**Council of University Classical Departments**

Minutes of the 140th meeting of the Standing Committee, held on Saturday, 24th January 2015 at 2pm in room 243, Senate House, University of London

Present: Emma Bridges (Open), Miriam Leonard (UCL), Nick Lowe (RHUL), Sharon Marshall (Exeter), Catherine Steel (Glasgow, secretary), James Robson (Open), Ulrike Roth (Edinburgh), Stephen Todd (Manchester), Greg Woolf (ICS, chair).

**Apologies for Absence** were received from Susan Deacy, Fritz-Gregor Herrmann, Richard Hunter, Genevieve Liveley, Helen Lovatt and Josephine Quinn.

1. **Minutes of Meeting of 7th June 2014**

These were *accepted*, subject to the change of co-founded to co-funded in item 5).

1. **Matters Arising**

None not covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

1. **Chair’s Report**

Professor Woolf reported on a quiet period since the last SC meeting. The revised QAA benchmark has been published; changes from the previous version were largely to reflect changes in nomenclature within higher education. CUCD’s new website would be discussed later in the meeting. The Crossick report on Open Access and monographs, to which CUCD had contributed, had been published; its emphasis

on the importance of the monograph to our discipline was very welcome. Professor Woolf had circulated a link to the classicists list. It was *agreed* that Professor Woolf would ask Peter Mandler to see, via AHA, whether the demands of OA were being fulfilled in widely varying ways at different institutions.

**Action: GW**

The REF overview for panel D, which includes UoA31, has just been published; it was *agreed* to put it on the agenda for the next meeting of SC for detailed discussion, and to invite Professor Osborne, as UoA31 chair, to that meeting. FIEC: Professor Woolf reported that at the 2014 FIEC conference in Bordeaux the UK’s bid to host the 2019 conference had been successful, and it would take place at the Institute of Education in London. There would be no separate CA conference in 2019, and the CA would run the financial side of the conference. The next planning meeting would take place in late Feb/early March.

1. **REF**

See also under item 3. It was *noted* that greater clarity around institutional responses could be expected once detailed feedback was published. It was *agreed* that CUCD should seize opportunities to contribute to debate around the format of REF2020 as they arose. Areas of likely concern included the position of post-92 institutions submitting to the Classics UoA; rules around the submission of temporary staff; and use of non-submission of individual staff to improve profiles.

1. **Hortensii report**

Professor Dickey was unable to attend, so this item was postponed to the next SC meeting.

**Action: CS**

1. **Constitution**

The proposed changes to the Constitution were accepted with the substitution of ‘Teaching Board’ for education committee in relation to the CA in clause 13. It was *noted* that Council had agreed at its November meeting that changes to the constitution could be agreed by email; it was *agreed* to circulate the revised constitution to institutional reps and, if agreed, to adopt it prior to the 2015 Council.

**Action: CS**

1. **CUCD Education committee**

Professor Lovatt reported via the Secretary she was planning to organise events on transition, feedback and employability, possibly also on supporting PG teaching assistants. She had been discussing with Steve Hunt the possibility of getting teachers to talk to HE teachers about the expectations of students and methods of giving feedback.

Dr Robson offered to co-organise another conference between the Open University and Education Committee and will contact Professor Lovatt to take this forward.

SC recorded its thanks to Professor Lovatt.

**Action: HL, JR**

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

Professor Woolf reported, as Director of the ICS, on its role and configuration. At present its activities included the Combined Library; events in London, such as the six research seminar series it organises; training for postgraduate and early career researchers; public lectures (usually endowed); publications, comprising *BICS* and its supplements (publications activities were currently under review); a national list of PhD students; grants, usually small; and the hosting of research projects. Its scope was nationwide; it had a newly constituted Advisory Council which reflected its national role; and was eager to consult the subject community to find out where effort and resources could best be concentrated, including the possibility of specialist posts.

