**Council of University Classical Departments**

Minutes of the 141st meeting of the Standing Committee, held on Saturday, 27th June 2015 at 2pm in room 243, Senate House, University of London

Present: Susan Deacy (Roehampton), Fritz-Gregor Herrmann (Swansea), Richard Hunter (Cambridge), Genevieve Liveley (Bristol), Helen Lovatt (Nottingham), Nick Lowe (RHUL) Sharon Marshall (Exeter), Josephine Quinn (Oxford), Catherine Steel (Glasgow, secretary), Edmund Thomas (Durham), Stephen Todd (Manchester), Greg Woolf (ICS, chair).

(By invitation for item 4 Robin Osborne (Cambridge) attended)

**Apologies for Absence** were received from Emma Bridges, Miriam Leonard and Ulrike Roth.

1. **Minutes of Meeting of 24th January 2015**

These were *accepted*.

1. **Matters Arising**

5. It was noted that Professor Dickey had sent her apologies; discussion of the Hortensii report was held over to a later meeting

6. The new constitution has been adopted and promulgated.

12. The new CUCD website is now live at <http://cucd.blogs.sas.ac.uk/> and the bulletin is being published on it. Standing Committee noted its thanks to Valerie James and Susan Deacy for bringing this about.

1. **Chair’s Report**

* **Open Access.** Geoff Crossick’s report for HEFCE on OA and monographs was published in January. It incorporates many points made by CUCD and is available at <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/news/newsarchive/2015/news99909.html>
* **OFQUAL consultation on GCSE ancient languages**. With advice from Dr. Liveley CUCD sent a formal response in February. The CUCD and CA chairs also wrote to the Times and an article was published as well as the letter: CUCD welcomed many features of the proposals but expressed concern about workload in GCSE Latin and about the effects of decoupling AS from A levels to make it difficult to teach them together and difficult for students who had embarked on AS to change to A level part way through the course.
* **Guidance on exam changes** was published on GCSE and A level reform on 18th June and is available [here.](https://www.ghttps://www.gov.uk/government/collections/reform-of-as-and-a-level-qualifications-by-ofqualov.uk/government/collections/reform-of-as-and-a-level-qualifications-by-ofqual) The new AS and A levels and GCSEs in ancient languages will be introduced from September 2016 for AS exams in 2017 and A level exams in 2018. New AS and A level and GCSEs in Ancient History, Archaeology and Classical Civilization will begin a year later.
* CUCD Education committee ran a very successful **CUCD panel at** **CA Conference** in April in Bristol. The speakers were Cressida Ryan (Schools Liaison and Access Officer, Oxford), Alex Orgee (OCR Exam Board), Arlene Holmes-Henderson (Classics in Communities) and Tom Murgatroyd (Monmouth School)
* Professor Woolf was invited (at about 2 weeks notice) to attend a meeting on 11th May at the British Academy in connection with its Independent **Evaluation of the British Academy Sponsored Institutes and Societies** (BASIS), to provide evidence of their value. He was not able to attend but CUCD made a written submission to which many departments and individuals contributed. The outcome is still unknown.
* **AHRC** is holding a meeting of Learned Societies on 23rd September. On the agenda are (*inter alia*) the Academic Book of the Future, the next generation of doctoral funding. Professor Woolf will attend.
* **A Comprehensive Spending Review** expected in the autumn. Changes in the structure of HE (no. of research councils etc) are not expected, but major cuts could affect AHRC spending, the BA grant to BASIS institutes and other research infrastructure. This interacts awkwardly with the [Nurse Review of the Research Councils](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/nurse-review-of-research-councils-call-for-evidence) which is likely to press for a higher proportion of public spending to be directed to Science to maintain competitiveness with other developed countries.
* **AHA** has discussed the Nurse Review; Open Access in relation (a) to monographs and (b) REF 2020; A level reform.
* **Southampton** is in the process of approving a suite of Ancient History single and joint honours degrees with provision for learning Greek and/or Latin. Start date probably 2015-2016

1. **REF 2014**

Professor Osborne spoke to the document he had circulated. In terms of process, REF had run smoothly for sub-panel 31, with strong administrative support, a panel appropriate in size and expertise for the task and effective separation of panel members from judgements about their own institutions.

