**Council of University Classical Departments**

Minutes of the 142nd meeting of the Standing Committee, held on Saturday, 3rd October 2015 at 2pm in room 243, Senate House, University of London

Present: Miriam Leonard (UCL, treasurer), Genevieve Liveley (Bristol), Helen Lovatt (Nottingham), Nick Lowe (RHUL) Sharon Marshall (Exeter), Josephine Quinn (Oxford), Ulrike Roth (Edinburgh), Catherine Steel (Glasgow, secretary), Edmund Thomas (Durham), Stephen Todd (Manchester), Greg Woolf (ICS, chair).

**Apologies for Absence** were received from Emma Bridges, Susan Deacy, Richard Hunter

1. **Minutes of Meeting of 27th June 2015**

These were *accepted*.

1. **Matters Arising**

None not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

1. **Chair’s Report**

SC last met on June 27th and there had not been very much activity over the summer.

The effects of the replacement of the Coalition with a Conservative government in May will have major consequences for Higher Education. A number follow from the continued implementation of an austerity agenda. Universities have not yet felt this as strongly as other cultural institutions such as museums and libraries but certainly will from 2016. The Comprehensive Spending Review will announce budgets for departments (including BIS) at the end of November. BIS will then have to decide how to allocate funding to Research Councils and Funding Councils (and whether to make changes in their organization). Funding letters from HEFCE are not expected until the end of February. Cuts could be in the order of 30-40% across the sector but will certainly not be evenly distributed.

The other main change brought in by the new government is the committment to establish a Teaching Excellence Framework. Very few details are available, but the future of QAA is also in doubt. Separately the funding councils of England, Wales and NI published in June a report about the external examiner system (http://www.hefce.ac.uk/media/HEFCE,2014/Content/Pubs/Independentresearch/2015/Review,of,external,examining,arrangements/2015\_externalexam.pdf). It concluded that the new regulations established in 2010 had increased transparency and professionalism of the system; that externals were better at protecting consistency of processes than standards; that there is therefore an urgent need for reform especially to establish nationally calibrated standards.

The Chair attended the AHRC’s annual meeting for subject associations on 23rd September. His report, also circulated to the CA and the Hellenic and Roman Societies, has been circulated to SC.

Debates over Open Access continue, now increasingly focused on monographs. OA is not mandated for monographs submitted to REF 2020 but that may be reversed in REF 2026. A briefing report (<http://oapen-uk.jiscebooks.org/oaguide/>) has been published by JISC/ OAPEN which is rather upbeat about this.

The Arts and Humanities Alliance (AHA) is to hold its next meeting on Friday October 23rd from 12-15. The Chair cannot attend; Dr Lovatt agreed to attend and represent CUCD

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1. **BASIS institutes**

The British Academy has commissioned a review of its support for overseas Schools and Institutes, chaired by Peter Warry, ahead of expected funding cuts to be announced in the CSR. CUCD could not attend the meeting to which it was invited as part of the review, but sent a strongly worded letter of support for the Schools and Institutes. Early indications are troubling but there appears to be growing support from within the Academy. The review’s report is due in the autumn, and further support may be required at that point.

1. **MA recruitment**

Discussion among SC revealed a varying picture over Masters recruitment, not clearly linked to differential rises in fees. The AHRC’s recent announcement of proposed changes to the DTP from 2019 (http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/newsevents/news/nextphaseoffundedstudentships/) adds to the uncertainty. Professor Woolf agreed to write to Peter Mandler asking for this issue to be discussed at the next AHA meeting.

1. **CUCD Education committee**

Dr. Lovatt updated SC on Education Committee’s membership (Evelien Bracke (Swansea), Jason Crowley (MMU), Susan Deacy (Roehampton), Juliane Kerkhecker (Oxford), Alice König (St. Andrews), Mair Lloyd (OU, PhD student), Helen Lovatt (Nottingham, Chair), James Robson (OU). SC agreed that terms should be three years for the Chair and five years for committee members, and suggested that there should be staggered demittals among existing committee members. Existing plans are: CA2016 panel with CATB on Transition; an event on innovative assessment in February, run by Ms Lloyd and Dr Robson; an event on feedback, provisionally planned for May/June 2016; and a follow-up event on teaching sensitive subjects, to be run by Dr. Deacy. In addition, Dr. Lovatt announced a call for events for 2016/17 to be circulated to the Classicists list; SC approved the proposed wording.

SC agreed an budget of £1500 for Education Committee in 2015/2016.

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

Negotiations continue with the UoL to secure a continuing funding agreement.

1. **Treasurer's Business**

The current balance is £5568 (prior to any subscriptions for 2015-2016). Professor Leonard demits in November, so a transition period is imminent. It was noted that there are increasing bureaucratic issues around collecting the subscriptions, and there was some discussion if it would be possible to adopt a more specific form of invoicing.

1. **Secretary's Business**

Items were identified for discussion at Council on November 7th: the future of Masters degrees; HE funding; BASIS; REF2014 results; TEF.

There was discussion of the shape of SC for 2016. Dr. Marshall volunteered to take over as statistics officer from Dr. Roth. Her offer was gratefully accepted. It was agreed that Professor Steel should approach Dr. Ruth Westgate and Dr. Louise Revell to see if they were willing to stand for SC, to help ensure good geographical and institutional balance in representation.

1. **Statistics**

Statistics are beginning to come in; Dr. Roth hopes to compile them in early December.

1. **Bulletin**

The 2015 *Bulletin* is coming together well with several items added since last SC including a piece from Greg on the REF, plus his Chair’s report. An article on the new Ancient History programme at Southampton is also now published. To come soon, an obituary of Martin West (by Armand d'Angour) and a piece on the new BA Ancient History at MMU.  The bulletin now tweets @cucd bulletin and has followers now comfortably into three figures. All feedback on the *Bulletin*’s activities iswelcome.
SC recorded its thanks to Dr. Deacy for her work on the *Bulletin*.

1. **Elections**

Already covered under 9

1. **AOCB**

One institution had raised concerns about the appointment of Heads of Department with only limited internal consultation.

1. **Date of next meeting**

Council meets on November 7th 2015. SC dates: February 20th; June 11th.

CEWS, 7.10.15