

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 19 October 2013 at the Institute of Historical Research – 11 a.m.

Present: Dr Keith McLay Co-convenor (Chester), Dr Andrew Dilley, Co-convenor (Aberdeen); Dr Glenn Richardson, Secretary (St Mary's UC), Prof. Rainer Schulze, Treasurer (Essex) Dr Meg Arnot (Roehampton), Dr Rachel Bright (Keele), Dr Mark Clapson (Westminster), Dr Paul Corthorn (Queen's University, Belfast), Dr Karin Dannehl (Economic History Society/Wolverhampton), Dr Peter D'Sena (Higher Education Academy), Dr Andrew Dilley (Aberdeen), Mr Simon Lambe (Postgraduate Student Rep), Dr Philip Ollerenshaw (UWE Bristol), Dr Lowri Ann Rees (Bangor).

1. Apologies for Absence

Dr Joan Allen (Newcastle), Dr Richard Allen (University of South Wales), Dr Rosalind Crone (Open), Kim Curran (History Lab Plus), Dr James McConnel, Northumbria; Dr Robert McNamara (Ulster), Dr Jason Peacey (UCL), Dr Rebecca Rist (Reading), Kay Schiller (Durham), Dr Chris Storrs (Dundee), Dr John Young (Strathclyde).

2. Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting of 13 May 2013.

Accepted an accurate record subject to following amendments:

p.1 Dr John Young (Strathclyde) should read Strathclyde.

p.2 ... in final paragraph to be deleted.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

I. Item 11: Withdrawal of QR Funding from small units with less than 8FTE.

William White queried Chris Wichkam, who quashed any suggestion that this was planned.

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

I. The history conference was well attended. Teaching the wider world got coverage in the THE. Next conference scheduled for 9-10 September 2014.

II. Involvement with ISSOTL.

III. There were 14 bids for teaching development grants from history and there were two successes. Edge Hill, Roehampton and the Institute of Education on academics, including early career academics, supporting 6th formers and Year 1 undergrads. Alison Twells at Sheffield Hallam on creating a platform with

undergraduates, employers and community organisations which can be a template for other HEIs.

- IV.** HEA will provide some support for History Lab+ and possibly HUK. Last year gave £1000, but unlikely to be able to equal this is the current year.
- V.** HEA initiative to run two on-line events; on the scholarship on teaching and learning: ISSOTL; field visits.
- VI.** Six workshops will be held with hopefully more to come. For example, teaching race in HE history at Wolverhampton next January; creativity in assessment at Huddersfield. Further details can be provided in time for the Plenary.
- VII.** Two day-long conferences: War and Remembrance, which will be in collaboration with my English and Creative Writing colleague. Teaching History using Field visits.
- VIII.** Two reports: employability in the humanities and on the latest research on history ISSOTL
- IX.** Two approaching publications: Jamie Wood & Antonella Liuzzo-Scorpo on digital history. Internationalisation, Scott Burgess.
- X.** Arts and Humanities conference will be in May 2014 in Brighton late May.
- XI.** HEA will host three summits in the Arts & Humanities; one on digital humanities; May-June.
- XII.** QAA seeks nominations for reviewers of the History benchmark statement. PdS has done this, by sending a list with a clear justification for diversity in interest groups. The HEA has a new CEO, with a background in the Leadership Foundation. The round for National Teaching Fellowship Scheme has been announced and applications are encouraged.
- XIII.** A conference, Teaching History in HE was held on 10/11 September and was well attended. Next year's conference is scheduled for 9/10 September at the IHR – possibly in its new premises.

5. Secretary's Report.

There are three potential vacancies on the SC from next month's Plenary. The current status of a number of members will be clarified and a call for nominations issued shortly.

6. Treasurer's Report.

Fifty subscriptions have come in from members and the revived website is expected to assist in recruiting and retaining subscriptions. The accounts were circulated and the current financial situation was described as sound.

7. Convenors' Reports:

I. Subject Association:

Meeting was held on 3 June. There was feedback on situation with OA and the revision of the Benchmark Statement. Looking to perhaps have one meeting per year at the IHR in early summer. There was no October meeting this year.

II. History Forum:

Meeting was held on 10 September 2013. A report was received from the HA; items included various reforms of GCSE and A-Level History before further consultation. There was currently a welcome pause for reflection on teaching on history. HA is relaunching its series of pamphlets of historiographical HA President welcomed proposals for this series. The HA was exploring way to make them count as 'impact' for REF 2020. The annual conference of the HA will be held on 16/17 May – will not clash as it did this year with SC meeting.

