

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 19 May 2012 at the Institute of Historical Research – 11 a.m.**

Irish Representatives.

Present: Prof. Ann Hughes, Co-convenor (Keele), Dr Keith McLay Co-convenor (Chester), Dr Glenn Richardson, Secretary (St Mary's UC), Dr Richard Allen (Newport); Dr Meg Arnot (Roehampton); Prof. Malcolm Chase (Leeds); Dr Paul Corthorn (Queen's University, Belfast), Dr Andrew Dilley (Aberdeen), Prof. Barry Doyle (Huddersfield); Dr Peter D'Sena (HEA); Dr Amanda Goodrich (Open), Dr Andrew Foster (Kent and HA), Dr Stuart Jones (Manchester); Simon Lambe (St Mary's UC/Student Rep); Dr Jason Peacy (UCL), Dr Philip Ollerenshaw (UWE Bristol); Dr A. E. Redgate (Dr Lowri Ann Rees (Bangor); Dr Rebecca Rist (Reading), Dr Andrew Roach (Glasgow); Dr Chris Storrs (Dundee); Dr John Young (Strathclyde).

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

Dr Mark Clapson (Westminster); Dr John Conlin (Southampton); Dr Karin Dannehl (Economic History Society/Wolverhampton); Prof. Donald MacRaild, (Northumbria), Dr Robert McNamara, (Ulster), Ms Elizabeth Redgate Newcastle); Prof. Rainer Schulze, Treasurer (Essex) Dr Claudia Stein (Warwick); Dr Kai Schiller (Durham); Dr William Whyte (Oxford)

### **2. Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting of 11 February 2012.**

Minutes were accepted as an accurate record subject to following corrections:

Apologies: Dr Daniel Gordon Edgehill should read Edge Hill; Item 9 (1) Queen's College should read University; Chris Storrs (Dundee) should read Storrs.

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

**Plenary:** Main themes of Plenary to be discussed as a separate agenda item.

### **4. Report from Peter D'Sena, Discipline Lead for History, Higher Education Academy.**

Teaching Development Grants; present round includes HUK's bid which has reached final round of consideration. Results are expected in 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June- projects to start in early July.

Calls for individuals projects in teaching and learning current– round closes 7 June.

Departmental Grants worth £20,000 + will be advertised from 28 August; closing date is 30 September.

Collaborative Grants Scheme will be open Jan-Feb 2013 for amounts up to £60,000. There is a need for academic reviewers to help score bids; call for volunteers to be made shortly but expressions of interest welcome.

17-18 July 2012 conference on teaching will be held at LMH Oxon.

11-12 September: A two day Teaching History in HE conference in collaboration with IHR. Registration has opened. 40 proposal for papers; round tables and workshops have been received; Jackie Eales will give keynote lecture. Public History is one key theme.

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

Welcomed Lowri Rees from Bangor on first attendance at Steering Committee since election at November Plenary. Jonathan Conlin from Southampton has resigned from SC. GR to write in response and thank him for his contribution. Names of those whose terms end at the Nov Plenary will be minuted at October Steering Committee Meeting, preceding Call for Nominations for the Plenary.

#### **6. Treasurer's Report.**

Accounts are in good balance but there are still outstanding subscriptions which are being followed up with individual departments.

#### **7. Convenor's Reports**

**History Subject Associations. KMCL** gave feedback on the meetings he has attended. Next meeting is in June.

**HEA summit** – on retention in the arts and humanities, fruitful lectures and discussion; report from it to be circulated when report is received..

**History Forum** successor to Advisory Panel that supported Subject Association; minutes to circulated. Discussion – what is it for? Advisory panels were disbanded

Proposals for closer relationship with RHistS: AH had meeting with Peter Mandler, incoming President, outgoing President Colin Jones and Adam Smith the Secretary of RHistS. The new President was keen on closer relationship as there was some concern at duplication in representative bodies for history – some pooling of resources may

be good idea. AH reiterated that there were differences between HUK and RHistS in membership and specific aims – but Steering Committee favoured closer relationship. A loose ‘federation’ working together rather than RHistS subsuming HUK is still preferable

AH suggested establishing a small committee to meet with the RHistS with a view to clarifying nature of the relationship between the two bodies. A wide range discussion followed about the respective aims and work of HUK and how best it could benefit from and contribute to a ‘federation’ with RHistS. It may be that lobbying, for example, is best done through RHistS whereas HUK is best placed to collect data from, and to represent the views of, HE History departments. These currently have no institutional representation in the RHistS .

Proposed constitution and linked mission statement were also discussed. A draft constitution was circulated the draft. Result of these discussion was nomination of a small committee to work with the RHistS and HA on the nature of future relations. This group to be Keith McLay, Glenn Richardson, Rebecca Rist, Andrew Foster and Amanda Goodrich.

## **8. Website Development.**

GR is working with Martin Steer at IHR and Sean O’Brien on new webpage/site. Has sent administrative documents minutes of Plenaries and SC, list of membership of SC etc. as a building block for the site. What is needed is Mission Statement and perhaps Constitution – obviously links to RHS; HA; HEA are also being established. A new logo will be considered, for the approval of SC at October meeting. November Plenary to be projected ‘launch date’ for new website.

## **9. Reports from:**

### **I. Irish Representatives.**

No particular updates since February regarding fees regime. Some new posts at Queen’s University. Move from Derry to Coleraine

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

No particular update since Feb regarding fees regimes and the review of governance as outlined in minutes of February meeting.

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

A number of mergers are on-going; Glamorgan and Newport merger seems likely. Other universities such as Bangor and Aberystwyth may explore greater cooperation but not merge. Trinity St David’s and

Swansea Metropolitan are also considering cooperation/merger. History Research wales is going well. The fees regime means that some universities who have not cut their fees from £9000 to £7,500 will have a 20% reduction in student intake. This may lead to staff redundancies.

## **10. Reports from:**

### **I. Historical Association.**

Journal *History* is experiencing renewal and redevelopment. The future of government reforms to history in the school curriculum reform remains uncertain. The proposal to make History compulsory to 16 now appears uncertain. The planned involvement of HE History in future planning of A-Levels is also now uncertain. Teaching training. Recent media interest in contact hours in HE is an issue to which HA is responding – it may be an example of an issue which HUK is better placed to respond to.

HA would welcome regular bulletins – short – for the website like 'News of History in the Universities'. This could complement material on school history, and public history. Andrew Foster offered to provide a suggested template for such bulletins.

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

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

There was no report

### **IV. Postgraduate representative.**

Simon Lambe reported that The History Lab is looking for new committee members from September 2012. Members of SC are asked to let PhD students within their departments know and encourage involvement in HL.

## **11. Any Other business.**

Plenary: Themes for the day might be the impact of fee regimes on history, which should be clearer by November with a panel. One issue to explore is how OFFA works and its insights into the transition to the new fees regimes nationally. Potential speakers to be approached included Les Ebdon; Bill Rammel

Public History and its relationship to work placements and employability would be another theme. Potential speakers include Richard Hawkins working on work placements at Wolverhampton. Alex Green at the University of Hertfordshire is another potential speaker.

**12. Dates of Future meetings:**

- Steering Committee: Saturday 20 October
- Plenary : 17 November 2012: