

Minutes AUPHF+ AGM Executive Committee meeting: Monday 28th June 2022 12-1pm (Hybrid)

Present: Martin Hurcombe (MH, Chair), Rebecca Dixon (RD), Marion Demossier (MD), Adam Watt (AW), Dominique Carlini-Versini (DCV), Diana Holmes (DH), Emmanuelle Labeau (EL), Claire Gorrara (CG); Ashley Harris (AH), Elodie Vialleton (EV).

1. Apologies: Julia Dobson, Laurence Grove, Pallavi Joshi, Akane Kawakami, Michael Kelly, Nina Parish, Marion Schmid, Margaret Topping and Emma Wagstaff.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM meeting (to be confirmed through Chair's action)

3. President's report (MH)

- AUPHF+ has focused its attention on diversifying as well as expanding its membership to French and Francophone studies to include all colleagues from Higher Education (researchers and teachers of French). This is in recognition of the fresh insights and perspectives that a more diverse membership brings to our mission to advocate for French and Francophone studies in the UK and Ireland.
- There has been some changes in our executive group with new appointments and roles Dominique Carlini-Versini (membership Secretary), Ashley Harris (Media and Comms director), Joshi Pallavi (ECR representative).
- Welcome to other new and returning members: Elodie Vialleton and Emmanuelle Labeau (UCML representative).
- This year has been busy with two online events 1/ Applying for a PhD and Navigating the Job Market in French Studies workshop; 2/Early Career Researcher Event with 30+ attendees at each event.
- Annual Event "Decentring French studies" was reasonably well-attended.
- The student-led engagement group project received two applications which were both funded (Queen's University Belfast and Oxford Brookes). Both projects involve engagement with secondary school projects. QUB: Supporting Languages in NI. Oxford Brookes: Sharing the diversity of French Studies with schools in Oxford.
- We received no applications to the Postdoctoral Fellowship and no applications to the "In Love with Languages" competition.
- Next year we will be supporting similar activities while preserving a sustainable model of activities. In particular, we propose to establish a Conference and Research Fund to support colleagues in French and Francophone Studies.
- Martin Hurcombe has represented the Association at two meetings with Higher Education, Research & Innovation Department French Embassy. Discussions have focused on the promotion and defence of French Studies in the UK and have led to the creation of a working group on which AUPHF+ is represented: the *Groupe de Travail des Etudes Françaises*. A first follow-up workshop was recently held for HEIs teaching ab-initio French. A further series of events is planned in order to facilitate dialogue between teachers of French at primary, secondary, FE and HE. The group is keen to promote the decolonisation of French as a subject and new methodologies in the teaching of language, such as the use of creative writing and intermediality. There is great support from The French Embassy in supporting AUPHF+ in new activities of engagement with stakeholders.

4. Presentation of new constitution followed by a vote

- Amendments to the Constitution were proposed (see document attached) to reflect the development of the organisation. These amendments were ratified unanimously and the amended constitution is forthwith adopted.

5. Membership report (DCV)

- DCV is happy to report that the association is now open to PhD students and early career academics. As a result, membership has increased by 15 members and the events we organised had a positive impact on membership.
- DCV reminded members that subscription starts on 1st January.
- 94 members have signed up for the mailing list.
- CG suggested that new collaborations can be sought in other anglophone countries where French is taught. Possible networking activities can also be developed across languages and area studies to foster more opportunities (e.g German or in Latin American Studies).

6. Treasurer's report (MT)

- MH presented MT's report which shows a healthy balance (£8713.53). The pandemic has allowed us to rethink our activities and the move online has been a great opportunity. Travel costs for members of the organisation were cut during the pandemic and as a result, AUPHF+ was able to save money.

7. EDI matters

Nothing to report

8. AOB

- Podcasts were proposed as potential ways of disseminating the work of the organisation, but MH raised the issue of costs. Funding priorities will be discussed further at the next meeting of the executive Committee in October 2022.
- MH and CG discussed potential involvement with business and companies with French expertise for sponsorship.