

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 18 October 2014 at the Institute of Historical Research – 11 a.m.

Present: Dr Keith McLay Co-convenor (Canterbury Christ Church), Dr Andrew Dilley Co-Convenor (Aberdeen), Dr Glenn Richardson, Secretary (St Mary's), Dr Peter D'Sena (IHR), Dr Richard Allen (South Wales), Dr Joan Allen (Newcastle), Dr Mark Clapson (Westminster), Dr Marcus Collins (Loughborough), Dr Paul Corthorn (QUB), Dr Daniel Grey (Plymouth), Dr Richard Hawkins (Wolverhampton), Dr Karin, Dannehl (EHS), Dr Philip Ollerenshaw (UWE Bristol), Dr Lowri Ann Rees (Bangor).

1. Apologies for absence

Prof. Rainer Schulze (Essex/Treasurer), Prof. Bill Aird (Edinburgh), Dr Meg Arnot (Roehampton), Dr Sarah Bastow (Huddersfield), Dr Rachel Bright (Keele), Dr Rosalind Crone (Open), Dr Richard Gaunt (Nottingham), Dr Daniel Gordon (Edge Hill), Dr Katie Hill (Lincoln), Dr Charles Insley (Manchester), Mr Simon Lambe (SMUT/Postgraduate rep.), Dr Robert McNamara (Ulster), Dr Jason Peacey (UCL), Dr Rebecca Rist (Reading), Dr Kay Schiller (Durham), Dr James McConnell (Northumbria), Dr John Young (Strathclyde).

2. Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting of 10 May 2014.

Accepted as an accurate record with one amendment: Dr Richard Allen had sent apologies for the meeting.

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 on the Higher Education Academy

Restructuring of HEA. PdS has now left HEA and been appointed Senior Research Fellow at the IHR. All discipline leads and subject leads have been made redundant. The HEA maintains that it continues to support disciplines. Call for bids for funding for projects

- i. that will showcase new areas has been made. There seems to be very little apparent funding for initiatives in research or publication at university department level.

5. Co-Convenors' Reports:

- i. Attendance at Subject Association and Other meetings on behalf of HUK

The History Subject Association brings together a number of bodies although its meetings appear to be increasingly infrequent. HUK's representative at the December 2014 meeting is yet to be decided in consultation with the new co-convenor, but AD is keen to attend. Minutes of last subject association meeting and of RHistS raised no points for action by HUK. Among other things, RHistS is monitoring the implementation of the new schools.

PdS has joined the Education Policy Committee of the RHistS.

The IHR has a new Director, Lawrence Goldman, who is coming to Plenary. IHR renovation now completed.

History Forum future is under consideration? PdS to talk with Arthur Burns; RHistS is keen to be involved. PdS is to report to AD and new co-convenor on outcome of discussion.

6. HUK Finances:

In the absence of the Treasurer, AD reviewed the financial state of HUK. The alarming situation faced in the summer and the immediate problems with raising subscriptions have been to some extent resolved. The SC wishes to thank Sue Davison for following up outstanding subscriptions and working out articulation of payments with a wide range of different payment methods used by different universities, so to increase the income of the HUK sufficiently over recent months.

A notional budget was worked out and the subscription has now been raised to £130 per annum. HUK will also now be charged for use of rooms in the IHR – a significant new cost. The travel budget has not been drawn on recently, but it will have to be reinstated and is essential to ensure representatives from all parts of the UK can participate fully in HUK business.

The higher subscription will mean a break even if we receive and maintain those from 60 departments. At 70 subscriptions, HUK will have surplus and funds for new initiatives. Two queries were received from subscribing departments about the work of HUK, largely of a technical or explanatory nature rather than critical of the objectives of

the association. A statement of HUK's activities and initiatives was sent in response and the subscriptions were renewed subsequently.

The main points of from the wide ranging discussion (which had begun at the May meeting) about suggestions of revisiting the constitution and the possibility of a moveable meeting so the SC's appeared less London-centric were reported. The select working group established in May would consider the future of HUK in what is hopefully a happier financial climate. The situation is to be monitored and the working group will report back to a future SC on rate of returns for subscriptions and their effect on finances. It was thought appropriate that an annual budget should be introduced.

- **Website:** KMCL reported that the website was up and functioning but there were still issues about its maintenance, costs and so on. Rachael was in place as interim manager but perhaps if HUK does have surplus it may be best to allocate a budget to website for maintenance and enhancement. Discussion followed and it was agreed that some money could be allocated and some effort made to retain a 'tech-savvy' person who could take over its maintenance and be co-opted on to the SC.

7. Succession planning: Held over to Secretary's report

PGT Fees: In May HUK received an overture from Jason Peacey representing RHistS about a joint endeavour to look at PGT fees. AD reported that Charles Insley was keen to follow up " he is in touch the Arthur Burns- but that not much has so far emerged so unsure. HUK still keen to follow up and co-convenors will take initiative after the Plenary.

May SC location: In line with the proposal to decentralise HUK SC meeting made in May SC, an alternative venue for one meeting this year was sought. With thanks to Philip Ollerenshaw, the University of the West of England at Bristol has offered to host the May meeting. This coincides with the HA meeting there. It was agreed that the SC would meet at UWE in May.

8. Secretary's Report.

GR announced that a number of positions on the SC are vacated from this meeting. KMCL steps down as co-convenor at November Plenary meeting. GR also confirmed that the position of Secretary will be vacant from the same meeting.

There was one nomination for each position in response to a call made at May's SC meeting.

