**Minutes of the AUPHF Executive Committee meeting**

**Friday 17 March 2017, 3-5 pm (Skype; rescheduled from 24 February)**

Present: AA, MC, BG, CG, SW; EL joined at 3.45

**1. Apologies**

Received from MT

**2. Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of 15 October 2016**

These had previously been circulated

**3. Matters arising**

3. Website: AA to discuss progress with MT, and clarify various technical points. *These were clarified later in March: the website can be edited by anyone, subject to training (hence support could be bought in if appropriate), and can go live very quickly once the look/feel and content are agreed.*

8. Mission statement: this had been shared with the EC, who agreed that it could now be circulated to members. *This was done on 23 March.*

**4. Announcements from the Chair**

Nov 2016 Attended AHA meeting in London. Discussions included: BA BASIS institute funding (plans for closer collaboration between the BA and the AHA), prospects for OA monographs in future, Global Challenges Research Fund, graduate incomes in different humanities disciplines, possible impact of Brexit on Erasmus/year abroad schemes, possible impact of TEF on humanities subjects via the core metric measuring high-skill destinations (though when adjusted for subject mix and student characteristics it was not thought this metric need to be too damaging).

Dec 2016 Attended event on the future of research evaluation for the humanities, organized by AHA. *Notes on the event were circulated to the EC later in March. It was noted that such materials might in future be hosted in a members’ area of the new website.*

Jan 2017 Spoke at UCML plenary on post-Brexit implications for HE languages. All materials from the event are available at <http://www.ucml.ac.uk/events/06-01-17.html>

Feb 2017 attended IMLR meeting of modern language associations, which is likely to coalesce into some form of firmer co-ordinating body (AMLUK). *Notes on the meeting were circulated to the EC on 17 March. AA confirmed to Charles Forsdick that the EC welcomed his suggestion of a Leathes Report centenary event for AMLUK in 2018.*

**5. Treasurer’s Report**

Nothing to report.

**6. Membership Report**

MT was currently updating the membership list, which would be sent to MC. It comprised 41 people, not all of whom had paid subscriptions, though others had paid but were not on the list. MC and MT would continue to liaise to update the list.

It was noted that a membership drive would require the new site to be live.

It was suggested that the annual renewal date of 1 January might be reviewed, to make it easier for colleagues to join or renew at the AGM. This would need to be discussed with MT, in case there were sound practical/financial reasons for standardizing renewals at 1 January.

**7. Announcements from Other Associations**

ALFS: the annual conference would be taking place in August (Canada), and the 2018 conference (Toulouse) was being planned.

ASMCF: nothing to report.

FSLG: nothing to report.

SFS: the EC had met in December 2016. The Society was seeking a base in central London, and was developing its website. CG had encouraged the Society to broaden its mission: discussions so far had been inconclusive.

UCML: there would be vacancies on the Executive, for honorary treasurer and a linguistic representatives, on 1 July; colleagues were encouraged to consider applying. Documents from the 6 January event were now available on the UCML website (see item 4 above). The summer plenary would take place on 30 June.

**8. Committee membership**

Posts to be filled at the next AGM, on 3 July (proposers and seconders would be needed):

President: CG to stand

Secretary: SW to stand

Treasurer: AA to ask MT if she wished to continue in the role. *This was subsequently confirmed.*

Two Ordinary Members, *vice* CG and SW: AA to approach Chris Reynolds and Marion Demossier

**9. Brexit**

CG was involved with the lobbying group Wales for Europe; various regional/national organizations were engaged in similar work, seeking to persuade moderate leavers to reconsider. The aim was to move beyond binarized debates into a more general awareness of the value of European cooperation. Subject associations may be approached in due course.

EL noted that Brexit might generate benefits for MFL study in the UK, with a greater demand for home-grown linguists.

MC noted that the UK and Ireland shared many interests, and that Brexit would inevitably have significant effects in Ireland. *MC subsequently circulated a 2011 report for the Royal Irish Academy on modern languages*.

The position of Erasmus+ was discussed. It was impossible to say anything categorical on the matter at university Open Days and the like. However, colleagues were attempting to underline the value of a year abroad in general terms, and to mobilize student views on this value for *internal* purposes (persuading VCs and senior management). Partner institutions currently seemed keen to retain existing exchanges in some form, though work placements were likely to become more difficult to arrange. The views of Colin Riordan (VC, Cardiff), a member of the Brexit Group for Wales, could usefully be sought on matters of Erasmus+-related policy.

**10. The Annual Event 2017**

The 2017 Annual Event/AGM would take the form of sponsored sessions at the SFS conference in Durham: a round table on ‘Developing co-ordinated Modern Languages strategies in a post-Brexit environment’, and the AGM (running simultaneously with the conference’s PG session).

CG and MT had suggested a ‘four nations’ approach to the round table; this was welcomed. CG and MT would speak for Wales and Northern Ireland. English and Scottish representatives would be approached by AA and BG. Once participants had been identified, questions to prime the discussion could be formulated.

**11. Date of next meeting**

To take place on a Friday in October, perhaps the 20th or 27th, in Leeds (members to join by Skype if appropriate).

**12. AOB**

None