

Council for College and University English

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive, Friday 26th June 2009, Room STB5, Stewart House Basement, University of London.

Present: Linda Anderson, Scott Brewster, Chris Christie, David Duff, Elspeth Graham, Jan Jedrzejewski, Peter Middleton, Lyn Pykett, Angelique Richardson, Helen Small, Greg Walker, Susan Watkins, Marcus Walsh, Nahem Yousef, Sue Zlosnik

Apologies were received from:

Deborah Cartmell, Ben Knights and Faye Hammill

1. Arrangements for OGM on 5th December, 2009 and preliminary arrangements for AGM in 2010.

The **OGM** would include the following panels and invite the following speakers:

- (i) Professor Rick Rylance, as newly appointed Chief Executive of the AHRC, on its future in the current climate;
- (ii) Panel on 'impact', which could include Professor Jonathan Bate, Dame Liz Forgan (the Chair of the Arts Council), Professor Steve Smith (the VC of the University of Exeter) and a contact of Helen Small's at the BBC.
- (iii) Panel on 'English in a World Context', which could include Professor Elleke Boehmer, Professor Chris Baldick, Professor Kate Chedgzoy

The **AGM** was set for **23/24th April 2010** and would include the following panels and invite the following speakers:

- (i) Young Researchers / Early Career Scholars, led by Faye Hammill
- (ii) REF – Professor David Sweeney, Director of Research, Innovation and Skills at HEFCE.
- (iii) Science and literature – Professor Sharon Ruston.
- (iv) Creative writing – Professor Rebecca Stott, Alan Gillis, Professor Adam Roberts
- (v) Reading – Carol Ann Duffy or Simon Armitage
- (vi) Other suggestions for readings/ and/or the creative writing panel included Zoe Wicomb, Abdulrazak-Gurnah, Jane Griffiths, Laura Fish.

2. CCUE Awards

It was agreed to begin by establishing a CCUE award for the best first book. There should be a two-year threshold of publication for nominations (from Jan 2008 to Dec 2009). The book would need to have been in print by December 2009. In order to nominate, Departments would have to be members of CCUE (this was decided as part of a strategy to increase membership). If Departments had more than 15 members they would be allowed to make 2 nominations; if less than 15, 1. Nominated authors would need to be affiliated in some way to the nominating Department, but not necessarily a full-time member of staff in that Department. Details of the prize would

be announced at the OGM with nominations to be received by the AGM; the winner to be announced at the subsequent OGM. Publishers would be approached and invited to sponsor the prize and a panel, consisting of GW, DD, SZ and CC would act as judges. PM would draft a set of criteria (e.g. eligibility etc.) The prize money would be £200, first prize and 2 x £50 runners up. It was thought the kudos was more important than the monetary value of the award, . CCUE would also give thought in the future, depending on the success of this venture, to establishing an essay prize for the best essay on the value of English literature.

3. Strategies for Increasing CCUE Membership

Invoices would need to go out for next year's membership in September/ October 2009. After some discussion, it was decided to employ a student on a short-term basis to contact Departments that are not currently members and encourage them to join.

4. Roles and Responsibilities:

SZ would stand down as Treasurer in September and hand over to NY;
LA and EG would replace Viv Jones and Lis Jay as Advisory Board Representatives for the English Subject Centre.
Claire Chambers (Leeds Metropolitan University) and Deborah Mutch (De Montfort) would be invited to attend the next meeting of the Exec as future editors of CCUE, as this is an ex-officio role.
LA would contact QED Studio about updating and improving the website.

5. Colleagues were reminded about the importance of completing the ESA survey of HE teaching and curriculum.

6. Consultation with AHRC

The definition of 'impact' used by the AHRC remains uncertain and discussion will undoubtedly continue about this. Impact was likely to have particular significance in relation to the REF, although it might be attached to particular case studies rather than every output..

7. AOB

Angelique Richardson agreed to attend the ESSE meeting in Szeged on 28/9 August 2009 if she could manage to be away for only 2 nights. If anyone else is willing to attend, please let her know.

Adrian Barlow, Director of Public Programmes for the Institute of Continuing Education at Cambridge University, would be leading the response to the document from REFORM.

Susan Watkins, Leeds Metropolitan University.