III. Plenary:

themes e-learning and vle; Arthur Burns; Jame Woods Linclon; 2nd theme to be NSS and KIS data and its development – project lead from HEFCE will talk on KIS; still searching for someone to speak on the student experience. Suggestion someone from Guardian. SC to be emailed to call for suggestions for speakers in this area. Higher Education; Guy Malleson on MOOCS (Open). Some discussion of their value and place in global market

8. Website Development.

R is working with Craig Doughty on managing the website. Domain name now under HUK control and content being uploaded. Plans to have a website live for Plenary are still on track. After long discussion it was agreed that there would be public and subscription only areas on the website. Its design and use was to be discussed by co-convenors, secretary, Rachel Bright and Craigh Doughty on Skype in the days following the meeting. (See also next item).

9. HUK Newsheet:

Miles Taylor was looking to strengthen links with HUK as with HEA; wants to help us market HUK and increase subscriptions – using IHR mailshots and included link to website. A discussion of the idea of a newsheet was taken together with development of the website. It was agreed in principle but subject to cost and related practical issues to create public and members only areas (the latter accessible to members of subscribing departments). The public area will have more generic information and documents that need to be public for campaigning purposes (i.e. the OA survey, our submission to HEFCE etc, which will become public anyway). The members area will have additional information (the minutes, the OA

briefings, plenary materials, etc) and a discussion forum. Questions of moderators and 'Egap' to allow access to all historians in subscribing departments, rather than just heads of department were also canvassed.

10. HEFCE Consultation on Open Access Publishing

AD reported on latest position and introduced the draft response on behalf of HistoryUK circulated in advance. OA in REF 2020 will apply to journals and conference proceedings; not monographs. HEFCE proposing that OA only apply to articles after 2016. Problem issues: Finch says 'Green route' needs to be a viable option for all parties and adjustments to it seem to be close to complete. Key issues remained length of embargo periods, licences and also the degree to which there are exemptions for certain classes of publication. Embargo lengths are important and there is ongoing debate as between 12, 24 and 36 months proposals. RCUK still to publish its report; the delay extends the period of uncertainty on this point.

The House of Commons Business Innovation and Skills Committee, Fifth report of session 2013-14, published recently, argued against the gold model and for short embargo periods. Three principal issues still outstanding on which AD invited discussion which followed.

1. HUK favours longer embargo period; 24 months minimum, 36 months would be better.
2. Clarification needed re exemptions; are these to be argued case by case (and is HECE clear on its criteria for exemption) or are quotas of exempted material per HEI preferable? After some discussion the Steering Committee favoured the case by case option
3. In common with other representative groups in the Humanities, HUK would like early clarification from HEFCE of these two issues because publication decisions are being made now.

AD to ensure that the HUK submission to HEFCE incorporated these points.

11. QAA Review of History Subject Benchmarking Statement

QAA has sought subject associations' representatives on the review panel. Review underway although the QAA remains vague about the process and the timescale of the review. The first question to be addressed is whether or not substantive revisions are needed. A number of criticisms of the current Benchmark Statement were noted in the course of a wide-ranging discussion, but a consensus

emerged that some only minor revisions and updating were required. On balance, the Statement remained fit for the array of purposes and interests for which it was originally conceived – with the advice at the time of HUDG.

12. RHistS /History Lab Plus Code of Practice:

This item was deferred to the next SC meeting

13. Reports from:

I. Northern Irish Representatives:

No particular matters were reported.

II. Scottish Representatives:

No particular matters were reported.

III. Welsh Representatives:

Richard Allen sent a brief summary

1. Swansea – some concerns have been expressed in the press with regards to new teaching contracts and workloads from the wider academic community there
2. The merger of the University of Glamorgan and UW Newport into the University of South Wales went through in April. To date, mutual respect shown in both history departments and a willingness to innovate, i.e. new degree proposed which incorporates three strengths at the Caerleon campus – Heritage, Archaeology and Historical Studies. More on this as it develops, including the widening participation agenda of the University of South Wales.
3. Participation of many Welsh academics in international projects with outside partners, including the National Library of Wales, the Wales-Pennsylvania project etc.
4. REF and open access have tended to concentrate the minds of most historians in the country, but one issue that had been raised is as follows: will the new technology colleges mean that the number of potential undergraduates is destined to shrink? With this issue, plus concern over fees, there is a concern that History at University level will be for a very small elite only.

14. Reports from:

I. Historical Association:

No rep at the meeting

II. Royal Historical Society:

No rep at the meeting

III. Institute of Historical Research:

No rep at the meeting

IV. Postgraduate representative:

Simon Lambe reported that the post-graduate seminar organised by History Lab needs new convenor; shall send details to HUK for circulation.

15. Any Other business.

There was none.

16. Dates of Future meetings:

- Plenary 16 November 2013
- Steering Committee, 15 February 2014
- Steering Committee, 10 May 2014

The meeting concluded at 1.01pm

Glenn Richardson

Secretary