**Council of University Classical Departments**

Minutes of the 146th meeting of the Standing Committee, held on Saturday, 7th October 2017 at 2. pm in room 243, Senate House, University of London

Present: Emma Bridges (ICS), Peter Liddell (Manchester, CATB rep), Helen Lovatt (Nottingham), Nick Lowe (RHUL) Sharon Marshall (Exeter), Peter Morton (Manchester), April Pudsey (MMU), Catherine Steel (Glasgow, secretary), Edmund Thomas (Durham) Ruth Westgate (Cardiff), Greg Woolf (ICS, chair); Katherine McDonald (Exeter), by invitation for item 2.

**Apologies for Absence** were received from James Clackson (Cambridge), Susan Deacy (Roehampton), Elena Isayev (Exeter, Treasurer), Josephine Quinn (Oxford).

1. **Minutes of Meeting of 21st January 2017**

These were *accepted*.

1. **Casualisation**

This item had been generated by Dr. McDonald’s article in the most recent CUCD Bulletin. Dr. McDonald explained the background to the research which had been presented in the *Bulletin* and noted courses of action that might be possible to implement at departmental level to mitigate the effects of zero-hours and short-term contracts; much in this area was determined however by universities’ policies. It was *agreed* that Professors Woolf and Steel would draft a new protocol around fractional and temporary posts for initial discussion at Council in November and development and finalisation thereafter, depending on progress. SC thanked Dr. McDonald for highlighting the issue and for her research on it.

**Action: GW, CS**

1. **Matters Arising**

Dr. Marshall reported on progress in gathering statistics and noted that the new question on gender appeared to be easier to answer for staff than for students; it would certainly be possible to report on gender and staff in this year’s statistics.

1. **Chair’s Report**

Professor Woolf noted his report in the latest *Bulletin*. Although arrangements for REF 2021 remain to be finalised, the broad outlines are clear and the process for appointing sub-panel chairs is in progress (see below, item 7) . The parameters for disciplinary TEF were much less clear. It looked however as though Classics was to be included with linguistics and so care would be needed to ensure that TEF covered all the areas in which Classics taught.

Professor Woolf had written to the University of Newcastle, Australia, about the ending of most Classics teaching at that institution. He had written to HEFCE in support of a separate Archaeology panel for REF 2021.

SC members reported on the situation at Manchester, where the departure of two members of staff meant that Classics would not face any compulsory redundancies. It was possible that staff in Classics had applied for voluntary severance; it was unclear what the result of that process would be, the effects on Classics’ ability to deliver its programmes, and the capacity of Classics at Manchester to continue to recruit at the levels expected in the light of its institution’s decision to raise entry tariffs considerably. CUCD reiterated its willingness to take action in support of the department whenever asked.

1. **Treasurer’s business**

In the Treasurer’s absence a full report was held over to Council on November 4th.

1. **Secretary’s business**

There was no business not covered elsewhere in the meeting.

1. **REF**

There was a discussion of the six applications for the post of sub-panel chair which CUCD had received for endorsement and the Chair was asked to provide candidates identified for endorsement with letters by the deadline for application of October 11th.

**Action: GW**

1. **CUCD Education Committee**

Professor Lovatt reported on recent and immediately forthcoming activity, which had included a double panel (‘Teaching and Technology’) at the 2017 CA conference, and events at Bristol, London and Roehampton. A panel proposal (‘Living Latin’) is under review for the 2018 CA conference.

Professor Lovatt noted that she intended to stand down as Education Committee chair at the end of this calendar year and would attempt to have identified her successor for announcement at Council in November.

**Action: HL**

1. **Bulletin**

The 2017 Bulletin will be complete once the statistics are ready. Items published since last SC include pieces on Classics and feminist pedagogy and on casualisation in Classics (see above, item 2) and upcoming pieces include teaching students with anxiety and on becoming Senior Fellow of the HEA. It would be good to publish a piece on applying for FHEA too, having already put out pieces on AFHEA and PFHEA; any Fellows who would be interested in contributing a piece should contact the Editor. Tweeting helps get the word out and there has been useful feedback to updates on the Classicists list.

Dr. Deacy recorded her thanks to Valerie James for wonderful support in uploading content, even while ill.

1. **Elections**

Dr. Pudsey *noted* that three members of SC would come to the end of their terms at Council; Dr. Marshall had agreed to stand for a second term, but Dr. Thomas and Dr. Deacy were coming to the end of their second terms and could not stand again. Candidates willing to stand for these two vacancies had been identified, and a candidate for the position of Secretary, which would also become vacant at Council. Dr. Pudsey would circulate CUCD contacts asking for nominations shortly.

**Action: AP**

1. **AOCB**

Dr. Lowe asked SC for its support for CATB’s attempts to persuade OCR to make its classical qualifications available to students studying outside the UK. SC agreed that Professor Woolf should write to OCR if CATB requested CUCD’s support.

1. **Date of the next meeting**

To be arranged.

CEWS, 10.10.17