

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 15 October 2011 at the Institute of Historical Research – 11 a.m.

Present: Prof. Ann Hughes, Co-convenor (Keele), Dr Keith McLay Co-convenor (Chester), Dr Glenn Richardson, Secretary (St Mary's UC), Prof. Rainer Schulze, Treasurer (Essex), Dr Richard Allen (University of Wales, Newport), Dr Karin Dannehl (Economic History Society/Wolverhampton), Dr Andrew Dilley (Aberdeen), Dr Di Drummond (Leeds Trinity), Dr Peter D'Sena (HEA); Dr Amanda Goodrich (Open), Dr David Hussey (Wolverhampton), Prof. Stuart Jones (Manchester), Dr Jason Peacy (UCL), Dr Amanda Power (Leeds), Ms Anne Elizabeth Redgate (Newcastle), Dr Rebecca Rist (Reading), Dr Andrew Roach (Glasgow), Dr Chris Storrs (Dundee), Dr John Young (Strathclyde).

1. Apologies

Dr Meg Arnot (Roehampton), Dr Malcolm Chase (Leeds); Dr Jonathan Conlin (Southampton), Dr Alex Drace-Francis (Liverpool), Dr James Davis (Queens University Belfast), Dr Daniel Gordon (Edgehill), Prof. Michael Hicks (Winchester), Simon Lambe (St Mary's UC, student rep), Dr Philip Ollerenshaw (UWE Bristol), Dr Kai Schiller (Durham),); Dr Nick White (Liverpool John Moores), Dr William Whyte (Oxford).

2. Minutes of the Steering Committee meeting of 21 May 2011

Item 9 refers : Changes to Teacher Training : To avoid confusion, references to Roehampton have been removed.

Item 11 ii refers: Amended to read: At Strathclyde there has been significant investment in Humanities (History and English), but there was planned disinvestment in areas of the social sciences.

Item 11 iii refers: Amended to read: Closure of history at UWIC

3. Matters arising from the minutes

6 v) A letter has been received from the British Academy regarding the Small Research Grants Scheme. The negative effects of the decision to withdraw the scheme have been acknowledged and the BA is restoring them, albeit on a more modest basis than previously.

4. Secretary's Report

(i) Membership. Steering Committee is now at full strength. Justin Champion (RHUL) has joined the SC prior to November Plenary, replacing Dr Angela Brown and will be formally nominated then. Dr William Whyte has replaced Dr David Priestland as the representative of Oxford University, as agreed at the 2010 Plenary.

(ii) Nominations: The following members are due to step down at the next plenary :

Prof. Michael Hicks (Winchester) (2005)

Dr Glenn Richardson (St Mary's) (2005)

Dr Peter Shapely (University of Wales, Bangor) (2005)

Dr Nicholas White (Liverpool John Moores) (2005)

Prof. Neil Wynn (Gloucestershire) (2005)

In the interests of administrative continuity, Dr Glenn Richardson was nominated from the floor by Dr Peacey to remain for a further three years as Secretary.

There were thus a maximum of 5 vacancies on the Steering Committee. A call for Nominations to the Committee would be sent out on 17 October with a return date of 14 November, prior to the Plenary on Saturday 19 November 2011.

5. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer circulated income and expenditure report and noted that subscriptions were strong but were still short of the 90% margin of Departments or Units as active members. There was also the question of the fees currently being paid to Warwick University as host of the website. It was agreed that as the current website was all but redundant, fees should henceforward be withdrawn. Nevertheless, there is a healthy closing balance on the account currently.

6. Convenors' Reports

KMc: Attended meeting representing HUK together with RHistS and Historical Association to offer responses on REF consultation document. Chris Wickham, Chair of the History sub-panel for REF 2014 received consultation positively. Among the responses offered was that the proposed number of impact case studies discriminated against smaller departments. There should be a greater recognition in the criteria on the different working methods and time lines in production of research in the humanities. There was a lack of clarity in the way individual staff circumstances such as maternity leave, absence due to ill health or 'new researcher' status affected the number of items that individuals concerned could submit to the REF.

On Panel D's Working Methods, Points made: discipline boundaries ; also responses to criteria for main panel for world leading and national excellence; main Panel C used language which made contributions to discipline clearer. The borders between 3* and 2* research were also discussed with a view to clarifying the distinction between them. Greater clarity was also sought on the submissability of different forms of work by one author; eg both editing and being a contributing author to a volume of essays.

Positive feedback was given for double-weighting and reserve items and the information on this was reasonable clear. There was a positive response for the definition of impact on Panel D. The approach of seeking a basket of evidence to be presented in this respect was welcomed. One negative point was the imposition of a minimum of two impact case-studies even on quite small departments or units of perhaps less than 10 individuals.

