

Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting

HELD 11 DECEMBER 2004 AT THE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES, SENATE HOUSE, LONDON

The Chair, Professor Lis Jay (Oxford Brookes), welcomed members to the business meeting.

1. Minutes of the 2004 Annual General Meeting, 23-24 April 2004

The minutes were accepted as a correct record and approved by the meeting.

2. Matters Arising

9(i) AOB. LJ reported that she had discussed CCUE's concerns about the more burdensome AHRB procedures regarding postgraduate applications with CUDAH and they had agreed to pass them on.

3. Chair's Report

(i) **The Executive:** LJ reported that the Executive had met twice since the AGM in April. Given some concern over the relatively light representation of language specialists on the Executive, it had been decided to invite Professor Ron Carter (Nottingham) to become a co-opted member. LJ noted with pleasure that he has accepted this invitation.

The Executive has been well-served by existing members in the attempt to keep abreast of regional issues within the UK, particularly where different funding formulae are likely to lead to distinct patterns of recruitment. At the previous day's Executive meeting it was strongly felt that CCUE should continue to play an important role in speaking for the UK-wide subject community as a whole and in resisting any drift towards differentiation consequent upon these funding changes. Such fragmentation of the community would be good for neither lecturers nor students. LJ thanked SM, LyP, and JJ especially for their work in representing Scottish, Welsh, and Northern Irish concerns respectively.

(ii) **Representation on Other Bodies:** LJ reported that, thanks to the good offices of RR, CCUE is well represented in AHRB circles, where 'interdisciplinarity' continues to be much discussed. BK (Director of the ESC) has been keeping up CCUE's liaison with the QCA during crucial discussions of the Tomlinson report and other QAA initiatives. GW has represented CCUE at the Common English Forum where Tomlinson was also discussed. LJ has agreed to represent CCUE on the board of ESSE and to join the Advisory Board being established in connection with the successful bid by the Institute of English Studies in partnership with a number of other universities and centres in the UK for a role in the AHRB-funded research-training scheme. She reminded the meeting that CCUE had thought it inappropriate to be associated with any particular bid while the bidding process was underway, but had agreed to offer its advice and expertise to the successful application once the results had been determined. Now that this has happened it seems appropriate to accept an advisory brief on behalf of the subject community as a whole.

(iii) **ESSE:** Many CCUE members attended the ESSE conference in Zaragoza, where the input of the Spanish Association for University English was greatly valued. Since membership of ESSE in the UK comes through affiliation to CCUE rather than individually it

is all the more incumbent on CCUE to be involved in the next ESSE conference, to be held from 29 August to 2 September 2006 in Senate House, London. The conference will be hosted by the IES working in partnership with CCUE, and currently LJ as Chair and GW as Secretary of CCUE are on the advisory board. CCUE has neither the funds nor the resources to have a financial or administrative role in the conference, but our academic input is highly valued, as VG has frequently and persuasively informed our meetings.

(iv) Finances: The slow payment of subscriptions remains a source of anxiety for the Executive. The costs relating to the OGM, AGM, and members' travel expenses continue to rise, while our income from subscriptions does not. We have therefore had to exercise a certain amount of additional financial prudence so far this year, notably in not investing substantially in a professional overhaul and maintenance of the CCUE website. We have so far relied on the good offices of a former member of the Executive for the ongoing maintenance of the website, and his help has been much appreciated, as has the assistance of the ESC (and Brett Lucas in particular) in allowing us to post details of this OGM on the ESC site. But it would obviously be better if the site were maintained in the long term within the purview of the Executive. One possible solution was discussed at the Executive meeting on the 10 December, and will be pursued in the coming months.

(v) CCUE NEWS: One decision that will cut costs considerably without any loss of service is the move from paper to electronic publication for *CCUE News*. The next issue will be sent out to the named departmental contacts via e-mail and distributed within institutions by that individual. By the Autumn edition it is hoped that the journal will be posted on the new CCUE website where access will be available in password-protected format for all members of paid-up subscribing departments. LJ thanked CR on behalf of the Executive and the meeting as a whole for his continued hard work as editor of *CN*, especially during the crucial transition to electronic publication.

