

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 11 May 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 Rachel Bright (Keele), Dr Mark Clapson (Westminster), Dr Rosalind Crone (Open), Dr Daniel Gordon (Edge Hill), Dr Linda Matthews-Jones (Liverpool John Mores University), Dr John Young (Strathclyde) Dr William Whyte (Oxford)

1. Apologies for Absence

Dr Richard Allen (Uni Wales, Newport); Dr Meg Arnot (Roehampton), Prof. Malcolm Chase (Leeds), Dr Paul Corthorn (Queen's University, Belfast); Dr Karin Dannehl (Economic History Society/Wolverhampton); Dr Alex Drace-Francis (Liverpool); Dr Peter D'Sena (Higher Education Academy), Dr Richard Gaunt (HA/Nottingham), Dr David Hussey (Wolverhampton); Dr James McConnel, (Northumbria); Robert McNamara (Ulster); Dr Philip Ollerenshaw (UWE); Dr Jason Peacey (UCL), Dr Rebecca Rist (Reading), Dr Lowri Ann Rees (Uni Wales, Bangor), Dr Kay Schiller (Durham). Dr Chris Storrs (Dundee).

2. Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting of 20 February 2013.

The Minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

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

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

AD introduced the report and thanked HEA and Peter D'Sena for support to HUK. He drew attention to the individual grants scheme. The 15th HEA Annual Teaching in Higher Ed conference – call for papers now out. Keynote speakers include Justin Champion and Peter Mandler. AD also highlighted a number of workshops and other events organised by the HEA.

5. Secretary's Report.

The Committee is now at full strength. Website is dealt with a separate substantive issue on the agenda

6. Treasurer's Report.

Noted state of finances and tabled current accounts. The importance of the website as a means of increasing subscriptions was highlighted.

7. Convenors' Reports:

I. Subject Associations:

II. Open Access Publishing, 1 March 2013 & HEFCE Consultation

There had been much activity since last meeting. Further developments outlined. HEFCE had conducted a 'pre-consultation', consultation. AD had responded on behalf of HUK in terms circulated in early March. In the aftermath of the consultation, he attended the postponed meeting of RHistS on Finch and the History community. Edward Acton VC at UEA made the point that UEA have said they will top up funding to facilitate open access. Malcolm Chase spoke about learned societies and their problems with OA. Philip Carpenter at Willey Blackwell highlighted the different contexts of humanities and sciences publishing noting in particular that the 'half-life' of a journal article – i.e. time taken to amass citations was 18 months in Chemistry but 74 months in the case of History.

There exists a still embryonic project to generate open access monographs. AD posed the question should OA apply to for monographs? Submission from learned societies and HUK had been opposed to this, but JISC and others are understood to be working on a model for OA. O/OpenUK still very embryonic.

Michael Jubb... assistant to Finch spoke about journals being unsustainable. For all concerns raised by the Humanities and Social Sciences, in his view there was a dearth of evidence for arguing against it or for different models of OA.

HUK OA Survey results were circulated and incorporated into a submission to HEFCE. One of a substantial number of responses it had received. There was an intention to have a second consultation across 2013 – with a view to having OA policy in place for REF 2020. This consultation was planned to be in place by December 2013.

RCUK have now implemented a marginally modified version of OA. One amendment was embargo periods. ESCR/AHRC was embargoed for 12 months. Following Krebbs, the revised guidance incorporated 'tree' outlines a range of options for embargoes depending on what route for OA publishing is taken. If published in journal which allows

'gold route', 24 month embargo period...which is better. PP. 5-6 – link

A House of Commons enquiry into OA was underway. Chris Whickham made a good case for Humanities and Social Science from BA. David Sweney from HEFCE – implied that HEFCE will largely follow RCUK policy. Details to be sorted out in respect of the Humanities.

III. History Forum, 8 March 2013

AD attended by SKYPE. HEA increasingly interested in 'internationalisation'. PDS now a lead on internationalising the curriculum. OA came up. Also Michael Gove policy – reasoned argument and presentation of evidence dismissed as left wing ramblings. Early-modern and medieval being relegated to very early years of primary and secondary education. This has implications for the provision of same periods at university level.

8. Plenary 2013

Last SC agreed to explore a 'widening access' theme. Les Ebdon invited but response was not encouraging from "office for fair access". Another strand was mature student experience. Lesley Hardy to contact someone from WEA but no speaker as it stands. Plenary themes. An alternative theme might be OA publishing? Not so much a campaigning day, but exploring the implications and how to move forward advantageously. A on overall theme might be 'Publishing in a new OA landscape'.

Another theme might be general student experience. It was felt that University administrations are likely to focus on the student experience once the current REF is out of the way. The role and significance of the NSS and KIS might also be discussed in this context. New styles of teaching, especially 'Massive open on-line access' or MOOCS' is a major area of development in debate. podcasts.

9. Website: Appointment of a Media Officer

The Secretary reported on state of website and the need to appoint a e-media savvy person to run website. Daniel Gordon and Rachel Bright suggested people from their universities who might be interested agreed to sound them out in the first instance.

10. Reports from:

I. Northern Irish Representatives.

There were no representatives at the meeting

II. Scottish Representatives.

Code of Good Governance for Scottish HEs released. Designed to ensure governing bodies are accountable to students and other stakeholders.

III. Welsh Representatives.

There were no representatives at the meeting

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

There was no representative at the meeting

II. Royal Historical Society:

There was no representative at the meeting

III. Institute of Historical Research:

There was no representative at the meeting.

IV. Postgraduate representative:

Simon Lambe had given his apologies but sent a note that he had been in touch with the History Lab people about the Plenary and they have said they might be interested but they would need further details about the specifics of the day.

11. Any Other business.

Unattributed information re REF 2014 small UAEs suggests that QR funding will be confined to those with a minimum of 8 FTE as part of funding criteria at UOA. Colleagues were asked to seek clarification from, among others, including Chris Wickham as Chair of History Panel. May require a letter to HEFCE to clarify this situation and allocation of funding.

The 'State of the Profession' survey discussed at last meeting was raised. After consideration it was thought that rather than undertaking a general one, HUK might better use its capacity to generate more specific data through more specific surveys. It was agreed to off on this proposal till after REF closes.

12. Dates of Future meetings:

- Steering Committee, 19 October 2013
- Plenary, 16 November 2013
- Steering Committee, 15 February 2014
- Steering Committee, 10 May 2014

The meeting concluded at 12.25pm

Glenn Richardson

Secretary