course. Independent legal advice has also been taken by both organisations to ensure the members of any one organisation are not adversely affected. |