**47th Meeting of the Council of University Classical Departments**

# Held in Room G349, Senate House, London, at 2 pm

# on Saturday, 7th November, 2015

**Present**: Andrew Bayliss (Birmingham); Hugh Bowden (KCL); James Clackson (Cambridge); Armand D’Angour (Oxford); James Davidson (Warwick); Theodora Jim (Lancaster); Helen Lovatt (Nottingham); Nick Lowe (Royal Holloway); Gesine Manuwald (UCL); Annalisa Marzano (Reading); Louise Revell (Southampton); James Robson (Open University); Emma Stafford (Leeds); Catherine Steel (Glasgow; Secretary); Dan Stewart (Leicester); Stephen Todd (Manchester, Elections Officer); Ruth Westgate (Cardiff); Greg Woolf ( ICS, Chair); Rosie Wyles (Kent)

1. **Apologies** were received from: Richard Hunter (Cambridge); Jamie Woods (Lincoln), Bruce Gibson (Liverpool), Jaap Wisse (Newcastle), Fiona McHardy (Roehampton), Jason König (St. Andrews), Carey Fleiner (Winchester); Miriam Leonard (Treasurer).
2. **Minutes of the last Council** (1st November 2014). These were *accepted*, subject to correction of Dr. Bowden’s affiliation.
3. **Matters arising not covered below**: none.
4. **Chair’s Report**

Professor Woolf drew attention to various items in his report, which is available in the Bulletin on the CUCD website. From his report, he highlighted in particular new degrees in classical subjects at Southampton and Manchester Metropolitan. He offered his thanks to Dr. Deacy and Mrs. James for CUCD’s new website <http://cucd.blogs.sas.ac.uk>/). CUCD has continued to be involved in representing and lobbying for the discipline, increasingly alongside other learned societies in Humanities within the Arts and Humanities Alliance, notes from the latest meeting of which had been circulated to Council. It was *noted* that Peter Mandler is looking for a successor as Chair of AHA, though in the interest of subject coverage the new Chair would probably not be a classicist. Professor Woolf reported on the situation around BASIS: there are fears that the report which the BA has commissioned on the future of its institutes, due for publication in November 2015, will recommend substantial cuts in BA funding. An urgent lobbying campaign may be required at short notice.

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

Since Nov 2014

* A **new Director** has been appointed and a **new advisory council** has been created.
* We have been undertaking a review of our finances and our governance structure.
* A **Research Promotion and Facilitation Committee** has drawn up an RPF strategy (on the website) and has been looking systematically at our activities, including seminar funding, grants, networks and research projects.
* The **Publications Committee** has been looking at the finances and management of BICS and its supplements. We have just produced an Open Access Virtual Issue of BICS on Ancient Philosophy. We plan to move to one open and one thematic issue of BICS each year.
* We are pleased to announce the **appointments** of Dr Liz Potter (Publications) and Dr Gabriel Bodard (Reader in Digital Classics). Both will be consulting the classics community over the course of this academic year.
* The ICS has begun to develop a programme of **public engagement**. An event on The Good Death was successfully run in partnership with the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust.

Professor Woolf also discussed the role of the ICS in the Joint Library. A 25 year deal with the Societies is being negotiated and appears likely to be agreed: this will involve the Library staying in its current location.. Uncertainties remain over funding, for all partners to the agreement, but the immediate situation is relatively good.

The ICS’s five year review will take place early in 2016.

Professor Woolf emphasised that the ICS has a national role and is actively looking for national initiatives to benefit the discipline; he welcomes any suggestions.

**Action: all**

1. **CUCD Education Committee**:

Professor Lovatt reported on the current composition of Education Committee and announced the existence of its [blog](https://cucdeducation.wordpress.com/), for which she welcomes posts.

Plans include: a panel at the 2016 CA conference; a ‘Teaching Classics in Wales’ event in Swansea in February; an event on feedback; an event with the OU on innovative assessment. Professor Lovatt welcomes suggestions for events, and would be particularly glad to have suggestions of colleagues engaged in innovative activity around feedback who might participate in the feedback event. Dr. Robson issued a similar invitation around assessment.

**Action: all**

1. **Treasurer’s report**:

In Professor Leonard’s absence, the accounts were *noted*. Professor Steel appealed for the prompt payment of subscriptions. Council recorded its thanks to Professor Leonard for her six years of service as Treasurer.

1. **Secretary’s report**:

Professor Steel passed on a positive report from Dr. Fleiner at Winchester on the progress of the BA in Classical Studies there and noted the recent launch of the new BA Ancient History at Manchester Metropolitan. Dr. Revell briefed Council on the situation at Southampton, which is recruiting for its new BA Ancient History which launches in 2016. Ancient History modules already being delivered to large numbers of students through the History degree, and new temporary posts have been created to help with demand. CUCD offered to assist with publicising the new Ancient History BA, and the CA was suggested as a venue, either via its e-bulletin or JCT.

1. **CUCD Bulletin**:

Professor Steel reported on behalf of Dr. Deacy that the 2015 *Bulletin* was now largely complete and available on the CUCD website. This year contains, in addition to the Chair's report, Professor Woolf on the REF, Professor Lovatt on her vision for Education Committee, a set of papers around postgraduate student needs and training, obituaries of Martin West and Ana Healey, and a piece on the return of the Ancient History degree at Southampton. Dr. Jim is currently writing on classics at Lancaster which will be available soon and Dr. Crowley will write by the end of the year on developments at MMU. The final element in the 2015 edition will be the statistics.

1. **Statistics**: CUCD noted Dr. Roth’s report on the 2015 statistics, and recorded its warm thanks to Dr Roth for her efforts to gather the statistics.
2. **REF 2014 review**

The recent [Green Paper](https://www.timeshighereducation.com/sites/default/files/breaking_news_files/green_paper.pdf) has confirmed that there will be a future REF, though it may be delayed beyond 2020. Council agreed that it was highly desirable that a Classics UoA continue to exist. The decline in number of submissions to the UoA between 2008 and 2014 was *noted*, though it was unclear if that is out of line with other subjects; the disciplinary research community has not shrunk. Costs have increased massively between 2008 and 2014, particularly for institutions, which may have an effect on the design of the next REF.

1. **Funding for Master’s degrees**

It was *noted*  that AHA had discussed this issue at its most recent meeting, with widely varying pictures from different disciplines. It was difficult as yet to assess the effect of loans, as well as uncertainty prior to the Comprehensive Spending Review. Dr Stafford reported that the Yorkshire BPG2 was offering MA funding. AHRC is becoming more realistic about the challenges facing postgraduates.

1. **Teaching Excellence Framework**

How TEF will operate remains unclear, despite the publication of the Green Paper, but it seems to involve a series of institutional reviews which will have a subject focus. The process will therefore involve more detailed scrutiny of subjects than current institutional review. It seems likely that Universities may seek to be reviewed as early as possible in order to make possible the raising of fees. However, given the lack of detail it was *agreed* that CUCD should not offer a response on its own; CUCD should however see whether AHA could do so on behalf of Humanities subject associations, with particular focus on dual-stream research funding and TEF panel composition.

**Action: GW**

1. **CUCD Elections**:

Professor Woolf was re-elected as Chair. Dr. Isayev was elected as Treasurer. Dr. Westgate and Dr. Pudsey were elected to SC.

1. **Date of next meeting:**.November 5th, at 2pm.
2. **Any other business**: Council recorded its thanks to the outgoing members of Standing Committee: Dr. Herrmann, Professor Leonard and Dr. Roth.

11/11/15

CEWS