(vi) Consultation: The Executive has responded on behalf of the membership to two national consultation documents. LJ thanked VJ for drafting the response to 'Towards a Framework of Professional Teaching Standards', in which we argued for a supportive rather than regulatory system, and primarily for a framework flexible enough to respond to subject-specific needs. The other ongoing consultation that has preoccupied the Executive concerns the RAE. In April we responded on the community's behalf to the invitation to comment on panel configuration and recruitment. We mentioned the rather odd collection of disciplines with which English was initially grouped, and were pleased to note that this had changed when the final decisions were published. We also argued strongly that the breadth and scope of English as a discipline needs to be reflected in a widely drawn and large sub-panel. We asked for transparent mechanisms for facilitating discussions between panels and sub-panels, and for clear guidance to be given on how cross-referencing between sub-panels will operate: an important issue for a discipline as broadly based as English. We then consulted widely over the summer on the issue of nominations for the English sub-panel, and held a specially convened Executive meeting to discuss the results in August. GW was responsible for co-ordinating this process and described the process we employed to the meeting (see item 4). LJ thanked GW for his efforts in this matter.

(viii) The AGM: LJ reminded delegates that the 2005 CCUE AGM would be held at St Anne's, Oxford, on 22 and 23 April. Thanks to the good offices of VG 50 en-suite rooms in the new accommodation block were available for delegates to book on a first-come first-served basis.

4. RAE Nominations:

GW described the process that produced the list of CCUE nominees. He reported that, in keeping with the procedure used in the 2001 exercise, he had written to every HoD or Subject Leader in an HE institution in the UK where English was taught and RAE-eligible research conducted asking them to nominate up to four potential sub-panellists, none of whom could be from their own institution. Approximately forty departments had responded, and ninety individuals were nominated. Among these the vast majority received only one nomination. A further 16 individuals received two nominations, while a small group of names received multiple nominations. The Executive then considered the nominations in ranked order, following closely the number of nominations received but also taking into account the need for comprehensive subject coverage and factors such as gender, region, institution type, and the fact that the previous RAE had not accepted more than one nominee from the same Department. The discussion was a long and difficult one, as, even assuming that the RAE managers accepted our argument for the maximum number of sub-panellists (15), it proved very hard to cover every aspect of what is an ever-broadening subject area. It was finally agreed that, in addition to the 15 names sent forward, CCUE should also nominate candidates for the role of specialist advisor in those areas it felt were not adequately covered elsewhere. Nominees were then consulted over their willingness to accept nomination, and where they were unwilling or unable to accept, alternative candidates were approached.

As a result of the above process, the following nominations were forwarded to the RAE Managers.

Of those 2001 panellists eligible to stand again: Professors Susan Manning (Edinburgh); Graham Caie (Glasgow); Ron Carter (Nottingham), Rick Rylance (Exeter), Jonathan Bate (Warwick), Ian Bell (Keele), Stephen Knight (Cardiff), and Lyn Innes (Kent). New nominations: Professors Greg Walker (Leicester), Patricia Waugh (Durham), Rory Watson (Stirling), Peter Brooker (UC Northampton), Vivien Jones (Leeds), Philip Martin (De Montfort), and Linda Anderson (Newcastle).

Professor Rick Rylance was also nominated as Chair of the English sub-panel.

We also nominated the following as specialist advisors:

Drama and Performance: Professors Pamela King (St Martin's College, Lancaster) for early drama, and David Bradbury (Royal Holloway) for modern drama.

History of the Book/Bibliography: Professor Warwick Gould (IES/London).

We also urged that specialist advisors be appointed for Film/Media Studies and Children's Literature, although we were not in a position to suggest candidates for those positions.

Finally we were invited to nominate candidates for the role of International Representative on the Main Panel, a role only very vaguely defined in the existing documentation. We forwarded the following names: Professors Michael Stubbs, Ian Donaldson, Nancy Armstrong, John Scattergood, and Stephen Zwicker.