Dr Marcus Collins (Loughborough) as Co-convenor

Dr Daniel Grey (Plymouth) as Secretary

The SC accepted the nominations and the two nominees were elected unopposed to the SC, to be endorsed by the Plenary.

The following members are due to stand down at the expiration of 2 terms.

Mr Simon Lambe (St Mary's UC) PG Student Rep.

Dr Kimm Curran (History Lab Plus)

Dr Alex Drace-Francis (Liverpool) (2008)

Dr Di Drummond (Leeds Trinity) (2008)

Dr Jason Peacey (UCL) (2008)

Dr Rebecca Rist (Reading)

Dr Christopher Storrs (Dundee) (2008)

In addition Dr Richard Allen (Wales) and Dr James McConnell (Northumbria) have expressed a wish to stand down from the SC for personal reasons. The SC thanked all those standing down for their contribution to its work during their terms of office.

There are therefore 9 vacancies available to be filled at the next Plenary. A call for nominations to the SC will be sent shortly after the meeting with nominations to be returned to Sue Davison and copied to GR. GR and Dr Daniel Grey will liaise about the transfer of HUK documentation and membership records to ensure a smooth transition from the Plenary and in advance of the next SC meeting in February 2015.

9. Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was taken as part of the Co-convenors' reports and the discussion on HUK finances.

10. Plenary 2014:

The Plenary will take the form discussed at the May meeting with a theme of "History 2020". The programme with names of speakers had been circulated. It will be advertised on HA and IHR website. The venue was confirmed as Rooms 349-350 in Senate House.

11. Open Access:

AD circulated the document on OA ahead of SC and spoke to the highlights. A wide-ranging discussion followed on HEFCE guidelines on exemptions to OA requirements and the operation at HEI levels of the Green/Gold models of OA. There was some uncertainty surrounding the meaning of the 'most appropriate' form of OA in exemption 18. Some other statements in guidelines also appear to be problematic. The cumulative effect is that the rate and type of publications is being closely monitored by different HEIs but in a wide variety of ways. There is potentially some threat to academic freedom and the lack of clarity gives institutions enormous influence in individual cases. HUK should defend academic freedom and the use of OA requirement as a performance management tool. – Peter Mandler is taking this issue up with HEFCE on behalf of RHistS and HUK will liaise with him and monitor the implementation of OA policies and procedures in HEIs. In undertaking this monitoring, HUK should be in a good position to compare and contrast practice.

10. Reports from:

- Northern Irish Representatives:** Paul Corthorn noted that devolved government has announced cuts in Higher Ed. funding but implications are as yet unclear for history. There was some speculation about further investment or lack of it in HE. His suggestion of "History in the 4 Nations" for a future Plenary was accepted.
- i.
- Scottish Representatives.** Endorsed view of NI rep. Post referendum, devolution talks going ahead and Higher Ed an area for devolution, e.g. separate Scottish Research Council was a possibility. Humanities are under pressure financially due to reduction funding.
- ii.

Chris Wickham might to be approached to give post-mortem on last REF and advise on planning for REF 2020.

- Welsh Representatives:** Dr Richard Allen reported on reports of possible further mergers in Wales. There has been considerable change in Wales over the last 18 months. The merger of Glamorgan University with the University of Wales, Newport, has taken place and the creation of the University of South Wales has strengthened the position of higher education in south Wales. For the historians at both universities this has been a period of uncertainty over provision and difficult decisions have been taken which have had a significant impact on the future provision at the Caerleon (Newport) campus. It was decided that the BA History degree would be suspended for 2013-14 at this campus, but would continue to be offered at Trefforest (Pontypridd). Ultimately, it was decided that the degree at Caerleon would be closed while current students on the programme would be 'taught out'. Similar decisions were taken with regards to the Masters provision. Alongside this, the decision was taken in August 2014 to close the Caerleon Campus. This obviously has important consequences for the historians at both campuses in terms of provision, staffing, curriculum development, and recruitment in future years as one team based at Trefforest. Concerns relating to the current Year 2 at Caerleon are being assessed, while a History staff 'review', although currently off the agenda, will need to be monitored by HistoryUK.
- iii. Elsewhere in Wales, there are rumours of further mergers and these again need to be monitored in future months/years. More generally, historians continue to work together across Wales and provide a rich historical experience for their students and inform public debate. Further collaboration between existing HEIs may be in prospect. There was new investment in campuses at Cardiff and Swansea and Trinity St David and also South Wales, but also evidence of redundancies and constraints on teaching and accommodation.

The committee thanked Richard for this helpful report and for the many others like it he had delivered over the years of his membership of the SC.

11. Reports from:

Historical Association: No representative at the meeting.

- **Royal Historical Society:** No representative at the meeting. Jason Peacey is standing down, so a new RHistS representative was required for HUK. A volunteer from SC was sought to take on this role. ^[1]

- **Institute of Historical Research:** PdS now IHR rep on this committee. Formally opened last Wednesday; new Director to address Plenary.
- **Postgraduate representative:** SL to approach HistoryLabPlus – for another rep as he will stand down at the Plenary.

12. Any Other business.

Joan Allen asked for views about the HEFCE's 'internationalisation of the REF' survey. A brief discussion of the merits or otherwise of the proposal followed.

The issue of 'Employability' as credit-bearing aspect of History degree programmes was an important issue and an item for next SC.

13. Dates of Future meetings:

Plenary 15 November, 2014

- **Steering Committee, 14 February 2015**
- **Steering Committee, 9 May 2015, University of West of England, Bristol.**

The meeting concluded at 1.00 pm

Glenn Richardson

Secretary