

Council of University Classical Departments

Minutes of the 144th meeting of the Standing Committee, held on Saturday, 21st January 2017
at 2.15pm in room 234, Senate House, University of London

Present: Emma Bridges (OU), Susan Deacy (Roehampton), Elena Isayev (Exeter, Treasurer), Helen Lovatt (Nottingham), Sharon Marshall (Exeter), Peter Morton (Manchester), April Pudsey (MMU), Josephine Quinn (Oxford), Catherine Steel (Glasgow, secretary), Edmund Thomas (Durham) Ruth Westgate (Cardiff), Greg Woolf (ICS, chair).

Apologies for Absence were received from James Clackson (Cambridge);

1. Minutes of Meeting of 15th October 2016

These were *accepted*.

2. Matters Arising

It was *noted* that Professor Hall's application to the AHRC for the project, 'Studying Classical Civilisation in Britain: Recording the Past and Fostering the Future' had been successful. CUCD offered its congratulations to Professor Hall.

Revisions to the CUCD website are ongoing.

Professor Isayev reported the V-C at the University of Exeter has approved that University's refugee scholarships scheme.

3. Chair's Report

Professor Woolf welcomed Peter Morton (Manchester) to his first meeting of SC and welcomed back Emma Bridges (Open University) and Jo Quinn (Oxford) for second terms, following elections at November Council; James Clackson (Cambridge) had also been elected to SC.

AQA withdrawal of A Levels: Professor Woolf attended a meeting with representatives of subject associations for Art History, Archaeology and Anthropology on 25th October and it had also been discussed at the AHA meeting on 4th November. There had been an unsuccessful attempt to get a letter published from CUCD and the CA in the Times. Archaeologists had been more successful in securing publicity and there had been a parliamentary debate, but as of this week no success had been reported in terms of restoration of the A-level qualification. The CA and others were devoting resources to providing support for schools and teachers considering changing to OCR. A number of special INSET days were being organized around the country.

BASIS Institutes: There remains real concern that the Academy and especially its Senior Management Team are not being good stewards of the Institutes.

A name change (BIRI) has been imposed in which 'British Academy' does not feature, and a number of fellows are concerned that the Academy's institutions, including the Council whose members are Trustees, are not able to exercise effective oversight. There is concern that the BA does not recognise the importance of international research connections, especially in the context of BREXIT. The latest grant letters are seen as more restrictive and prescriptive than in the past limiting the autonomy of the Schools. There are unresolved issues about how much governance the BA should exercise and how much should be topsliced by the BA from the BEIS grant to the schools

AHA met on 4th November and Professor Woolf attended. Matters considered included:

- the REF
- A meeting with the British Academy on communication and BASIS institutes
- A levels and AQR
- progress on Open Access monographs, of especially relevance for REF 2026?
- Global Challenges Research Fund
- Current research on graduate incomes, including research being carried out on the value of a humanities degree in terms of future income.
- Brexit
- TEF
- Athena Swan

The AHA along with SAS also organized a symposium on future of the REF which Professor Woolf and Dr. Quinn attended on 12th December.

Peter Mandler is now stepping down as chair of AHA to be replaced by Susan Bruce (University English) and Martin Halliwell (The English Association).

4. Treasurer's business

The balance is £8408.94, with a few subscriptions and some Education committee expenses are yet to be processed.

5. Secretary's business

None.

6. CUCD Education committee

Membership: Kate Gilliver has been co-opted; there was some discussion of further additions to the committee. It was *agreed* that the handover of CUCD Education committee chair should take place at the November 2017 Council.

Activity: Professor Lovatt reported that Education committee has awarded grants of £500 each to Susan Deacy 'Approaches to teaching students with anxiety' and to Fiona McHardy and Nancy Rabinowitz 'Embedding Diversity in UK Classics programmes'; further grants are under consideration.

There will be two Education committee panels at the Kent CA, both on technology and teaching.

Ideas for future panels at the CA should be sent to Professor Lovatt.

Action: all

7. Response to REF consultation

There was an extensive discussion of the draft response to the consultation which had been circulated ahead of the meeting. It was *agreed* that Professor Woolf and Professor Steel should finalise the response and circulate it to SC for comment ahead of submission to HEFCE. It was *agreed* to forward CUCD's response to AHA at that point as well.

Action: GW, CS

8. Bulletin

The 2016 Bulletin has now been published in its entirety.

Plans for the 2017 Bulletin include reports from Dr. Marshall on assessment and from Dr. Anastasia Bakogianni on outreach, reports on Education committee meetings and on various matters covered from the WCC mid-career meeting held in November 2016 including Athena SWAN and workloads.

Action: SD

9. AOCB

None

10. Date of the next meeting

To be arranged.

CEWS

21.01.17