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# CUCD Education Committee:

## *A new phase?*

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The education committee of CUCD exists to organise events and support discussion about Higher Education teaching in Classics and Ancient History. Once upon a time the Subject Centre performed this role, with funding from central government. Now it is run on an entirely voluntary basis; there is some funding for travel and expenses generated by CUCD subscriptions from departments. For the last few years Genevieve Liveley has done an excellent job of facilitating and organising.

I am now chair of the committee, which has members from across different types of institution and different geographical areas, stages of career and areas of interest: Evelien Bracke (Swansea), Jason Crowley (MMU), Susan Deacy (Roehampton), Juliane Kerkhecker (Oxford), Alice Konig (St. Andrews), Mair Lloyd (OU, PhD student), James Robson (OU). Committee members will usually stand down after five years and there will be vacancies from 2017, so if anyone is interested in joining the committee, please do contact me. The committee now has a blog which will post regularly about events and issues at <https://cucdeducation.wordpress.com/> . If you have an idea for a blog post, get in touch!

Colleagues in Classics and Ancient History are not always enthusiastic about pedagogy, and discussing teaching methods and developments. One aim is to address issues of immediate significance that are likely to provide practical help. Another is to involve as wide a range of people as possible in these discussions. We will collaborate with existing projects such as 'Latin Language Teaching and the Student Experience' at St. Andrews, and if anyone is running such a project I would be very keen to hear from them.

Another key aim is to learn from school teachers. When almost all students arrive at university, they are used to the style of teaching from previous education, usually school: I am convinced that we can learn a great deal about their expectations and experiences by talking to school teachers. Pressure on school teachers to excel in every way means there has been a great deal of change in pedagogical approaches over recent years, and many students feel that university teaching is not keeping up. In particular, the NSS reveals that students are much less happy with feedback than with other aspects of university teaching. I intend to organise a series of themed events in which we learn from those who teach in schools and train teachers about how best to help our students.

Current plans include: a panel at CA2016 in Edinburgh on transition to university; an event at the Open University in Jan/Feb 2016 on innovative assessment; a day on Classics teaching in Wales; a one-day feedback event in May/June in Nottingham. Topics which I feel need addressing are:

- technology and learning (VLEs, MOOCs);
- transition from school to university and from one level to another within both;
- non-traditional assessment and employability;
- curriculum design.

I am happy to organise panels at CA conferences, and one day events in Nottingham and elsewhere, and to collaborate with other members of the committee. I also intend to put out a call for events annually to give any members of the subject community the chance to get involved. CUCD can support such events financially (e.g. travel expenses for speakers) and we will try to put on three or four such events each year. If you have any ideas or pressing concerns, please do get in touch!

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