KMC also attend on 23 September a meeting of the Advisory Board for Subject Association for winding up of Subject Centre. Website now an archive perhaps; conference each year will be taking over by HEA but in a smaller format.

AH: Attended meeting with Subject Associations and AHRC in July; a brief report was circulated in the summer. AH attended the termly meeting with the IHR, the RHS, the Historical Association and the subject lead from the HEA. She will circulate the HA's latest survey in History in Schools in England and Wales to members of the SC. Broadly, History as a subject is fairly stable and successful in schools. The changes to A-Level in recent years have broadly been welcomed and its take up remains satisfactory. There were some anxieties about the lack of specialist history teachers at lower levels. The AHRC has new proposals on post-grad funding. Block Grant Partnerships 2 (BGP2) was now open. BGP2 awards will be given to Research Organisations or consortia of ROs to provide funding for postgraduate studentships from 2014. Expressions of interest have been called for.

IHR Miles Taylor; 1/3 library on open access – book fetching is working reasonably well; no tea room; seminars were still working well and forthcoming events included an autumn conference.

7. Arrangements following closure of HEA subject Associations: Peter d'Sena, new subject lead for History

P d'Sena circulated a Powerpoint report that outlined general changes to HEA. The Strategic Documents covering this is expected in November. Subject centres have now closed. In their stead 28 discipline leads have been appointed. PDS began 1 September. The

revised HEA website mid November will be up and running.; UKPSFs becoming more important. PDS outlined key activities for DL (Discipline Leads). PDS is keen to organise 10 one-day events; workshops and seminars hosted by a commissioned university of other boy. He was keen to maintain the annual conference and increase participation in it. Website will be active; 'academic associates' are being recruited. PDS would outline his role and future developments at the HEA during the Plenary.

8. Proposal for a closer relationship with the RHists

AH and KMC met with Colin Jones. A letter outlining formal proposals for some form of closer relationship was expected. The convenors communicated the SC's view that it was important for HUK (HE) to keep a distinct identity. A representative body based on departments was different from one based on individual scholars and members. The two bodies were focused on different constituencies, whose interests were related but not identical. History as an academic discipline could still benefit from a representative body able to address particular issues. Nevertheless, it was agreed that at times 'history' had to speak with one voice. It was therefore proposed that rather than merging, the two groups might form a 'strategic alliance' with the RHS and there might be more rigorous coordination of activities; links on respective website websites; sharing and pooling of administrative resources. In short, HUK (HE) was willing to have a closer association with the RHistS but to remain an autonomous body.

The letter from CJ would be circulated and a final position would be taken thereafter. These developments would be brought to the attention of the Plenary.

9. Website

See item 5 above. A working party on the web-site was to be formed consisting of Glenn Richardson, Rebecca Rist, Amanda Goodrich, Alex Drace-Francis and Peter D'Sena. AH was to approach the IHR about the possibility of hosting the site while the working-party looked at content and also considered the content and best site for a podcast on history as a subject at university.

10. Reports from NI, Scotland and Wales

The reporting group met prior to the SC meeting and also circulated a number of papers relating to the many changes to History and HE in Scotland and Wales in particular. Particular issues included the winding-up of the University of Wales; some mergers were expected between institutions in South Wales while those in North Wales seem to favour a collaborative approach rather than looking to merger. In

Scotland current issues included variable approaches to fees charged by Scottish universities to students from the rest of the UK and the government's consultation on the structure of post-16 education in Scotland.

11. Reports from

1. Historical Association: No rep at present
 2. RHistS: See discussion noted above.
- IHR: No rep at present.
1. PG Rep: Simon Lambe sent apologies for the meeting.

12. Arrangements for the 2011 Plenary Meeting

Mike Maddison from OFSTED will speak in the morning. Chris Wickham, Chair of the history sub-panel for REF 2014 will also speak. Professor Chris Whatley who was to talk on history in Scottish schools is unable to come, but Dr Andrew Roach (Glasgow) or Dr Chris Storrs (Dundee) will present in his stead.

Peter D'Sena will also speak on his new role as Discipline Lead for History at the HEA.

13. AOB

There was none

14. Dates of Future meetings

19 November 2011, HUK Plenary Meeting : Senate Room in Senate House, South Block, University of London.

11th February 2012: Venue to be confirmed (NOTE CHANGE FROM EARLIER DATE)

19th May 2012 Venue to be confirmed.

The Meeting concluded at 12.53 pm.