**Council of University Classical Departments**

Minutes of the 143rd meeting of the Standing Committee, held on Saturday, 11th June 2016 at 2pm in room 246, Senate House, University of London

Present: Emma Bridges (OU), Susan Deacy (Roehampton), Nick Lowe (RHUL), April Pudsey (MMU), Catherine Steel (Glasgow, secretary), Stephen Todd (Manchester), Ruth Westgate (Cardiff), Greg Woolf (ICS, chair).

**Apologies for Absence** were received from Richard Hunter (Cambridge), Elena Isayev (Exeter), Helen Lovatt (Nottingham), Sharon Marshall (Exeter), Josephine Quinn (Oxford), Edmund Thomas (Durham).

1. **Minutes of Meeting of 3rd October 2015**

These were *accepted*.

1. **Matters Arising**

None not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

1. **Chair’s Report**

Professor Woolf reported that funding for BASIS institutes was now guaranteed at current levels for the remainder of the five year cycle of this Comprehensive Spending Review. This was a very good result, but had required an enormous amount of work by a large number of people; any complacency about the future should be avoided.

The agreement between the University of London and the Roman and Hellenic Societies had been signed, and should provide a 25-year basis for the arrangement between the institutions.

As this was the first SC meeting of the year, Professor Woolf proposed that SC should co-opt Nick Lowe to serve as CUCD’s representative on CATB and Helen Lovatt to serve as Chair of CUCD Education committee. These co-options were unanimously approved. It was *noted* that there was no need to co-opt a CATB rep onto CUCD SC as April Pudsey, an elected member of SC, had agreed to take on that role.

1. **Treasurer’s business**

The balance was £7599.30. It was *noted* that this was a very healthy figure, and it was *agreed* that it would be useful to see accounts at the next meeting, to get a sense of change over time and the annual cycle. The draft expenses claim was *approved*; it was *agreed* it would be helpful to add a mileage rate.

**Action: EI, GW, CS**

1. **Secretary’s business**

It was *noted* that Professor Todd would leave SC at the November council; it was *agreed* thatApril Pudsey would take over as Elections officer.

Emma Bridges announced that she was willing to stand for SC again. Professor Todd would ask the other members of SC who were coming to the end of their term and eligible to stand again whether they were willing to stand again before circulating a wider call for nominations.

It was agreed that it was highly desirable that SC continue to have members from a range of different kinds of institutions, and from Scotland as well as the rest of the UK.

1. **CUCD Education committee**

SC considered the report submitted by Education committee. It was agreed that the scale of activity was very impressive, and the committee were congratulated. SC recommended that if none of Education committee’s current members were willing to serve as Chair when Dr. Lovatt demits in 2017 the prospective Chair be invited to join the committee as soon as possible. It suggested that employability might be the more suitable topic for the CA/CUCD panel. It authorised Education committee expenditure up to £1500 for the 16-17 session. It *approved* the application form, with the proviso that cheques should not be issued to individuals. Various suggestions were made about the draft application procedure for the website; Professor Steel will pass this feedback onto Dr Lovatt, and circulate a final draft to SC for approval.

**Action: HL, CS**

1. **TEF**

SC discussed the White Paper published in May 2016. Much of it had no specific relevance to classical subjects, although some did raise concerns for the humanities as whole. For example, the long term consequences of placing the AHRC and its sister Research Councils under a single ‘research and innovation funding body’ UKRI did carry some risk of erosion of humanities funding, and bringing both strands of the dual funding system under the proposed Office for Students did raise concerns as to how effectively government will be able to respond to the diversity of institutions represented by CUCD. SC felt it was important to protect and reward both excellent teaching and excellent research. Plans for the TEF are at a very early stage, and although the White Paper did mention the prospect of disciplinary trials, it was unclear at what level disciplines would be defined and also how TEF assessments by discipline would be reconciled with assessment designed to determine which providers could charge higher fees. SC felt that it was important that in disciplinary assessments classical subjects should be strongly represented on any panels that were created and if possible should have a dedicated panel as in recent RAE and REF exercises and as used by QAA for benchmarking purposes.

1. **AHA**

SC *noted* the report from the most recent AHA meeting; in particular, it highlighted the Stern review of REF as a subject likely to recur.

1. **A-levels subjects and university admissions**

Dr. Lowe reported that changes to the A-level system, particularly the ending of AS, appeared to be disadvantaging classical subjects in schools, and there was a hope among schools that the Universities could articulate the advantages for students in doing Classical A-levels. SC *noted* that CUCD strongly supported the teaching of classical subjects at A-level, but that it was difficult to privilege these qualifications among applicants given the commitment to ensuring that our subject is open to students who have not had the opportunity to study it at school. It was *agreed* that SC members should find out their institution’s entry policy in relation to Ancient History and Classical Civilisation (Latin and Greek already feature on the list of facilitating subjects promoted as desirable by the Russell Group <http://russellgroup.ac.uk/for-students/school-and-college-in-the-uk/subject-choices-at-school-and-college/>).

**Action: all**

1. **Classics in the Marketplace**

Dr. Lowe reported that Dr. Lovatt and Dr. Tempest were about to apply to the CA Development board for funding to reprise 90s project, Classics in the Marketplace through a website to capture current experiences of doing a Classics degree. CUCD may have a role to identify graduates who might undertake paid work to generate content.

1. **Statistics**

Dr Marshall reported that returns were coming in steadily, though she had not yet received all returns. SC agreed to discuss at the October meeting the questions which should be asked about staffing, with a particular focus on casualisation, gender and seniority. It was *agreed* to ask Dr. Marshall to provide a briefing paper to circulate in advance of that meeting.

1. **Bulletin**

Dr. Deacy reported that three articles have been published in 2016 thus far and are available on the Bulletin website (http://cucd.blogs.sas.ac.uk/bulletin/); twitter has been effective in generating hits. She *noted* that there is less interest within the community in REF at present than in other topics. There would be a number of articles published over the summer, including reports on recent Education committee events, and the current approach of mixing commissioned pieces with those that are offered is working well. She thanked Valerie James for the speed with which material was being posted, and observed how satisfying was the responsiveness of the online format.

SC *thanked* Dr. Deacy for her work on the Bulletin and *noted* its intention to co-opt Dr. Deacy as Bulletin Editor once her stint as an elected member ended.

1. **AOCB**

None

1. **Date of the next meeting**

It was agreed that, given the large number of apologies at this meeting, the date would be agreed by email.

CEWS, 20.6.16