GW and LJ then invited comments from the membership about the process and its results. A number of queries were raised about the coverage of subjects such as Creative Writing,

Contemporary Writing, and Old Norse, and it was suggested that individual nominees had declared expertise and/or a willingness to argue for these subjects if appointed. In response to a query about liaison with other bodies GW pointed out that he had passed on the CCUE list to the Chairs of the English Association and SCOPE for information, and in the hope that a degree of harmonisation might be achieved in the nominations across the sector. On behalf of the English Association Professor Peter Kitson (Chair of the EA Executive Committee) responded that the CCUE list had been gratefully received, and that there was a substantial degree of similarity between it and the list forwarded by the EA.

5. The English Subject Centre: Director's Report.

BK reported that the Higher Education Academy (HEA) is now in being, and its Chief Executive is Paul Ramsden. It has been confirmed that Subject Centres are to be funded for a further five years. On the issue of staffing it was reported that Andrew Maunder and Jonathan Gibson have now taken up their posts as academic members of staff, and that Carol Eckersley has now been replaced by Jacqui Fernandez. All vacant posts have now been filled. BK further reported on a number of themes that presently characterise the development of ESC work. They include training opportunities for newly-appointed lecturers: an event took place recently and although attendance was fairly low the event went extremely well. BK is working towards the possibility of including subject-based training of this kind in the accreditation of PGCEs. Six new departmental projects have been confirmed: this is a way of undertaking work that the ESC is unable to do itself. BK is also focussing attention on the transition from secondary to tertiary to higher education and is endeavouring to build up relations between teachers of English in schools and in universities. Finally a project that will focus on PGCE lecturers in English and how they use school mentors is in the early stages of development.

6. Treasurer's Report

LiP reported that there was currently a balance of £5,300 in the CCUE account, of which £1,200 was owed to ESSE, and a further £500 set aside to cover the fees and expenses of the speakers at this OGM. He acknowledged that there was concern among the Executive that the balance was becoming dangerously small, but did not share these concerns. Subscriptions always came in very slowly over the summer and autumn. Currently 33 had been received out of a normal return of around 70. The situation would improve substantially when the remainder were in. Copies of *The Messenger* should be sent out to subscribing institutions early in the New Year.

7. AOB

(i) CCUE NEWS: A query was raised from the floor over whether password protecting the latest edition of *CN* on the projected website would deter people from reading it. LiP responded that access to *CN* was one of the more tangible benefits that CCUE subscribers received for their money, so if access to it became openly available on the web this might well have an adverse effect on subscriptions

(ii) OGM 2005: LJ canvassed opinion over whether London was a convenient location for the next OGM. Roughly half of the members suggested that it was. Other suggestions included Manchester and Birmingham. The former received only a handful of votes, Birmingham about the same as London. It was agreed that the matter would be revisited by the Executive in the near future in order that advanced bookings might be made. LJ also

raised the question of the timing of the OGM. Most of those present felt that the date of this meeting had been fine, although about half also said that an earlier date would be preferable. No one felt that a later date would be an improvement.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.50.

Greg Walker, Secretary, 13/12/2004

CCUE Annual General Meeting: 22-23 APRIL 2004

REGISTRATION FORM

I/we shall/shall not be attending the CCUE AGM on 22-23 April 2004.

Name(s) (Please give the names of all delegates):

Institution:

Please indicate if you would prefer a vegetarian meal:

.....

I should like to reserve En-Suite single bedrooms at St Anne's **at £60 per room B&B.**

I enclose a cheque for (indicate amount):

.....

(£85 per person conference registration - plus £60 per person Bed & Breakfast if required)

Cheques should be made payable to: Council for College and University English.

CCUE is a voluntary organisation. To save on administrative and postal costs, receipts can be obtained on the day of the event and are not normally sent in advance.

NB Please provide an e-mail address at which you might be contacted if necessary:

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Please return this slip by 4 April 2005 to:

Professor Greg Walker E-mail: gmw4@le.ac.uk

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR DEPARTMENT HAS PAID ITS CCUE SUBSCRIPTION!