

Council for College and University English

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 26-7 APRIL 2002 AT ST ANNE'S COLLEGE, OXFORD

The Chair, Rick Rylance (APU), welcomed members to the meeting.

1. Apologies:

Dr William Greenslade (UWE).

2. Minutes of the OGM of 8 December 2001:

The minutes were accepted as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

4. Chair's Report:

The Chair's Annual Written Report was tabled. The Chair noted CCUE's major activities over the past year: its consultation by the AHRB as part of its postgraduate programme review, by the Research Libraries Support Group, and by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority on the subject specifications for English Literature and English Language at 'A' level and GCSE, and the issue of comparability between the new 'A' levels with the international baccalaureate. In addition he reminded the meeting of the strengthening of CCUE's connections with cognate bodies such as the English Association, NATE, the Council for Deans in the Arts and Humanities (CUDA), and the History in the Universities Defence Group (HUDG). But he drew the meeting's particular attention to issues of concern to HEIs in the months ahead including the Government's forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review, the implications of the Government's target of 50% of young people entering HE by 2010, the ending of the Maximum Aggregate Student Number by which intake into HEIs has been hitherto regulated, and the appointment of a new Chief Executive to the AHRB. Vincent Gillespie (Oxford) urged the meeting to acquaint itself with the Government's proposal to bring in a Matriculation Diploma for 19 year olds (see: <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/14-19greenpaper/youngpeople/2g.shtml>). A copy of the Chair's Report is posted on the CCUE website.

5. Treasurer's Annual Report.

The Treasurer, Linden Peach (Loughborough), tabled the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2002. In his oral report, he said that since 31 March, a considerable number of subscriptions had been paid, resulting in a larger current balance than that referred to in his tabled accounts (£7,479.47). He reported that many unpaid subscriptions from 2000-1 had now been collected and that there was a good response from member Departments to the request for prompt payment of 2001-2 subscriptions. He explained to the meeting that attendance at CCUE Executive meetings was paid for by the Departments of Executive members (in some cases, members themselves) whereas invited attendance by Executive members at events organized by the AHRB etc. was paid for out of CCUE funds. The Chair and the meeting warmly thanked Linden for his work.

6. The English Subject Centre Annual Report to CCUE AGM

The Director of the English Subject Centre, Professor Philip Martin, tabled the annual report, 2001-2 (a copy of which is posted on the CCUE website). As well as referring the meeting to details of the Centre's current activities, he invited responses to specific questions about the Centre's Strategy and

Policy and its Future Projects and Work.

The following comments were made in response to questions about the ESC's strategy and policy: (1) the proposal that the ESC recommend initiatives to the subject community, as well as continuing to be responsive to it, was welcomed; (2) Departments would find it very helpful if the ESC devised subject-specific staff training for those new to the profession; (3) colleagues would find it very useful if ESC developed portals for high quality teaching resources on its website.

In response to questions about future projects and work, the proposal to follow up the success of the New Trends in English publication series with events structured around curriculum areas was welcomed; the meeting endorsed the suggestion that each Department nominate a Subject Centre contact to whom information would be sent (in preference to the current system where information is mailed to Heads of Departments); there was support for ESC establishing or maintaining already established networks such as 'Pillarbox'; it was felt that the ESC could take a lead in devising subject-specific research methods training for graduate students.

The Director's report was preceded by the launch of the first of a series of English Subject Centre Reports, 'Admissions Trends in Undergraduate English: statistics and attitudes', the Executive Summary of which was introduced by the Report's author Dr Sadie Williams (Lancaster).

The Chair informed the meeting that the updating of the CCUE booklet, 'The English Curriculum: Diversity and Standards', produced in 1996, would be undertaken through the ESC.

7. Constitutional Amendment:

The Secretary, Michael Rossington (Newcastle), informed the meeting that CCUE's Constitution required that any proposed constitutional amendments be approved by the AGM. The Executive Committee proposed the removal of the sentence 'At least half of the Executive Committee shall be elected each year to serve for two years' from Item 6 of the Constitution. This sentence no longer applied because members of the Executive occasionally stood down voluntarily after one year's service. The proposal was approved and the Constitution amended accordingly.

8. Executive Election:

Arrangements for the election of the new Executive were announced. After a ballot, the following candidates were elected as members of the Executive: Janet Beer (Manchester Metropolitan), Robert Clark (UEA), Elisabeth Jay (Oxford Brookes), Linden Peach (Loughborough), Michael Rossington (Newcastle), Geoff Thompson (Liverpool), Greg Walker (Leicester), Marcus Walsh (Birmingham), Roger Webster (Liverpool John Moores).

After the AGM there was a meeting of the new Executive Committee. Rick Rylance (APU), co-opted for two years in 2001, was elected Chair for 2002/3. The following officers were also elected: Vincent Gillespie (Vice-Chair), Michael Rossington (Secretary), Elisabeth Jay (Assistant Secretary) and Linden Peach (Treasurer). Chris Ringrose (University College Northampton), Editor of *CCUE News*, and Judy Simons (De Montfort), Chair of the ESC Advisory Board, were co-opted, the latter for a second two-year period. Philip Martin (Director of the English Subject Centre) is in attendance at meetings of the Executive.

The membership of the Executive Committee for 2002/3 is therefore as follows: Janet Beer (MMU), Robert Clark (UEA), Vincent Gillespie (Oxford), Elisabeth Jay (Oxford Brookes), Juliet John (Salford), Susan Manning (Edinburgh), Philip Martin (English Subject Centre), Sharon Ouditt (Nottingham Trent), Linden Peach (Loughborough), Chris Ringrose (Northampton), Michael Rossington (Newcastle), Rick Rylance (APU), Tony Sharpe (Lancaster), Judy Simons (De Montfort), Geoff Thompson (Liverpool), Greg Walker (Leicester), Marcus Walsh (Birmingham),

Roger Webster (Liverpool John Moores).

9. AOB:

The Chair announced that the 2002 OGM would take place on Saturday 7 December at Birkbeck College, University of London.

Michael Rossington,

Secretary to the CCUE Executive,

11.v.02