

STANDING CONFERENCE ON UNIVERSITY TEACHING AND RESEARCH IN THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3 JULY 2003 UNIVERSITY OF WALES, BANGOR

1. Apologies

INDIVIDUAL: **Ann Jackson (ALI), Rennie Johnston, Oxford (Mark Gray), Birkbeck (Sue Jackson)**

2. Minutes

Minutes of the AGM held at last year's conference at the University of Stirling were accepted by those present as a true and accurate record. The Secretary apologised for the minutes only being available on the Website.

3. Chair's report

The Chair noted her thanks to the past Officers for the work they had done. The importance of SCUTREA was highlighted in a time when many CE departments were in decline. The closure of Newcastle's CE department was particularly noted. The failure to halt this decline is in direct contrast to the Government's rhetoric on the importance of lifelong learning.

The Chair highlighted the work that has been done in this first year of office:

- Review of the Constitution
- A new Development Plan which will be put on the website following agreement at Council in November
- Website redesign: Council will welcome comments from members once it is launched

The Chair recorded thanks to the Conference team for such a successful conference in Bangor.

4. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer's Report was received by the AGM. There was considerable discussion as to the increase in expenses to Officers. However, it was noted that these will be higher as two Officers are travelling from Scotland for meetings etc.

The Arts Conference was discussed at it was noted that in future all income and expenditure will appear under a discrete budget heading.

5. Membership Secretary's report

The Membership Secretary reported that the membership remained stable, with a small increase in individual membership. The figures are now 19 institutions and 51 individual members.

The Development Plan outlines ways in which the new Officers intend to work towards increasing membership over the next two years, including utilising the new website, and making the benefits of membership clearer through a membership pack. This was available for the first time at this Conference.

The Membership Secretary apologised for the delay in issuing subscription invoices for the current year. This will be rectified as soon as possible.

6. SCUTREA 2003 – Bangor

Brec'hed had nothing further to report following the Conference. This year's conference-team were congratulated on the way the conference had been organised and the warm reception we had received in Bangor.

7. SCUTREA 2004 – Sheffield

Cheryl Hunt gave an update on the planning so far. The Conference will be based in Halifax Hall, and all Conference activities and accommodation will be located at the same venue. The costs will be approximately £300 for en-suite rooms, and slightly less for standard accommodation.

Suggestions for Conference themes would be welcome (send to p.j.coare@sussex.ac.uk).

Miriam Zukas asked that we do not have speeches at future conferences.

Cheryl reported that she is taking up a new post at Exeter, and Pam Cole will be taken over the main conference organising and administration role.

The 2006 International Conference will take place in Leeds.

Following comments by David Boud, there was discussion about the quality of papers offered at SCUTREA, and ways in which we can attract researchers and high quality papers. The 'clash' in timing with FACE was also highlighted as a problem. It was suggested that we need to address how SCUTREA can make itself the primary research conference, and revivify the conference structure to allow more time for quality discussion.

Miriam Zukas noted the lack of history of ideas in some of the presentations and papers. Some contributors failed to recognise that a great deal of research has been presented at SCUTREA in previous years, and we need to direct people to this resource at Education on Line in the next call for papers. David Boud suggested that papers should also relate to the broader literature.

Roger Harrison suggested that we be more vigorous in setting guidelines for papers.

Various suggestions were then offered including reviewing papers rather than abstracts, and encouraging new researchers and offering support to those who need it.

It was agreed that this be an item on the next Council meeting agenda.

8. Election results

See Item 9 below.

9. Reports from meetings/groups

Individual Members meeting: Janet Cole reported that Anne Marie Houghton had agreed to stand as an Individual Members Rep. This was agreed.

10. Constitution

Amendments to the Constitution were discussed and agreed. The new Constitution will be posted on the Website shortly.

11. AOB

It was agreed to confer Honorary Membership on three colleagues who had given outstanding service to SCUTREA over a number of years. These were Miriam Zukas, David Jones and Roseanne Benn. The Secretary will write to each of them.

Date and time of the next SCUTREA AGM: 8 July 2004 at Sheffield during the conference