

**Council for College and University English
Minutes of the AGM Business Meeting**

HELD 20 APRIL 2007
AT ST ANNE'S COLLEGE, OXFORD

The Chair, Greg Walker (Leicester), welcomed delegates to the business meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received from Professor Fernando Galván (President of ESSE), Martin Coyle, Elspeth Graham, Vivien Jones and Susan Manning.

2. Minutes of the 2006 OGM, 9 December 2006

The minutes were accepted as a correct record and approved by the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

GW noted two matters arising not covered in the Chair's report. First, despite the serious concerns expressed by CCUE in their response to the consultation on the ERIH Journal Ranking Exercise, the index had been launched with some fanfare at a reception in Paris this month. Due to the short notice of the invitation, no CCUE representative had been able to attend. Secondly, and in somewhat similar vein, the AHRC had announced the implementation of Block Grant Partnerships for Postgraduate Funding, despite the reservations expressed by CCUE and other subject associations.

4. Chair's Annual Report

As the activities for the first half of the academic year had been described in detail in the Chair's report to the OGM, which is available for consultation on the CCUE website (www.CCUE.ac.uk), GW restricted his commentary to events that had taken place since that report.

Since the OGM in December, the Executive, mindful of the cost of unnecessary meetings, had maintained a virtual conversation on matters of importance, liaising via e-mail on a number of matters. CCUE had, as ever, been asked to comment on behalf of the community in response to a number of documents and consultations: We were asked by the AHRC to comment on their proposals to move to the so-called Block Grant Partnerships in Postgraduate Funding. We asked for comments from heads of Department and CCUE reps and collated the responses to form as coherent a document as we were able, given that departments took rather different lines on the attractiveness of the proposals, in part at least based on whether they saw gains or losses for their own institutions in the move. The text of our response has been posted on the CCUE website – as ever maintained and managed by Paul Vetch – and can be consulted in the 'Documents' section.

The Executive also offered a number of nominations and suggestions for the new round of invitations to the AHRC Peer Review College and Research Panel. GW also attended a meeting with Tony McEnery and Emma Wakelin in Bristol about the postgraduate funding proposals and took the opportunity to raise the subject of research funding too, arguing for the continuation of responsive mode funding and the focus on time for research as well as strategic mode funding and the drive towards funding large-scale projects.

CCUE was also asked to contribute to Professor Sir Ivor Crewe's review of the Institute of Advanced Studies in London, with particular reference to the work of The Institute of English Studies. There was, as usual, a very short deadline, so after consultation with colleagues on the Executive and having conversed with Peter Kitson, Chair of the English Association and Rick Rylance, Chair of the English sub-panel for RAE 2008, GW sent a strongly supportive response, which also encouraged the IES to continue to roll out its programmes beyond London and across a wider swathe of these islands.

The Revised Benchmarking document is also now finally in the public domain. Clare Hanson and Ben Knights have attended the Common English Forum on our behalf, while Lis Jay remains our representative on the ESSE Board.

There have been two significant changes in personnel since the OGM. Linden Peach has stepped down as Treasurer and been replaced by Sue Zlosnik, and Chris Ringrose has stepped down as Editor of CCUE News and been replaced by Ruth Robbins. GW thanked both Chris and Linden on behalf of the Executive Committee for their sterling work over the years, and also thanked Ruth and Sue for gamely stepping into their shoes.

Finally, GW reminded delegates that **the CCUE OGM 2007** will be held at The IES in Senate House on Saturday 1 December 2007.

5. Report from ESSE

EJ commented on the very successful ESSE conference held at the IES in the summer, which was attended by around 650 delegates, and reminded colleagues that the next ESSE conference would be held in 2008 at Aarhus in Denmark, with a slightly revised organisational structure. Details were available on the ESSE website, which can be accessed via a link on the CCUE website. She also reported on a proposal to move from departmental to individual subscriptions to ESSE, in line with other EU partners. GW, SZ (CCUE Treasurer) and Lachlan Mackenzie (ESSE representative) had discussed a potential mechanism for this. There was some discussion of pros and cons but broad approval of the move to individual subscriptions, which was agreed nem con.

6. Treasurer's Report

SZ reported that there had been a rather complex and protracted handover of the Treasurership, but that she had finally acquired control of the CCUE bank account and

would be in a position to provide a full report on CCUE finances and on the state of departmental subscriptions by the time of the OGM in December.

7. The English Subject Centre Report

Ben Knights (Director of the English Subject Centre) reported that the Higher Education Academy was about to be evaluated by HEFCE but that the future of the Subject Centre network was as assured as it could be. The ESC would be evaluated by Dr Ellie Chambers from the Open University. BK also drew attention to a range of recent publications from the ESC, including reports on transition from A level English Language to English Language/Linguistics in Higher Education and a guide to English at A level for lecturers in Higher Education. Subject Centre events had been scaled down a little in order to provide time for the organisation of the 'Renewals' conference in July, for which details were available on the ESC website. Major themes in the work of the Subject Centre over the last year included the professional development of newly appointed staff, and a wider focus on academic practice as a whole, with particular reference to the need to maintain skills 'in the round'. Pedagogic research in the discipline also remained a primary focus. Cross-sector work was of increasing importance, establishing links with schools, PGCE students and teachers, and colleagues working to deliver HE programmes in HE and FE colleges.

BK also noted that the Subject Centre was taking an increasing interest in e-learning and in the use of digital archives in teaching. There had been a move to the commissioning of research from specialist agencies, for example for a forthcoming report on dyslexia among students of English.

8. Arrangements for a Ballot to Elect Members of the Executive

CH announced that there had been six nominations this year for eight places on the Executive and that there would be no need for an election. The following were thus deemed to have been elected to the Executive for a term of two years: Chris Christie (Loughborough), Jan Jedrzejewski (Ulster), Vivien Jones (Leeds), Seamus Perry (Oxford), Lyn Pykett (Aberystwyth) and Sue Zlosnik (Manchester Metropolitan).

9. AOB

The assembled delegates warmly thanked Vincent Gillespie for his hard work in providing the hospitality which CCUE had enjoyed over many years at AGM meetings held at St Anne's College.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 5.55.

Clare Hanson
Secretary, 30 April 2007