

GCC 2019
General Secretariat Review
Executive Summary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND COMPILATION OF UAC SECRETARIAT SURVEY

CONDUCTED FEBRUARY 2019

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF UAC SECRETARIAT REVIEW OUTCOMES

At the May 2018 meeting the UAC General Coordination Council agreed that it was timely to conduct an organisational review of the UAC Secretariat to ensure that tasks delegated the Secretariat continue to meet the needs of the various UAC Councils - and others - throughout the world. This task was entrusted to me, Cheryl Sullivan.

The Secretariat review, as a way of promoting and practising our ideal of collaboration from the beginning, entailed a gradual progression: its first step in this process was to seek international input from of UAC members to ascertain their current experience when contacting the Secretariat, ideas for future development and availability to assist in the activities of the Secretariat.

This survey, circulated in seven languages, was conducted over February 2019:

123 responses from **21** different countries were received and **111** responses (**16%** of the total circulated) completed. This **16%** included approximately **75% of NCC Presidents** and **50% of GCC** members.

Method of contact with the Secretariat: **98.9%** recorded that their contact was via email, with the primary reason for contact being to: gain information, administration purposes, offer greetings and thanks and discuss formation and UAC initiatives. **60% of the respondents** indicated that they have ease of contact and obtained a prompt response.

The response to the question relating to difficulty of contact and suggestions of how this may be improved: many responded by saying that they had no difficulty and noted the friendliness of staff. Those who offered suggestions for improvement noted: the need for a full-time secretary, including the possibility of a paid position, adaptations to the administrative structure and the greater use of technology and social media.

The most responses received (64) were to the question *“In an “ideal world” (recognising the limitations regarding time) what additional tasks would you like to see the Secretariat undertake to promote the charism of Saint Vincent Pallotti”*.

The responses were broadly amalgamated into **six areas**, in order of priority, they are:

- Internal Secretariat issues – noting communication, networking, the need for a full-time secretary, visits to NCCs and LCC’s, spreading the vision of Saint Vincent having a wider awareness of the universal church.
- The better use of Social Media, particularly with the updating and “freshness” of the website.
- The dissemination of modern printed material, suitable for all ages.
- Formation
- Works of Mercy.

- The need for SAC priests to embrace and publicise the Charism of Saint Vincent and the UAC.

Many people indicated their willingness to assist with the running of the Secretariat, offering assistance with translations, articles for Apostles for Today and assisting with the preparation of meetings. Others noted that while they could not assist, they would pray for the Secretariat and the UAC.

The gaps identified could again be divided into **three main areas**:

- Firstly, communication and Networking, recognising the need for good communication between Presidents, the General Secretary and the three Superiors General.
- Apostolic / additional works recommended varying from the establishment of a vocational centre in Naples, family activities, focus on Octave of Epiphany.
- There were also a variety of Internal activities suggested, noting the need to “work seriously for the good of the Union”.

Others, did not identify gaps but rather noted their satisfaction and congratulated those in the secretariat.

The question concerning the most important work of the Union was not recorded until towards the end of the survey and only garnered 32 responses. There was little difference from the greatest to the least score regarding importance with the need to maintain regular international contact and arranging various meetings scoring the highest and Internal Office Administration and attendance at International Conference the lowest score! (4.4 and 3.7 respectively).

The question regarding the Secretariats demonstration of the vision and charism of Saint Vincent: only 24.7% provided a positive response. This would seem to indicate an area that requires consideration.

The final comments were again divided into **four areas**. By far the most frequent response was to offer thanks and compliments to the Secretariat for the work they undertake and the dedication and conviction of the team. Staffing and Secretariat issues was the next focus of the responses again identifying the need for a full-time secretary, the importance for quality relationships through the secretariat and with all other entities and again the need for better use of social media.

I recommend the reading and examination of the full report **which is available only in English and can be forwarded to you at your request.**

Many thanks to all who contributed to this important piece of work. Let us remember in the words of Saint Vincent that God will be with us in all of our apostolic undertakings and pray as we continue to work to put the ideas and thoughts put forward into practice – and I will finish with the final comment of the attached report “That councils at all levels not be discouraged and continue to animate throughout the world.”

Cheryl Sullivan
Member of the GCC
April 18, 2019