

## Council for College and University English

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 2-3 MAY 2003 AT ST ANNE'S COLLEGE, OXFORD

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

#### 1. Apologies:

Robert Clark (UEA), Jennifer Halford Levy (London Guildhall), Peter Heaney (Staffordshire), Juliet John (Liverpool), David Mills (Liverpool), Judy Simons (DMU), Jeff Wallace (Glamorgan), Gweno Williams (York St John).

#### 2. Minutes of the OGM of 7 December 2002:

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. He noted CCUE's major activities over the past year including the full written responses to the Joint Funding Bodies' Review of Research Assessment and to the White Paper (available on the CCUE website <http://www.ccue.ac.uk> in the Documents archive). Members of the Executive had attended Research Strategy seminars organized by the AHRB and a round-table organized by the AHRB on research in languages and literatures. The Executive had also contributed to discussions in such bodies as QCA, the Common English Forum and the Specialist Schools Trust. Links had been maintained through the Executive with bodies such as HUDG (The History in the Universities Defence Group), the MHRA (to which CCUE contributed a postgraduate representative), the English Association, The British Academy, CUDAH (the Council for University Deans in the Arts and Humanities) and SCASS (the Standing Conference for Arts and Social Sciences). CCUE remained closely engaged with the English Subject Centre through its membership of the Advisory Board. The Chair thanked members of the Executive and the membership for their support and commitment and announced that this would be his last annual report. A copy of the Chair's report is available on the CCUE website in the Documents archive.

#### 5. CCUE's Response to The White Paper

The Response to The White Paper sent on behalf of CCUE was tabled. The Chair summarized some of the principal points made in the Response: its rejection of the White Paper's division between research and teaching; its refutation of the claim that individually-based research is an anachronism; its broad welcome of the emphasis placed on the importance of teaching, and its concern that differentials between the component parts of the UK may weaken the subject of English at national and international level. Amongst points that arose in discussion were: the suggestion that CCUE write a letter to the Chief Executive of the HEFCE, Sir Howard Newby, expressing firm support for the funding of UoAs graded 4 in the RAE2001 and seeking a meeting with him in order address the issue of research selectivity raised in the White Paper; the value of joining with other Humanities subject associations in articulating positions held in common; regret that the White Paper did not seem to be impelled either by educational values or, specifically, by a sense of the cultural significance of universities.

#### 6. Treasurer's Annual Report.

The Treasurer, Linden Peach (Gloucestershire), tabled the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2003. In his report, he expressed thanks to member Departments for their promptness in paying subscriptions over the past year and reported a healthy current balance (£10,818.56). He welcomed two new member institutions: University College Chichester and College of West Anglia. He commented on the relatively small amount of expenditure by CCUE on administration and suggested

that membership represented 'value for money'. The Chair and the meeting warmly thanked Linden for his work.

### **7. The English Subject Centre Annual Report to CCUE AGM**

At an earlier point in the programme, the Chair had announced that Philip Martin was standing down as Director of the English Subject Centre at the end of July having recently taken up a post at DMU. The meeting expressed its appreciation of the magnificent work that Philip had done in launching the ESC and warmly welcomed his successor, Professor Ben Knights who introduced himself.

Philip Martin reported on the recent activities of the English Subject Centre, and the achievements of the last year. He drew attention to the most recent volumes in the report series, which included those on Access and Widening Participation, Research Degree Training, and External Examining, and he reported that Palgrave had now issued a contract to the centre for the book series (The New English). He discussed the current work continuing under the project funding which put money out to Departments, and emphasised its value and the interesting results coming through as the projects drew to completion, and he spoke of the difficulties facing the Centre in financing another round. Finally, he encouraged delegates to attend the conference, The Condition of the Subject, which now had a full programme of papers from the UK and overseas, and a very promising number of registrations.

### **8. Executive Election:**

Arrangements for the election of the new Executive were announced. After a ballot, the following candidates were elected: Jan Jedrzejewski (Ulster), Vivien Jones (Leeds), Philip Martin (DMU), Sharon Ouditt (Nottingham Trent), Lyn Pykett (Aberystwyth), Tony Sharpe (Lancaster), Sue Zlosnik (Manchester Metropolitan).

After the AGM there was a meeting of the new Executive Committee. Philip Martin was elected Chair for 2003/4. The following officers were also elected: Vincent Gillespie (Vice-Chair), Elisabeth Jay (Secretary), Greg Walker (Assistant Secretary) and Linden Peach (Treasurer). The new Executive co-opted five colleagues in the following capacities: Urszula Clark (Language), Vincent Gillespie (Vice-Chair and ESSE), Susan Manning (English across the UK), Chris Ringrose (Editor of *CCUE News*) and Rick Rylance (outgoing Chair). Ben Knights, Director-elect of the English Subject Centre, will be in attendance at meetings of the Executive from 1 August 2003.

The membership of the Executive Committee for 2003/4 is therefore as follows: Robert Clark (UEA), Urszula Clark (Wolverhampton), Vincent Gillespie (Oxford), Elisabeth Jay (Oxford Brookes), Jan Jedrzejewski (Ulster), Vivien Jones (Leeds), Susan Manning (Edinburgh), Philip Martin (DMU), Sharon Ouditt (Nottingham Trent), Linden Peach (Gloucestershire), Lyn Pykett (Aberystwyth), Chris Ringrose (University College Northampton), Rick Rylance (Exeter), Tony Sharpe (Lancaster), Geoff Thompson (Liverpool), Greg Walker (Leicester), Marcus Walsh (Birmingham), Roger Webster (Liverpool John Moores), Sue Zlosnik (Manchester Metropolitan).

### **9. AOB:**

Following the Chair's welcome to the meeting of Adolphe Haberer, the President of ESSE, the Vice-Chair, Vincent Gillespie, reported on ESSE matters including the next Board meeting at St Anne's College in September 2003 and the Zaragoza conference in September 2004. He reminded the meeting that the deadline for proposals for seminars and panels for the conference is 1 June 2003 and that colleagues from CCUE member Departments would be especially welcome to participate in the event (for details, see: <http://www.essenglish.org>). The venue for the ESSE conference in 2006 will be the Institute of English Studies, University of London.

Vincent Gillespie also paid tribute to Rick Rylance for his outstanding and dedicated service to CCUE over many years especially in his capacity as Secretary (1997-2000) and Chair (2000-3). The membership joined him in expressing their warm appreciation of Rick's work.

Michael Rossington,  
Outgoing Secretary to the CCUE Executive,  
8.v.03