

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 15 February 2014 at the Institute of Historical Research – 11 a.m.

Present: Dr Keith McLay Co-convenor (Chester), Dr Glenn Richardson, Secretary (St Mary's), Dr Joan Allen (Newcastle), Dr Richard Allen (South Wales), Dr Bill Aird (Edinburgh), Dr Sarah Bastow (Huddersfield), 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 Daniel Gordon (Edge Hill), Dr Daniel Grey (Plymouth), Dr Kate Hill (Lincoln), Dr Charles Insley (Manchester), Dr Philip Ollerenshaw (UWE Bristol), Dr Lowri Ann Rees (Bangor), Dr William Whyte (Oxford), Dr John Young (Strathclyde),

1. Apologies for Absence

Dr Andrew Dilley, Co-convenor (Aberdeen); Prof. Rainer Schulze, Treasurer (Essex) Mr Simon Lambe (Postgraduate Student Rep), Dr Meg Arnot (Roehampton), Dr Rosalind Crone (Open), Dr Kimm Curran, (HistoryLab Plus), Dr Richard Gaunt (Historical Association), Dr Jason Peacey (UCL) Dr Kay Schiller (Durham), Dr Chris Storrs (Dundee), Dr Rebecca Rist (Reading)

2. Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting of 19 October 2013.

Accepted an accurate record subject to following amendments: Dr Daniel Gordon (Edge Hill) and Dr William Whyte (Oxford) had sent apologies.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

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

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

5. Calls for papers for History and History-related workshops

1st May 2014, University of Liverpool. The Transatlantic: towards a scholarship of learning and teaching. In addition, the following two one-day workshops are to be held at the Institute of Historical Research, University of London. The calls for papers and panel discussions are open until 31st March.

Tuesday 17th June 2014. Teaching War and Remembrance. Further details: http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/events/detail/2014/A_H/war_remembrance

Wednesday 18th June 2014. Teaching outside the HE History Classroom: field visits, oral history, museums and monuments.

Further

details:http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/events/detail/2014/A_H/history_fieldwork

6. History and history-related workshops

Commemoration and Conflict: challenges for HE practitioners in history, area studies and philosophical and religious studies, 19th February 2014, University of Birmingham.

Ulster Poetry in the Digital Age: creativity, innovation and professional practice, 14th March 2014, University of Ulster, Belfast Campus.

Digital Literacies: building learning communities in the humanities, 2nd April 2014, Art & Design Centre, Liverpool.

Teaching Alcohol Studies in History: disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches, 10th April 2014, University of Leicester. Massive Open Online Courses in the Arts and Humanities: opportunities, challenges and implications across UK HE, 25th April 2014, UCLAN.

Translation and the Digital: new tools for creativity and communication, 25th April 2014, UCL.

I. Other events

The history New to Teaching event: will take place at Loughborough University on 21-22 March 2014. Places have been filled, but we are creating a waiting list. Further details:http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/events/detail/2014/A_H/History_NTT

History Teaching Development Grant Project: transitions into university history: Edge Hill and Roehampton Universities will be disseminating the findings of their HEA-funded project in a one day conference, 'Historical Enquiry – using technology to develop students' research skills', in Roehampton on 11th April 2014. For further details, go to the Roehampton events site (<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/historical-enquiry-using-technology-to-develop-students-research-skills-tickets-10368094249>) or contact Dr Ted Vallance: Edward.Vallance@roehampton.ac.uk

7. A new journal in learning and teaching – please apply to be on the editorial board.

The call for editors and reviewers for a new HEA *Journal for Learning and teaching in the Humanities* has gone live this week. http://journals.heacademy.ac.uk/page/edcall_disc#

It is vitally important that historians are represented on the editorial board. It's an opportunity to shape the journal from the outset.

8. The HEA annual conference, July 2014

The next Higher Education Academy annual conference, '*Preparing for learning futures: the next ten years*', will be held in Aston, 1-3 July 2014. Registration will open soon.

9. Annual Arts and Humanities Conference, June 2014

The annual Arts and Humanities conference, *Heroes and Monsters: extra-ordinary tales of learning and teaching in the arts and humanities*, will take place in Salford on 2-4 June 2014. For further details, including information about submitting a paper proposal, please go to: <http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/arts-humanities-conf-2014>

I. Useful sources for historians

Professor Alan Booth's site featuring historians in Europe, Australia and North America talking about their lives as university teachers is now live: <http://www.historiansonteaching.tv/>

10 The British Library has recently launched two websites:

World War One – <http://www.bl.uk/world-war-one> Supported by over 500 historical sources from across Europe, this resource examines key themes in the history of World War One. It includes over 50 newly-commissioned articles written by historians, teachers' notes and more to discover how war affected people on different sides of the conflict.
Voices of Science – <http://www.bl.uk/voices-of-science> An oral history website telling the stories of some of the most remarkable scientific and engineering discoveries of the past century.

