

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 16 February 2013 at the Institute of Historical Research – 11 a.m.

Present: Dr Keith McLay Co-convenor (Chester), Dr Andrew Dilley, Co-convenor (Aberdeen)[by SKYPE], Dr Glenn Richardson, Secretary (St Mary's UC), Prof. Rainer Schulze, Treasurer (Essex) , Dr Joan Allen (Newcastle), Dr Richard Allen (Uni Wales, Newport), Dr Rachel Bright (Keele), Dr Mark Clapson (Westminster), Dr Paul Corthorn (Queen's University, Belfast), Dr Rosalind Crone (Open), Dr Karin Dannehl (Economic History Society/Wolverhampton), Dr Andrew Foster (HA/Kent), Dr Richard Gaunt (HA/Nottingham), Dr Daniel Gordon (Edge Hill), Dr Lesley Hardy (Canterbury CC), Mr Simon Lambe (Postgraduate Student Rep), Dr Jason Peacey (UCL), Dr Rebecca Rist (Reading), Dr Kay Schiller (Durham).

1. Apologies for Absence

Dr Meg Arnot (Roehampton), Prof. Malcolm Chase (Leeds), Dr Peter D'Sena (Higher Education Academy), Prof. Justin Champion (Royal Holloway), Dr Philip Ollerenshaw (UWE), Dr Lowri Rees (Uni Wales, Bangor), Dr Chris Storrs (Dundee), Dr William Whyte (Oxford), Dr John Young (Strathclyde)

2. Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting of 20 October 2012.

Accepted as an accurate record subject to one correction; Dr Richard Allen had given apologies for that meeting.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

There were none.

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

Report was circulated by email and its main points reiterated by KMCL as Chair.

5. Secretary's Report.

Following the 2012 Plenary, a number of nominations were received to replace members of the Steering Committee who had stood down. The following members are co-opted on to the Committee, to be confirmed at the 2013 Plenary:

Joan Allen, replacing Elizabeth Redgate (Newcastle)

Richard Gaunt (Nottingham) replacing Andrew Foster (HA/Kent) as HA Representative.

Rosalind Crone replacing Amada Goodrich (Open).

Kimm Curran from History Lab Plus offered to send a representative to the Steering Committee. It was AGREED to accept the offer.

Membership list to be updated on website and in records with replacements from the November Plenary and this SC meeting.

6. Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer presented current accounts. Notified the SC of a bid for approximately £1000 through the HEA which might be used for further development of website. To be discussed at next SC meeting.

7. Convenors' Reports:

I. Subject Associations:

- Meeting on Open Access Publishing, 18 January 2013 was cancelled due to adverse weather. Has been rearranged for 1 March and AD will attend.
- Subject Association meeting on 11 February 2013. HUK could not be represented at this meeting but through HA and RHistS members the SC was informed that matters discussed at the meeting were Open Access, reforms of GCSE and A-Level curricula reform. KMCL liaising over an open letter via Peter Mandler which was critical of new programme of studies on the basis that i) consultation was not genuine ii) as currently drafted, it does not focus sufficiently broadly on history as a subject. Very narrowly focused on British history. Statement appeared the same day in *The Observer*.

II. Plenary:

Possible themes for the Plenary were initially. Widening Access was one of the principal themes. Leslie Ebdon, Director of Office for Fair Access to be invited to present. A speaker from Scotland and Ireland to be sought through SC representatives.

Other possible themes under the general heading of Future of History or history in the longer term strategy to help history survive in HE. Topics might be MA provision and postgrad recruitment at present and shifts in trends in provision of MA programmes/adult and mature-age students in the future. Further discussion to be held at the May SC meeting.

8. Open Access Publishing:

AD presented review of Open Access agenda. Situation has moved very quickly, since discussion at Plenary. Consensus seems to have emerged among humanities subject groups that the green route was preferable. There were some complexities on embargo period – in December a number of history journal editors declared a preference for 36 months minimum embargo period; Finch said 24.

Two Parliamentary enquiries into OA, in the House of Lords chaired by Lord Krebs, and in the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee of the Commons were underway. RHistS, BA and HUK among others are giving evidence. Perhaps a pause or change in policy may be anticipated. Minister for Universities Willetts currently *appears* less hostile to green route than immediately after the release of the Finch report.

HUK's surveys on Departmental and individual publication patterns are designed to provide a sound data base in order to feed that into discussion at a later date and in different forums. Departmental survey returns have been few; 12 to date. Individual survey has been more successful with 300 responses and counting. Surveys to be closed on 28 February.

The SC thanked AD for his report and his work on the survey and taking a lead on submission to the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee Enquiry on Open Access Publishing. AD wished to minute his thanks to John Lemon of the IT Department at Aberdeen University for help in setting up and running the surveys.

9. Website

Secretary reported that the website was now up and functioning and had been populated with administrative material relevant to the SC and the running of HUK. A discussion followed as to the best way forward in making the website more appealing to prospective users and for it to provide a service/forum for discussion for subscribing members. A discussion forum was accepted as one new feature to be incorporated. A further discussion followed about hosting vodcasts of interviews with historians on the website, ideally funded with help from HEA, followed. Dr Rist was willing to lead on the issue but needed assistance. A meeting of those who felt able to assist would take place after SC business.

GR expressed his thanks to Martin Steer of the IHR for his work in re-establishing the website and domain.

**10. Academic Participation and A-Level reform – attached paper
Dr Paul Corthorn**

Dr Corthorn introduced the paper which was intended for publication through the HEA for comment. It had been circulated prior to the meeting. A discussion followed on the themes of the paper and of ways of developing links between HE and A-Level studies in History. In discussion it was noted that stakeholder groups are looking for academic input into examination boards. The HA is reviving general studies areas pamphlets and is looking academics edit these.

11. Reports from:**I. Irish Representatives.**

New appointments had been announced in History at Ulster/Coleraine

II. Scottish Representatives.

Some initiatives for review of university structures were being launched currently. Further report to follow at later SC meetings.

III. Welsh Representatives.

UW Newport is merging with Glamorgan to become University of South Wales. Cardiff has joined 'M4 Group'; Aberystwyth was undertaking initiatives to maximise its research potential.

12. Reports from:**I. Historical Association:**

Andrew Foster reminded members of the committee to respond to Jackie Eales' initiative to update the HA list of speakers. He also reminded members to nominate people for honorary Fellowships of the Historical Association, intended for people who have supported history and the HA in a wide range of professions and interest groups. The committee thanked Andrew for his many contributions to the work of the committee as the HA representative over the past four to five years.

II. Royal Historical Society:

SC recognised the leadership of Peter Mandler on Open Access and A-Level curriculum proposed reforms. Links between RHS, HA and HUK over these issues were proving fruitful.

III. Institute of Historical Research:

No rep at the meeting

IV. Postgraduate representative:

Nothing to report

13. Any Other business.

The Chair of Young Academy of Scotland approached Jason Peacey seeking information on whether anyone is doing any research on gender balance in the profession at all levels. It is perhaps better done through the IHR with its *Teachers in History* publications. HUK may take this up as a project, KMCL and AD to discuss and bring a proposal forward to next SC.

14. Dates of Future meetings:

Steering Committee, 11 May 2013

- Steering Committee, 19 October 2013
- Plenary, 16 November 2013

The meeting concluded at 12.58pm

Glenn Richardson

Secretary