

Council of University Classical Departments

Minutes of the 143rd meeting of the Standing Committee, held on Saturday, 15th October 2016 at 2.15pm in room 234, Senate House, University of London

Present: Susan Deacy (Roehampton), Elena Isayev (Exeter), Helen Lovatt (Nottingham), Sharon Marshall (Exeter), April Pudsey (MMU), Josephine Quinn (Oxford), Catherine Steel (Glasgow, secretary), Stephen Todd (Manchester), Ruth Westgate (Cardiff), Greg Woolf (ICS, chair).

Apologies for Absence were received from Emma Bridges (OU), Richard Hunter (Cambridge), Nick Lowe (RHUL)

1. Minutes of Meeting of 11th June 2016

These were *accepted*.

2. Matters Arising

BASIS: although budgets are protected for five years, the Schools still do not have their operating budgets, nor have issues about governance been resolved. The appointment of a new Director of the BSR is imminent and is clearly very important for the discipline.

On October 12th AHA met with Alun Evans (Chief Executive of the BA) to discuss a range of issues, including communication with the learned societies.

TEF: the HE and Research Bill (2016-2017) is in committee stage in the Commons. TEF is going ahead; subject area review will start in 2019-2020, during which year PGT will be added to TEF.

HEFCE has been asked to develop the next REF following the publication of the Stern Review. A consultation is expected to be launched in November. The AHA is running a seminar on the Stern review on December 12th at Senate House; Professor Woolf and Dr. Quinn will attend. SC noted that portability was particularly troubling among the Review recommendations.

3. Chair's Report

BASIS and AHA have been the chief focus of activity since the June SC meeting (see under item 2). He noted that no departments have faced threats to their existence over the past year and there were some very positive signs, including a new appointment in Ancient History at Sheffield.

SC *agreed* that the position of Archaeology in HEIs in the UK was troubling.

4. Treasurer's business

The financial position remained healthy and there is no need to raise subscriptions at the next Council. SC welcomed the introduction of expenses forms and the format of the reporting, which allowed SC to identify expenditure under different headings more easily; it was *noted* that it would also be helpful to include committed and unclaimed expenditure.

Action: EI

5. Secretary's business

Professor Steel reported that she had written on behalf of CUCD a letter of support for Professor Hall's application for funding to support her project 'Studying Classical

Civilisation in Britain: Recording the Past and Fostering the Future’.

It was *agreed* that draft minutes could be posted on the CUCD website, provided that SC members had had the opportunity to comment on them.

CUCD contacts will be circulated on October 17th for items for Council with papers to circulate on October 31st.

(add AHA to agenda)

Action: CS

6. CUCD Education committee

SC welcomed the report from Education committee of its activity. Professor Lovatt reported that Education committee is about to send round the funding call for this year’s activities. She noted that her stint ends in December 2017; the Chair of Education committee can serve a second stint, but if Professor Lovatt decided against a second stint this coming year was important for succession planning. SC members were asked to reflect on possible names.

Action: all

7. Statistics

It was *agreed* to adopt the new questions on gender and contract status to the statistics; and to add a question around Athena SWAN status.

Action: SM

8. Bulletin

A number of items have been published since the last SC meeting, including the Chair’s Report. SC members were reminded that Dr. Deacy is always glad to receive suggestions about articles that might be of interest, particularly reports of activity in institutions which might be of interest across the discipline.

Professor Woolf undertook to have the website updated to create an Education committee section, to include links across to relevant Bulletin articles.

Action: GW; all

9. Elections

Dr. Bridges and Dr. Quinn are both willing to stand again (but will need to be nominated and seconded). Professor Hunter does not wish to stand again and Professor Todd has reached the end of his second term. Dr. Pudsey is about to send round the call for nominations.

Action: AP

10. AOCB

SC noted that AQA has decided to withdraw its Classical Civilisation A-level, which is very unwelcome news. It is very important for CUCD to continue to work with CATB to support OCR, the remaining board which runs Classical subjects.

Action: CS, GW

Professor Isayev reported on the HE Equal Access to Refugees and Asylum Seekers activity at Exeter University. It was *agreed* that Professor Isayev would prepare a brief document for discussion at Council.

Action: EI

11. Date of the next meeting

Council meets on November 5th 2016 at 2pm. The next meeting of Standing Committee is scheduled for January 21st 2017 but it may not be needed; a decision will be reached before Christmas.

Action: CS

CEWS, 17.10.16