11 Secretary's Report.

At the November Plenary the following members were elected to the Steering Committee

Dr Bill Aird (Edinburgh) (2013)

Dr Sarah Bastow (Huddersfield) (2013)

Dr Daniel Grey (Plymouth) (2013)

Dr Kate Hill (Lincoln) (2013)

Dr Charles Insley (Manchester) (2013)

The Secretary reported that one HUK subscriber, Saint Mary's University College, had gained University title in January 2014 and was now Saint Mary's University, Twickenham.

12 Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer had sent apologies and the Co-Chair presented the accounts. He noted a pleasing increase in subscriptions and was able to report that the cost of the IHR hosting the website was considerably less than had been initially anticipated.

13 Convenors' Reports:

I. Benchmarking Statement Review:

KMcL reported that HUK's input to the review had been accepted and was broadly in line with advice from other groups that History Benchmarking Statement was broadly fit for purpose and required only a few amendments to emphasize critical engagement in the discipline. A revised set is likely to be circulated in April.

II. Open Access:

The co-covonor reported that a meeting in Oxford to discuss OA had been cancelled due to the weather. RCUK and HEFCE were still consulting in a process to which HUK had already contributed. There was currently an hiatus and SC would be updated when final statements/guidelines were made by HEFCE about OA.

14 Plenary 2014:

KMcL gave a summary of the 2013 Plenary and asked for suggestions for topics and speakers for the 2014 Plenary in November. AD had offered to update the Plenary on outcome of consultation/guidelines from HEFCE. Areas suggested for discussion/presentations included current state of History at AS/A2 and the changes to assessment and how these might affect recruitment and expectations of Year 1 students. Public History, its growth and future was also suggested as was Digital History. An important aspect of Public History in the next 4 years will 'commemoration' history and various speakers were suggested. KMCL asked for further suggestions by email and would follow up with invitations to those who had been suggested in discussion.

9. Website.

Rachel Bright gave an update on the website. There had been many welcome developments since the last meeting and the site was now operating fully as intended with information about HUK and its role and issues relevant to this role on site. Any updates/further information or papers and so on considered relevant to HUK should be sent to her for uploading to the site.

10 Open Access Publishing

Discussed under Convenor's Report

11 History Lab Plus/RHistS Code of Conduct

Dr Kimm Curran was unable to be at the meeting and in her absence Dr Daniel Grey (DG) reported on the consultation that had been conducted by History Lab Plus and RHistS with some 200 research students and postdoctoral researchers on their experience of HE teaching. It made a series of statements amounting to a code of good practice in employing sessional tutors, visiting lecturers, teaching assistants and so on. The terms of the statement were discussed at some length, as were suggestions for the most effective ways of disseminating the document so as to ensure it had practical effect in HEI. Suggestions that it should be sent to HoDs with request that they 'sign up' to the statement were debated. It was recognised that ownership of the document and its deployment were with History Lab Plus/RHistS. KMCL agreed to feedback these suggestions and thanked DG for presenting.

12 Reports from:**I. Northern Irish Representatives:**

No particular matters were reported.

II. Scottish Representatives:

No particular matters were reported.

III Welsh Representatives:

No particular matters were reported although Dr Richard Allen reported briefly on levels of recruitment to undergraduate programmes in Wales. Discussion ensued which indicated that recruitment in History was boyant in most sectors.

13 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 had sent his apologies.

14 Any Other business.

Dr Paul Corthorn invited feedback from colleagues on the success or otherwise of recent UCU campaign; especially of the 2 hour strikes. Discussion which followed indicated a wide variation in response to strikes across UK. A majority of members thought the 2 hour strike strategy ineffective and potentially counter-productive but indicated there was greater sympathy among their colleagues for 1 day strikes. Student response to the strikes ranged from indifference, to active support and in the case of one HEI, a series of gestures in direct opposition to the strikes.

15 Dates of Future meetings:

- Steering Committee, 10 May 2014
- Steering Committee, 18 October 2014
- Plenary 15 November, 2014
- Steering Committee, 14 February 2015
- Steering Committee, 9 May 2015

The meeting concluded at 12.15pm

Glenn Richardson

Secretary