

AUPHF Annual Executive Meeting

Friday 20 September 2019, 9.15 – 9.45

University of Edinburgh, Project Room, 50 George Square, 1.06

Present: Claire Gorrara, Billy Grove, Martin Hurcombe, Emmanuelle Labeau (Skype), Fransiska Louwagie, Marion Schmid (Chair), Sarah Waters, Adam Watt

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Adrian Armstrong, Emma Cayley, Marion Demossier, Chris Reynolds

2. Obituaries (MS)

The meeting paid tribute to the following colleagues who passed away over the previous year.

John E. Coombes. Formerly at Dept. of French at St Andrews and Department of literature at the University of Essex. John died on 28 October 2018.

Nick Hewitt. Former Professor of French at Nottingham University. Founding editor of *French Cultural Studies*. He was also General Editor of *Nottingham French Studies* for many years. Died on 1 March 2019

Kate Marsh. Professor of French at the University of Liverpool, a specialist in French colonial history and postcolonial legacies of empire. Died 9 April 2019.

Haydn Mason, former Ashley Watkins Professor of French at the University of Bristol and a renowned *dix-huitiémiste*, died on 16 August 2018. Previous president of AUPHF.

John Mitchell, a Senior Lecturer at Southampton University, and a specialist on Stendhal and the 19th century novel. He retired in 1986 and died in February of this year,

A minute's silence was held to honour the memory of these colleagues.

3. Minutes of previous AGM

No minutes of the previous AGM available.

4. President's report (MS)

- The REF consultation produced a response.
- The AUPHF co-signed (with UCML, French Studies, ASMCF) a letter of protest against the suspension of modern languages at Hull. The letter has had a positive impact. We signed a UCML protest letter against the restructuring of modern languages at Reading.
- CG gave an update on departments facing closure or downsizing. Hull has paused its languages recruitment for 2019-20; reconfigured for the future and significantly reduced its offer (Italian is no longer to be taught). Voluntary redundancies have been introduced. At Reading the Language Centre and School of Languages and Cultures have been merged. Some colleagues have left. Both institutions are facing institution-wide financial difficulties.
- The AUPHF co-signed a letter of protest against Australian ministers' veto of 11 Humanities grants earmarked for funding by Australian research council. The letter was published in TLS.
- We contributed to the AHA briefing for Ministers about the damaging effects of Brexit on Humanities (this included a paragraph on modern languages).
- We contributed to the AHA response to Plan S consultation by Science Europe (would require academics to publish in open repositories or in journals that are available to all by 2020). AHA has put together a two-page response that warns of damaging consequences for Humanities, funding implications, lack of access to APCs (Article processing charges), especially for ECRs without established posts, impact on journals and learned societies (who currently depend on profits from subscription journals).

- AUPHF to the BA survey about ways in which subject associations make use of skills and employment information and offer subject-focused careers advice. This is linked to the BA report *The Right Skills: Celebrating Skills in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences*.

5. Committee Vacancies (MS)

Two new ordinary members were welcomed to the executive: Adam Watt (Exeter), proposed by Marion and seconded by Martin and Akane Kawakami (Birbeck), proposed by Marion and seconded by Adrian. The meeting thanked Martin Hurcombe for taking on the role of AUPHF vice-president (proposed by Sarah and seconded by Marion).

Billy and Adrian are stepping down from their roles on the executive. The meeting thanked them for their excellent service to the association. Adrian is a long-standing member of the executive and has served both as president and vice-president.

6. Association name and membership - continued (MS)

Given time constraints, the meeting will return to this item at the next meeting of executive members. CG suggested that we ask SFS whether they would like to send a representative to the next the AUPHF executive meeting. MH suggested that we also ask the ASMCF and SFH if they would like to send a representative.

EL mentioned that there is an executive meeting of SFS on 19th October and she would be happy to liaise with the SFS on our behalf at that meeting.

AW mentioned that UCML is currently seeking a new representative for French to join the committee. Action: Martin to liaise with SFH to invite a representative to attend the next AUPHF meeting. Sarah to liaise with ASMCF, Emmanuelle with SFS.

SW suggested that it might be better for us to have a physical rather than a virtual meeting of the executive committee in Oct/Nov, given that new members might be present and postpone virtual meeting until March. SW, MS & MH to liaise by email on this.

7. Membership report (FL)

Fransiska has updated the membership list. We need to decide whether to keep former members on the mailing list or not. There are currently 70 members on the list. FL has liaised with MT to try and identify paying /non-paying members.

CG suggested that we need to make sure that we are complying with GDPR as far as former members are concerned.

We need to consider whether we should publicise AUPHF membership more widely on Francofil to attract new members. We need to clarify our terms of membership first.

8. Treasurer's report (MT)

SW to ask MT to submit a report by email.

9. Dates of future meetings

SW to liaise with MS and MH on dates and format of next executive meeting.

10. AOB

N/A