

Council for College and University English

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 4-5 MAY 2001 AT ST ANNE'S COLLEGE, OXFORD

The Chair, Rick Rylance, welcomed members to the meeting.

1. Apologies:

Robert Clark (UEA), Warwick Gould (Institute of English Studies), Peter Heaney (Staffordshire), Linden Peach (Loughborough).

2. Minutes of the OGM of 25 November 2000:

The minutes were accepted as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising:

Further to item 5, the Chair drew the meeting's attention to the guidelines CCUE has circulated to the membership and made available on its website (<http://www.ccue.ac.uk>) concerning limited support (financial or otherwise) for a small number of conferences each year that address professional and subject-related issues of broad interest to members.

4. Chair's Report:

The Chair's Annual Written Report was tabled and formally accepted by the meeting. The Chair noted CCUE's major activities over the past year: (i) the successful establishment of the Subject Centre for English at Royal Holloway under the direction of Professor Philip Martin as a partnership between RHUL, CCUE and King's College, London and CCUE's oversight of the external scrutiny of the Centre's activities; (ii) CCUE's formal responses to the HEFCE's 'Fundamental review of research' and the British Academy's 'Review of Graduate Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences'; (iii) QCA's continuing consultation of the Council on the development of secondary provision in English and the National Curriculum Monitoring and Evaluation (the Chair thanked the members of the Executive with responsibility over the past year for liaising with QCA, Elisabeth Jay (Oxford Brookes) and Katie Wales (Leeds)); (iv) the publication of *Literature in Context*, a collection of essays by past and present members of the CCUE executive, edited by Rick Rylance and Judy Simons published by Palgrave, launched at the conference, and endorsed by the QCA Subject Officer for English; (v) the issue of the public understanding of English which is being taken forward through the organisation by CCUE of various conferences on 'Literature and Medicine', 'Literature and Biography' and 'Humanities and Employment' in collaboration with the British Academy and other bodies; (vi) the Council's role in establishing links with other bodies through the Common English Forum. A copy of the Chair's Report will be posted on the CCUE website.

5. Treasurer's Annual Report.

The outgoing Treasurer Daniel Lamont presented the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2001. He noted that expenditure on the Newsletter in 2001 was less than it had been in 2000 because two rather than three issues are now produced annually. He encouraged members of the 45 institutions yet to pay their CCUE subscriptions for 2000/1 to elicit them from their Finance Offices. Finally, while noting the relatively healthy balance of £9,725.58 as at 31/3/01, he pointed out that it was necessary and prudent for the Council to have a 'cushion'. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Susan Manning (Edinburgh) and seconded by Dick Ellis (NTU). The Chair and the meeting warmly thanked Daniel for his invaluable services as Treasurer over many years.

6. The English Subject Centre Annual Report to CCUE

Professor Philip Martin, the Director of the English Subject Centre, presented the annual report of the English Subject Centre (October 2000-May 2001) to the meeting for discussion and approval. A copy of this report is to be made posted on the CCUE website. Acceptance of the report was proposed by Jan Jedrzejewski (Ulster) and seconded by Ben Knights (Teesside).

Following Philip Martin's report, there was a demonstration of the English Subject Centre website by Dr Michael Hanrahan.

7. CCUE and ESSE:

Vincent Gillespie (Oxford) spoke concerning CCUE and ESSE. He reported that the CCUE Executive had reviewed the Council's link with ESSE and strongly recommended that it should be continued on the current basis. The meeting welcomed his account of the relationship of CCUE to ESSE and endorsed his proposal.

8. Executive Election:

Arrangements for the election of the new Executive were announced. After a ballot, the following candidates were elected members of the Executive:

Vincent Gillespie (Oxford), Juliet John (Salford), Susan Manning (Edinburgh), Sharon Ouditt (Nottingham Trent), Tony Sharpe (Lancaster).

After the AGM there was a meeting of the new Executive Committee. Following a tie in the ballot, Susan Castillo (Glasgow) and Greg Walker (Leicester) were co-opted to the Executive as losers in a drawing of lots. Rick Rylance (APU) was also co-opted. Judy Simons (De Montfort) was co-opted for a further year. Philip Martin (Director of the English Subject Centre) is in attendance at meetings of the Executive.

The membership of the Executive Committee for 2001/2 is therefore as follows:

Janet Beer (MMU), Susan Castillo (Glasgow), 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), Katie Wales (Leeds), Greg Walker (Leicester), Marcus Walsh (Birmingham), Roger Webster (Liverpool John Moores).

9. AOB:

(i) There was a request from Chris Ringrose, editor of the CCUE Newsletter, for contributions to the next issue, especially offerings on topics concerning English Language and Linguistics.

(ii) The Chair reminded the meeting of CCUE's wish to maintain an accurate database of its membership (departmental representatives and number of full-time staff in a department). Updated details should be sent to Carol Thomas (c.thomas@apu.ac.uk).

(iii) The Chair noted that CCUE had declined the QAA's invitation to put forward nominations for Subject Review Assessors.

(iv) In response to an invitation from Martin Coyle (Cardiff) Daniel Lamont spoke about his experiences as an internal reviewer.

Note, subsequent to the AGM (for members' information):

The following officers were elected at a meeting of the CCUE Executive Committee on 15 June 2001:

Rick Rylance (Chair), Vincent Gillespie (Vice-Chair), Michael Rossington (Secretary), Elisabeth Jay (Assistant Secretary), Linden Peach (Treasurer), Chris Ringrose (Editor of the CCUE Newsletter).