**Council of University Classical Departments**

Minutes of the 139th meeting of the Standing Committee, held on Saturday, 7 June 2014 at 2.30pm in room G34, Senate House, University of London

Present: Emma Bridges (Open University), Susan Deacy (Roehampton), Fritz-Gregor Herrmann (Swansea), Genevieve Liveley (Bristol), Miriam Leonard (UCL), Nick Lowe (Royal Holloway), Cressida Ryan (JACT rep), James Robson (Open University), Ulrike Roth (Edinburgh), John North (ICS), Jo Quinn (Oxford), Catherine Steel (Glasgow, secretary), Stephen Todd (Manchester), Jaap Wisse (Newcastle), Greg Woolf (St. Andrews, chair)

**Apologies for Absence** were received from Richard Hunter and Edmund Thomas.

1. **Minutes of Meeting of 15th February 2014**

These were *accepted*.

1. **Matters Arising**

None not covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

1. **Chair’s Report**

CUCD had responded to a request from the Chair of the REF panel to nominate extra assessors by nominating Gillian Clark and Jill Harries; these nominations had been accepted.

CUCD was making a joint response (with the CA, CAS, ICS and Hellenic and Roman societies) to HEFCE about measurement of research quality for the next REF. The response would emphasise the importance of peer-review as the basis for assessing research quality, as opposed to bibliometrics and webometrics.

Professor Woolf had been chair of a small group tasked with revising the QAA subject benchmark for Classics; this group had now submitted its report, recommending minor updates to the existing benchmarking statement, and public consultation was imminent.

Professor Woolf noted CUCD’s thanks to Professor Hunter, for agreeing to become CUCD’s rep on the FIEC 2019 conference organising group, and its thanks to Professor North for representing CUCD at an AHUG meeting later this month.

1. **FIEC**

It was noted that space had been booked (at the Institute of Education) and a committee formed for the FIEC conference planned for 2019 in London. The major parties were the Hellenic and Roman Societies and the CA; CUCD had been invited to be involved. No input was required at present, but CUCD would have the opportunity to contribute to planning, particularly around content, at a later stage. It was noted that CUCD had an important role to play in ensuring that this content was representative of Classics in the UK as a whole. For the moment, the priority for the committee was to prepare a formal proposal which John North and Chris Carey would make to the FIEC assembly in Bordeaux on 27th August. There was agreement that an effort should be made to reduce costs (by minimizing the number of delegates whose travel and accommodation in London would be paid for by the conference) and also to reduce risks (learning from the experience of recent Triennial Conferences, especially when it came to prebooking accommodation).

1. **CUCD Education Committee**

Dr. Liveley reported that Education committee’s workshop on PhD training at the CA conference had been very successful, attracting a large and international audience. She noted that the OU/CUCD workshop on languages held in February had been cofounded by the HEA (£500), the ICS (£350) and the OU (£250), so Education committee’s expenses had been less than budgeted. Plans were underway for a CUCD panel at the Bristol CA conference on the transition from school to university.

The ALCAB for classical languages had now met and its report emphasised that A-levels in Greek and Latin as currently designed are fit for purpose. Dr Liveley noted the contribution which Professor Judith Mossman had made to the ALCAB’s work.

She reported that Ofqual has just begun its consultation about the reform of qualifications in Ancient History and Classical Civilisation (with a consultation deadline of July 30th). Although no direct threat to either subject was articulated in the consultation document, a robust response from the subject community was important, and Dr Liveley and Dr. Peter Liddel have already, in their roles as JACT subject committee conveners, begun to liaise with AQA and OCR.

It was agreed that Dr Liveley would forward to CUCD by the end of June the response to the consultation which she and Dr. Liddel were drafting on behalf of JACT. Professor Woolf and Professor Steel would then produce and submit a CUCD response.

**Action: GL, CS, GW**

It was also agreed that individual responses also had a role to play; Professor Steel would contact Professor Osborne, as organiser of the annual Ancient History (Baynes) meeting, to ask him to identify some names.

**Action: CS**

1. **Institute of Classical Studies and the Joint Library**

Professor North reported that it had now been decided that the ICS would move to the third floor, to be located contiguously to the Joint Library, and that management of the Library will return to the ICS director. However, a reform of administrative support across the School of Advanced Studies was ongoing, and it was not yet clear that there would be any adminstrative support located on the third floor; Professor North would continue to press for that to happen.

It was noted that Professor North demitted as Director on September 30th; as of January 1st 2015, the ICS Director would be Professor Woolf. Interim arrangements would be announced soon.

The intention of the Hellenic and Roman societies to establish a legal entity (HARL) to manage their share of the Joint Library and fund raise for it was noted.

1. **Treasurer's Business**

Professor Leonard reported a balance of £5184; this was better than last year, due to the end of the Bulletin in hard copy; an increase in the level of subscriptions; and the parsimony of Education committee.

1. **Secretary's Business**

It was agreed that Professor Steel should contact the CA to establish what should happen to the JACT rep on CUCD, and the CUCD rep on JACT Council, after JACT had become the JACT Summer Schools Trust and JACT’s current activities, other than summer schools, had transferred to the CA. It was noted that CUCD’s preference was to send a representative to the CA Teaching Board, and for the CA to send a rep to CUCD.

**Action: CS**

1. **Update from Webmaster**

Dr. Lowe reported that the update of ‘Classicists in British Universities’ is in progress and some tidying up has taken place (e.g the creation of an archive page). It was agreed that the website was the priority, and other social media were less important for CUCD. It was agreed that a move of the CUCD website to the ICS would be a desirable development, which could facilitate rapid updating; Dr Lowe, Professor North and Professor Woolf would liaise over feasibility and timetable.

**Action: NL, JN, GW**

1. **Bulletin**

(this item was taken after item 3)

Dr. Roth reported that the statistics for the 2013 bulletin were now ready; Dr Deacy would send them to the webmaster in the coming week to be uploaded. It was agreed that once that had happened a .pdf of the whole of the 2013 Bulletin should be prepared and uploaded to the website.

Dr Deacy reported on plans for the 2014 Bulletin. The obituary section will continue; there will be reports on new programmes, including developments at the Open University, and ideally on the Winchester BA programme; other pieces will cover the UCL Youtube channel, internationalisation, and a report on the CUCD panel at the CA conference. It was noted that, despite e-publication, a timetable for contributors does still exist and the deadline is September 1st. Further contributions and suggestions are most welcome and should be directed to Dr. Deacy.

Dr. Roth noted that gathering the statistics remained a challenge.

**Action: SD, all**

1. **AOCB**

Elections: discussion was held over to the autumn meeting, before which Professor Woolf and Professor Steel would establish which vacancies are likely to arise for SC.

**Action: CS, GW**

Dr Robson reported that the CUCD language survey is ongoing as some Greek responses are still outstanding. He will present a report at the next meeting.

**Action: JR**

1. **Date of next meeting**

To be confirmed.

CEWS, 10.6.14 , amended 13.6.14