

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 10 May 2014 at the Institute of Historical Research – 11 a.m.**

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Present: Dr Keith McLay Co-convenor (Chester), Dr Andrew Dilley Co-Convenor (Aberdeen), Glenn Richardson, Secretary (St Mary's), Prof Rainer Sculze (Essex/Treasurer), Dr Bill Aird (Edinburgh), Dr Sarah Bastow (Huddersfield), Dr Rachel Bright (Keele), Dr Peter D'Sena (Higher Education Academy), Dr Daniel Grey (Plymouth), Dr Richard Hawkins (Wolverhampton), Dr Charles Insley (Manchester), Mr Simon Lambe (SMUT/Postgraduate rep.), Dr Philip Ollerenshaw (UWE Bristol), Dr Jason Peacey (UCL), Dr Rebecca Rist (Reading), Dr William Whyte (Oxford), Dr John Young (Strathclyde).

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Dr Joan Allen (Newcastle), Dr Mark Clapson (Westminster), Dr Paul Corthorn (QUB), Dr Karin Dannehl (University of Wolverhampton/Econ Hist Soc.), Dr Richard Gaunt (Historical Association), Dr Daniel Gordon (Edgehill), Dr James McConnel (Northumbria), Dr Lowri Ann Rees (Bangor), Dr Chris Storrs (Dundee)

### **2. Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting of 15 February 2014.**

Accepted an accurate record subject to following amendment:

#### **I. Item 7:**

should read 'Benchmarking'

### **3. Matters Arising from the Minutes.**

There were no matters arising not otherwise dealt with on the Agenda.

### **4. Report from Dr Peter D'Sena, (Higher Education Academy)**

#### **I. Events**

The 'New to Teaching' workshop in March was very successful

'Teaching War and Remembrance' will now be held on 15 July – is being advertised on IHR website/

The next Higher Education Academy annual conference, '*Preparing for learning futures: the next ten years*', will be held in Aston, 1-3 July 2014. Registration is open.

#### **II. Restructuring of HEA.**

As was reported in a recent number of the THES...HEFCE is reducing and removing funding for HEA by 2016. In light of this, a proposed restructuring of the focus of the work of the HEA is underway dominated by 4 themes: curriculum design, innovative pedagogy; student transition; staff transition. National Teaching Fellowship scheme will continue; HEA Fellowships will continue. A formal announcement and further details of the restructuring is expected in June or July.

### **5. Secretary's Report.**

GR announced that a number of positions on the SC were soon to be vacated. K. McL steps down as co-convenor at the October SC meeting. GR also confirmed that the position of Secretary will be vacant from the same meeting. Expression of

interest should be made to AD/GR and copied to Sue Davison. A call for nominations to the positions would be circulated and elections held if required.

**Update on Website:** Rachel Bright gave an update, reviewing material on the website. Any suggestions for sharpening up appearance would be welcome. AD thanked Rachel for her work on developing the website. Its future role in the HUK activity was a separate item on the agenda.

## 6. Treasurer' Report:

Treasurer circulated summary of current accounts. Although at first appearance the financial situation looked stable, the reality is that the SC needed to consider a looming financial crisis looming due principally to a lack of subscriptions. No more assistance was likely from HEA in view of recent announcement about its own funding. Sue Davison was thanked for her great efforts to write to all institutions asking for payment. Only one institution questioned the value of membership and there was an expectation of another 30 to come in but this still leaves a shortfall of income over expenses.

## 7. Convenors' Reports:

### I. Attendance at Subject Association and Other meetings on behalf of HUK

**History Forum:** PdS reported on the History Forum (the successor to History Advisory Panel) Its focus is on teaching and learning. Meeting on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May, chaired by Jane Longmore. The Meeting debated History Forum's own position, contribution and funding. Royal History Society representative Arthur Burns said RHistS was happy to support the Forum, on which HUK is represented. While this was welcome a shared view was that the Forum's independence was valued.