The meeting made various suggestions and comments, including: distribution and marketing of publications, particularly supplements, could be improved; short-term post-doctoral fellowships could be provided relatively cheaply by the Institute and would be beneficial; the Institute might be in a position to fulfil some of the needs identified by the Hortensii report, such as academic email addresses for recent PhDs; funding for workshops outside London was welcome. Professor Woolf welcomed further ideas by email.

**Action: all**

Joint Library/Combined Library: the main development since the last meeting of SC was that the Roman and Hellenic societies had created HARL, to create a single body to negotiate with the UoL and to engage in fund-raising. The current Memorandum of Understanding covering the Library expired in summer 2015; negotiations were ongoing and the hope was for a proposal to go to the March meetings of the two societies, which would ideally offer greater stability for the operation of the Library.

1. **Treasurer's Business**

The balance stood at £6381; grants to Education Committee had been smaller than expected so CUCD was well placed to help its activities in future. Professor Leonard *noted* that subscriptions seemed to be coming in more smoothly than last year.

1. **Secretary's Business**

Professor Steel reported that JACT had become the JACT Summer Schools Trust on January 2nd 2015, and its focus was now solely on the four summer schools. JACT’s other activities and assets, including support for teaching, publications and the Greek project, had transferred to the CA. JSST did not wish to co-opt a representative from CUCD, but the CA had asked for a CUCD representative to sit on its Council. It was *agreed* that Professor Lowe should be this representative.

Co-options for 2015: it was agreed to co-opt onto SC Professor Nick Lowe (RHUL), as CUCD rep on the CA; Professor Helen Lovatt (Nottingham) as Chair of Education Committee; Dr. Genevieve Lively as CA representative on CUCD. It was *agreed* to recommend to Professor Lovatt co-option of Dr. Robson onto CUCD Education Committee.

SC recorded its thanks to Dr. Robson for his long service.

1. **Statistics**

Dr. Roth reported that some half dozen returns were outstanding, but she hoped that most are imminent and that publication of the statistics would take place before the end of the winter. For 2015, she expected to make an April call, for publication in November. It was *noted* that Dr. Roth would demit from SC at the November 2015 Council; if her successor as Statistics officer were a current member of SC, handover arrangements could proceed prior to November Council.

1. **New Website**

The new website was at <http://cucd.blogs.sas.ac.uk/>; it had not yet gone live. It will be updateable by Valerie James, the ICS administrator, as well as by Professor Woolf. Its design replicates to a great extent the previous site. Professor Woolf would shortly meet with Dr. Deacy and Ms. James to discuss how the Bulletin would be published. It was *agreed* that an RSS feed would be valuable, and that there should be an archive section. It was *agreed* that the proposed revival of the Classicists in British Universities list would sit better with the ICS.

1. **Bulletin**

Dr. Deacy reported via the Secretary that there were some items still to come for the 2014 edition, including the Statistics. For Bulletin 2015, she was planning a set of papers on training for postgraduates coming out of last year’s CUCD/CA panel; a set of papers around internationalisation; and Sue Willett’s obituary of Ana Healey. She was hoping also to include a piece on ‘para-classicists’ and something on the disciplinary community of Classics in the wake of the REF. Dr. Deacy’s report was welcomed and it was *agreed* that suggestions of possible authors reflecting on REF would arise after the REF discussion at the next SC.

**Action: SD**

Dr Robson reported that results from the survey on language teaching he had undertaken for the CUCD Bulletin should be available for the next Bulletin.

**Action: JR**

1. **AOCB**

It was *noted* that Professor Leonard’s term as Treasurer would end at the 2015 Council and that it would be desirable, once her successor had been elected at that meeting, for the signing arrangements on the CUCD account to be updated so that all signatories were current members of SC. It was *agreed* that Professor Woolf would investigate the possibility of one the classical societies hosting the CUCD account, since greater continuity of signatories would facilitate electronic banking.

1. **Date of next meeting**

It was *agreed* that the date of theJune meeting would be fixed by email [suggested date: June 27th 2015].

CEWS, 26.1.15