**Annual General Meeting of AUPHF**

**Thursday 30 June 2016, 11.00-11.30**

**Alliance Française de Glasgow**

**Minutes**

**Present : Adrian Armstrong, Billy Grove, Olga Gomez-Cash, Angela Kimyongür, Julian Preece, Marion Schmid, Margaret Topping.**

1. Apologies

Wendy Ayres-Bennett, Lucille Cairns, Maeve Conrick, Charles Forsdick, Mike Kelly, Michael Moriarty, Phil Powrie, Vera Regan, Hugh Roberts, Chris Tinker, Teresa Vernon, Jan Windebank.

1. Obituaries

Mary Bryden (November 2015), Cardiff, Reading: former President of Association (2010-2013), specialist in Samuel Beckett and Gilles Deleuze

Bill Howarth (July 2015), Bristol: specialist in 17th- and 20th-century theatre, founder of the Society for Seventeenth-Century French Studies

Peter Noble (May 2016), Reading: specialist in medieval studies and Québec literature

Micky Sheringham (January 2016), Ulster, Canterbury, Royal Holloway, Oxford: specialist in modern literary and cultural studies

David Trotter (August 2015), Exeter, Aberystwyth: medieval French language and lexicography

The customary minute’s silence was observed in memory of these colleagues.

1. Minutes of 2015 AGM

These were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising

10. The venue of the next AGM was subsequently confirmed as the Alliance Française in Glasgow, to follow on from the SFS conference, scheduled for 27-29 June 2016.

5. President’s report

Activities since last AGM:

July: after consultation with EC, added AUPHF as a signatory to a manifesto on Translation as Research, which Nick Harrison had drafted for publication in *Modern Languages Open*.

September: attended meeting of standing committee of heads of language subject associations at UCL. Discussed: impending departmental closures at Ulster and Northumbria; prospect of a UK MLA

September: with other heads of language subject associations, signed letters to University of Ulster and to Committee for Employment and Learning of the NI Assembly, protesting against UU’s decision to close its School of Modern Languages – this effectively marks the end of German, and also Chinese, in Northern Ireland. The Committee for Employment and Learning has now agreed to commission research on the nature and impact of these cuts, and to request the VCs of QUB and Ulster to brief the Committee on the impact of the budget cuts on their course offer.

November: spoke at FSLG annual study day, on the research trends emerging from REF2014.

Dec/Jan: contributed to a letter from modern language subject associations to Ofqual, on problems of A-level grading and issues around new GCSE and A-level specifications.

Jan: SCHML meeting; discussed Ulster situation, MLAUK.

February: meeting of Language Subject Associations, IMLR: discussed possibilities of unifying or federating associations

March: with other heads of language subject associations, signed letter to University of Nottingham, protesting against prospect of redundancies in School of Cultures, Languages and Area Studies

April: attended meeting of AHA in London: discussed British Academy Institutes (BASIS); Open Access; TEF and REF; strategic review

6. Treasurer’s report

MT presented her report, indicating that the Society’s financial status is in good order, despite a decline in the number of members, compared with last year and previous years. Currently there are only 38 members of the Association, down from 51 this time last year. There was some discussion of the factors behind this decline and of ways in which it might be addressed. Planned improvements to the website may be one way of making the activities of the Association more visible and creating a protected area for members a way of encouraging new members.

7. Committee vacancies

AMK had received the following proposals prior to the meeting:

Ordinary members: Billy Grove (proposed by Adrian Armstrong, seconded by Angela Kimyongür); Sarah Waters (proposed by Jan Windebank, seconded by Claire Gorrara); Membership secretary: Maeve Cornick (proposed by Mike Kelly, seconded by Vera Regan)

Each proposal was approved without the need to proceed to an election.

No one had come forward as a prospective President. While there is nothing in the Association’s constitution to cover such an eventuality, it was agreed that in the absence of a president, normal practice would be for the vice-president to step up to the role as acting president. Since the former president of AUPHF takes up the vice president’s role, AA would therefore take on the role of acting president for a period of 12 months. No proposal had been received for the post of Association Secretary. Duties would be devolved to members of the Executive committee.

8. AOB

There was some discussion about broadening the scope of the Association to include other languages. AA to approach colleagues in other language disciplines.

9. Date/venue of next AGM

It was proposed, and accepted, that 2016-17 be something of a fallow year in view of the unfilled posts on the Executive committee. Following on from this, and in the light of poor attendance at this year’s Annual Event, it was agreed that there would be no plans for an event next year. The matter would be further discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting in October.