

Council for College and University English

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive, Friday 4th December 2009, Room G21a,
Ground Floor Senate House South, University of London at 5pm.

Present: Linda Anderson, Deborah Cartmell, David Duff, Elspeth Graham, Faye Hammill
Jan Jedrzejewski, Ben Knights, Peter Middleton, Lyn Pykett, Angelique Richardson,
Helen Small, Greg Walker, Marcus Walsh, Susan Watkins.

1. Apologies were received from:

Scott Brewster, Chris Christie, Nahem Yousaf, Sue Zlosnik, Claire Chambers and
Deborah Mutch (the last two invited as potential ex officio members as possible editors
of CCUE News).

2. The minutes were agreed as a correct record of the previous meeting.

3. There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

4. Matters to Report from the Chair:

Last minute arrangements for the OGM on 5th were finalised: Stephanie Jones had
replaced Susheila Nasta in the panel on 'English in a World Context'. It was noted
that attendance at the OGM has increased by nearly 50%, with 47 institutions
represented as opposed to 28 at the last meeting.

MW would report back from a meeting with RCUK on 10th December, which LA was
unable to attend.

5. Treasurer's report:

LA had received a report from NY which indicated that CCUE finances were healthy,
with a balance of £7221 on his take-over from SZ and a current balance of £8417.

More subscriptions were still expected.

6. CCUE Website:

The exec recorded its thanks to DD, who has overseen the development of the new
website, which is now live. Paul Vetch, from QED Studio, had been very helpful and
had redesigned the CCUE logo for free. Feedback on the website to DD. DD to ask
Paul Vetch to improve the logo for print quality.

7. CCUE Prize:

PM's draft announcement / information about the prize was discussed. The title
'CCUE Book Prize' was agreed and it was also agreed that the prize should be for a
single-authored book and should be eligible to early career researchers, as defined in
the RAE 2008 documentation. PM to redraft the announcement / information sheet.

8. CCUE News:

It was decided, in the absence of a firm offer to edit CCUE News, that it should be
wound up and instead our focus should be on the website, which would contain more

information about CCUE's relation to policy making and more links to Subject Centre publications.

9. REF Consultation:

The executive recorded its thanks to GW for leading the response to the consultation document. As drafted, the response would be a joint submission with the English Association. After some discussion and debate, the suggested weighting for outputs, environment and impact was agreed at 70 / 15 / 15, an alteration from the original proposed in the draft document of 70 / 20 / 10. This change would necessitate another discussion with the EA and some redrafting.

The possible reduction from 4 to 3 outputs was welcomed as were the concerns expressed in the document about category A and C staff.

EG, AR and DC were all members of Departments of English involved in the HEFCE pilot study of impact. There was some discussion of this and LA asked that nominations for members of the Impact Panel should be sent to her.

10. ESSE

MA outlined the University of Liverpool's bid to host the ESSE conference in 2014. After discussion, it was agreed that he would take this bid forward to the next ESSE meeting if he could be satisfied that he had the financial arrangements clear and the support from other members of his Department.

11. Arrangements for the AGM on 23rd/24th April 2010 at St Anne's College, Oxford: Plans were well advanced to include the following panels:

- (i) Postgraduate students, 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
- (v) Reading by writer

BK noted that the annual HoD networking day would be on Thursday 22nd April and it was suggested that CCUE and the English Subject Centre could advertise each other's events.

12. Staffing in University English Departments and teams:

It was noted with concern that there have been very few new posts advertised since the RAE and that the current economic climate was having in some cases extremely negative effects on staffing and on the career prospects of newly awarded PhDs. It was agreed that CCUE should keep a 'watching brief' on the situation regarding appointments and the effect on the discipline.

13. English Subject Centre:

BK reported that the Subject Centre's contract will run out on 31st July 2010 and that all subject centres fall under HEFCE's review of related bodies. He was concerned

about the Centre's future in the face of potential cutbacks and restructuring (perhaps into a Humanities hub) but also broadly positive about the Subject Centre's future: staff morale was high.

14. English Association:

The EA will be conducting a study of the impact of BGP (block grant partnerships) on PGR students. It was suggested that CCUE should also conduct some research into this issue.

15. Regional Reports:

(i) Wales

LP reported on behalf of Welsh university departments of English that the general economic situation was affecting English departments the same as or better than other disciplines. The Welsh funding council did not ring-fence the STEM subjects after RAE 2008; however, 2 Welsh Universities had made the decision not to invest any further in English research. The Welsh assembly had produced a govt. paper intending to reorganise the allocation of the HE budget, in which Universities were to be encouraged to form business links and research funding was to be directed to flagged areas, none of which were English.

(ii) Scotland

DD had nothing particular to report from Scotland.

(iii) Northern Ireland

JJ reported that public funding cuts were expected in May 2010 and that the potential introduction of fees in the Republic of Ireland was still causing uncertainty for admissions in NI.

16. There was no other business.

Susan Watkins, Leeds Metropolitan University.