

Council for College and University English

Minutes of the AGM Executive Meeting

Foresight Centre, University of Liverpool, Saturday 18th April 2009

Present: Linda Anderson, Scott Brewster, Deborah Cartmell, Chris Christie, David Duff, Elspeth Graham, Faye Hammill, Jan Jedrzejewski, Clare Hanson, Angelique Richardson, Helen Small, Greg Walker, Susan Watkins, Marcus Walsh, Nahem Yousef, Sue Zlosnik

Apologies for absence were received from: Ben Knights, Seamus Perry, Lyn Pykett,

1. Professor Clare Hanson announced her resignation as Chair of CCUE and from the Executive.
2. Professor Clare Hanson was co-opted to chair the meeting until the election of new officers.
3. Election of new officers and executive members:
 - a. Professor Linda Anderson was elected Chair (proposed: Clare Hanson, seconded: David Duff);
 - b. Dr David Duff was elected Secretary (proposed: Linda Anderson, seconded Greg Walker);
 - c. Professor Sue Zlosnik agreed to continue as Treasurer for a further year.
 - d. Professor Marcus Walsh agreed to continue as Deputy Chair.
 - e. Dr Elspeth Graham, Dr Scott Brewster, Professor Peter Middleton, Dr Helen Small, and Dr Angelique Richardson were elected as members of the Executive. Professor Jan Jedrzejewski was re-elected.
4. Minutes of the Executive Committee held on Friday 5th December 2008. The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.
5. Matters to Report from the Chair
There were no items not covered elsewhere on the agenda or in the business meeting.
6. Treasurer's Report
SZ confirmed that although she would be willing to continue as treasurer for a further year, she would be grateful if the Exec made active efforts to arrange for someone to be in place to take over the role at the next AGM, as it was her intention to resign as treasurer in 2010.
CCUE finances were in a generally healthy state.
7. CCUE News
Deborah Mutch from De Montfort and Claire Chambers from Leeds Met were both willing to take over the work of editing CCUE news, particularly with support from Ruth Robbins. SW to approach RR to see if she would be willing to continue in an advisory role.
8. ESSE
There was nothing further to add to MW's report at the CCUE business meeting.

9. CCUE Prizes

The decision to create a number of prizes had been taken at the last Executive meeting and was also discussed at the earlier business meeting. Responses to this idea were generally favourable and it was decided to discuss this further at a late June/early July meeting of the Exec.

10. Arrangements for the OGM, to take place on Saturday 5th December, 2009:

Suggestions for panels included the following

a. Panel on media engagement and 'impact'

Possible speakers might include a commissioning editor for arts programming in TV and or radio, the Head of BBC drama, and an academic speaker with experience of working with the media;

b. Panel on English literature in the school curriculum, to include as possible speakers a head of an A-level English exam board and a speaker from the QCA. It was suggested that the English Subject Centre might wish to be involved in coordinating this panel.

c. Panel on Early Career scholars to focus on the 'gap' between completion of PhD and appointment to first full-time post.

d. Panel on some aspects of external examiners' role in the light of future Quality Assurance issues.

Suggestions for other speakers included the following:

The new Chief Executive of the AHRC, whose appointment will have been announced by then and should be able to speak on the effects of the BGP scheme amongst other things; Professor Sharon Rustin, Salford University, as a keynote academic speaker on the relation between the arts and sciences,

11. English Subject Centre – Director's Report

The Executive wished to minute their best wishes and hopes for a speedy recovery to Ben Knights.

12. English Association

The EA had liaised with CCUE over the response to the ERIH and expressed their concern over its future direction despite the welcome decision to abandon the rank ordering of journals.

12. Regional Reports

Lyn Pykett – Wales

LP reported (via email) that the news on the grant settlement for the Arts and Humanities in Wales was mixed. The Welsh Funding Council did not ring-fence QR for STEM subjects, thus there has not been a systematic transfer of QR funding from Arts and Humanities to STEM; however, HEFCW has not increased the total QR allocation as substantially as HEFCHE. The percentage increase was 1.66% in Wales as opposed to 4.3% in England.

Jan Jedrzejewski – Northern Ireland

At time of meeting no announcement had yet been made about QR funding allocations in Northern Ireland. The introduction of tuition fees in NI would hopefully improve recruitment.

David Duff – Scotland

QR funding allocations in Scotland suggested that all but one University had suffered a loss despite good results. There had been a marked increase in postgraduate applications. Concerns were also expressed about the effects of demographic changes on recruitment.

13. AOB

The date of the next executive meeting would be some time in late June/ early July (to be confirmed) and the executive meeting at the OGM would be on the evening of Friday 4th December .

It was suggested that CCUE pay a postgraduate student to contact English Departments that are not currently members of CCUE in order to improve membership levels.

Susan Watkins, Leeds Metropolitan University