**HUK Finances:** Further to the Treasurer's report AD noted that while there is a great deal of goodwill towards HUK among institutions, with the subscription raised to £100 per annum, the SC needed to be mindful of how HUK was presented and supported. The increased subscription would help to cover expenses if all subscriptions are paid. The IHR covers a number of costs on HUK's behalf. Once fixed costs are paid, HUK has an annual operating budget of about £1000 per annum; how therefore can it increase income apart from subscriptions?

A wide ranging discussion followed including the ease or otherwise of paying subscriptions. A clearer payment route had to be articulated, enabling invoicing and electronic transfer of funds from institutions and automatic annual payment. Once clarified, this information should be on the website.

Another area of debate was widening the membership of the SC, to encourage a sense of affiliation and ownership among all subscribing institutions. Institutions whose members were on the SC tended to pay subscriptions more regularly and there is a broader structural issue around communication with members. Suggestions of revisiting the constitution and the possibility of a moveable meeting so the SC's appeared less London-centric were canvassed.

AD concluded discussion. A select working group (PdS, GR, RB and 2 convenors),

would be established to consider i) how best we serve members ii) the constitution and communications iii) how to find additional resources. A proposed set of reforms is to be placed before next SC meeting in October and then the Plenary in November. Agreed and formed.

**Open Access:** Summary of HEFCE guidance is on website as is response by AD. The current model for OA is in AD's view about as conducive to arts and humanities as could be imagined so outcome more favourable than perhaps initially feared – summary draws attention to how rules are interpreted. Chris Wickham published report on patterns of journal publications – will circulate and it is on British Academy website. AD to circulate link. Committee thanked AD for all his work over many months on OA.

## **8. Plenary 2014:**

KMcL had contacted Tristram Hunt's offices but had no reply. AD suggested that in light of this meeting's decision, it would be advisable to use the Plenary very strategically, focusing in part at least on HUK reform proposals.

A theme of 'History 2020' was suggested and accepted; looking at the development of the discipline over the next half decade. Miles Taylor or perhaps Lawrence Goldman as incoming head of IHR would be invited to speak on the theme. Mike Maddisson from OFSTED might also be approached to feed into this discussion? Any other suggestions included Tim Hitchcock on digital history and the future.

## **9. Reports from:**

### **I. Northern Irish Representatives:**

No particular matters were reported. (Paul Corthorn reported by email to AD; four permanent posts in History at Queen's. Two of these are replacement ones: ancient history and early modern Ireland. Two of them are new investments: modern China and post-1945 British OR West (continental) European).

### **II. Scottish Representatives.**

No particular matters were reported. Scottish government published a document on possibilities for HE in an independent Scotland

### **III. Welsh Representatives.**

No particular matters were reported

## **10. Reports from:**

### **I. Royal Historical Society:**

No representatives at the meeting.

### **II. Royal Historical Society:**

Jason Peacey, who is on the RHistS education policy committee, reported. It has been very active in the debate/changes to GCSE and A-Level history curricula. On balance, RHistS seems reasonably happy that concerns raised have been considered by relevant government agencies, though there are still some grey areas. Now its Chair is looking to return its focus to HE issues, such as MA recruitment and the affect upon it of the imposition of fees and so on. Collaboration between HUK and RHistS on obtaining data/information on the pattern of MA provision and nationally would be useful. JP, Charles Insley and AD to communicate on this with RHistS.

### **III. Institute of Historical Research:**

No representative at the meeting. IHR open again August/September 2014. JP reported on IHR Advisory Council about broadly favourable decisions reached about management structure of SAS. Feedback wanted on storage space and related issues. SC to be circulated about this and feedback conveyed to IHR.

**IV. Postgraduate representative:**

SL to approach HistoryLab – for another rep as he will stand down in October

**11. Any Other business.**

UCU vote on industrial action was discussed informally.

**12. Dates of Future meetings:**

- Steering Committee, 18 October 2014
- Plenary 15 November, 2014
- Steering Committee, 14 February 2015
- Steering Committee, 9 May 2015\* (for discussion)

The meeting concluded at 12.50 pm

Glenn Richardson

Secretary