Issues to highlight: Classics scored highly in comparison with other Panel D disciplines across all metrics, *as is to be expected* in a discipline without a tail. 4\* outputs were produced in all UoAs and by researchers at all career stages; individuals regularly scored across more than one band, i.e. there is no such thing as a ‘4\* researcher’. There was a higher percentage of 4\* scores among monographs than other outputs, as is to be expected given the nature of a monograph in comparison with journal articles and chapters in books; but the panel paid no attention to format of publication in its judgements. There were, for example, 4\* pieces published in Companions. Monographs had been double-weighted when that had been requested; some institutions had not made as much use of double-weighting as would have been advantageous to them.

On impact, HEFCE’s expansion of the definition of what could count as impact (and, particularly, its inclusion of impact on education) meant that the effects of impact were less negative than had been feared at the outset. The impact case studies from REF 2014 were now available. Problems that UoAs had faced included: impact which was difficult to tie to a single piece of research; impactful research having to be at least 2\*; the effects of people moving institutions; and small departments having to produce more case studies per person than larger ones. Most sub-panels did not support the raising of the proportion for impact in subsequent REF exercises. Sub-panel 31 had found that some submissions, both with regard to impact and with regard to environment, were rather better written than others, and that particularly in the case of environment statements, failure to discuss all the topics which HEFCE had asked for comment on was a problem with some submissions.

It was *agreed* that it would be helpful to include a report on REF to November’s Council and to consider inviting reflections on the REF 2014 process for the *Bulletin*.

1. **CUCD Education committee**

Professor Lovatt reported on her plans: she wished to renew the Education Committee by inviting new members; to collaborate closely with the CA over events; and t ohave more open calls for speakers rather than invidiual invitations. Plans for events include a CA2016 panel on transitions between levels of study, including school to university; an autumn 2015 event in Nottingham on feedback; and a spring 2016 event on collaborative teaching. SC thanked Professor Lovatt for her efforts and welcomed her proposals.

**Action: HL**

A-level reforms: OCR had contacted a small number of people in April about revising the criteria documents for Ancient History and Classical Civilisation, which has now been done. The Ancient History document has been approved by DfE, but DfE has responded that Classical Civilisation’s is lacking in specification and rigour. OCR circulated attempts to address these problems but it is not yet clear whether that is enough to meet DfE’s concerns. It was *noted* that a group of academics had been organised to respond in case difficulties remain; this response might be expected at short notice and during the holiday period.

The Subject Centre’s teaching resources will shortly be available through the CUCD website.

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

* ICS has been conducting reviews of its finances and governance in the first months of this year and has a clearer idea now of the sustainability of its various activities.
* ICS has set up a Research Promotion and Facilitation Committee and drawn up and adopted a strategy that stresses national engagment and working through partnerships.
* ICS has reviewed the funding of seminar series and set up a new conference grants scheme which will particularly focus on supporting innovative and interdisciplinary meetings and those which bring non UK based researchers to UK meetings.
* ICS is developing Web services including the online register of UK and Irish doctorates in progress.
* ICS has appointed a new Publications and Web Manager, Dr Liz Potter, who will start on 1st September and is in the process of appointing a Reader in Digital Classics. They will begin by drawing up publication and digital strategies for the Institute, and will want to consult nationally while doing so. We will also be joined in January by Dr Hannah Cornwell who will come as a Leverhulme ECF.
* UoL and the Societies are in the process of negotiating a 25 year agreement over the funding, accommodation and management of the Combined Library.

1. **Treasurer's Business**

Nothing to report.

1. **Secretary's Business**

Nothing to report.

1. **Statistics**

The 2013-2014 statistics are about to be published in the Bulletin; the call for next year’s statistics will be sent round in the next few weeks. Prompt returns are urged, as always.

1. **Bulletin**

Forthcoming articles for the *Bulletin* include Fiona McHardy on postgraduate participation in peer review and Sue Willetts’ obituary of Ana Healey. Future plans include work by Genevieve Liveley and others on internationalisation; and papers from the 2015 CA/CUCD panel. It was *noted* that the *Bulletin* could be supplemented by a CUCD blog, and Dr. Deacy and Professor Lovatt *agreed* to discuss this possibility further.

**Action: SD, HL**

SC recorded its thanks to Dr. Deacy for her work on the *Bulletin*.

1. **AOCB**

Professor Todd’s paper on this year’s CUCD elections was *noted*.

1. **Date of next meeting**

It was *agreed* that the date of theOctober meeting would be fixed by email. Council meets on November 7th 2015.

CEWS, 28.6.15