

## MINUTES

Steering Committee meeting of History UK on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2019 at 11.00 am in Wolfson II, Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, London.

### Present:

Neil Fleming (Worcester); Mairanna Dudley (Bristol); Daniel Grey (Plymouth); Sarah Bastow (Huddersfield); Karin Dannehl (EHS; Wolverhampton); Charlie Whitham (Edge Hill); Euryyn Roberts (Bangor); Alex Titov (Queens Belfast); Kristen Brill (Keele); Richard Hawkins (Wolverhampton); Lucinda Matthews-Jones (Liverpool John Moores); Jamie Wood (Lincoln)

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Charlotte Alston; Peter D'Sena; Bill Aird; Karen Jones; Adrian Howkins (replacement: Marianna Dudley); Ariel Hessayon; Adam Morton; Simon Peplow; Hannah Burrows

### **2. Minutes of the last Steering Committee meeting**

- a. These were not available. Action: CA to recirculate

### **3. Matters arising from the minutes**

- a. See co-convenors' report.

### **4. Co-Convenors' Report**

#### **i. AGM (2018 & 2019)**

- a. Discussion of the 2018 AGM/Plenary, with the subject of the plenary and the talk by Karen Salt commended.
- b. Timings of future AGM/Plenary: it was agreed that this event would be shifted earlier in the calendar, but to avoid half-term. Action: co-convenors to schedule accordingly.
- c. Topic for 2019: mental health issues, with a focus on both staff and students; suggested input from Mental Health England and from an academic working on mental health. The consensus was that this was a good topic. Action: co-convenors to proceed with inviting speakers and confirming a date.

#### **ii. Academic Job Boot Camp**

- a. LMJ outlined plans for improving attendance (earlier advertisement; participants should provide a statement of interest; encouraging early booking for those claiming travel; funding participants' travel to a pre-specified level).
- b. Discussion of possible future event in Manchester.
- c. Action: LMJ to circulate a request for SC members to attend the boot camp after the SC meeting.

#### **iii. TNA Collaboration**

- a. LMJ and JW gave a report on the two events that have happened so far. SC members are representing HUK at other events and encouraged to advertise to colleagues.
- iv. **Funders' Meeting**
  - a. JW reported on the annual meeting, hosted at the IHR and supported by the RHS and EHS, including: the issue of the future of the meeting, as funding bodies had stated that they are reluctant to continue to resource this activity; concerns over openness about composition – and constitution – of peer review colleges. The consensus was that the meeting should continue as it provides a valuable means of communication (and openness) between funders and the discipline.
- v. **SHS BAME workshop funding scheme**
  - a. JW and LMJ proposed to support a BAME workshop funding scheme that is being put together by SHS (with support from EHS to be confirmed). This would be administered through the existing SHS small grant scheme. HUK support for this activity was supported by those present. Action: LMJ and JW to follow up with SHS
- vi. **SC meetings**
  - a. LMJ outlined some ideas for making SC meetings more dynamic and responsive, including a speaker at future February meetings. This was agreed.
  - b. The issue of timing was also raised and it was agreed that the meeting would be moved earlier in future (possibly to late January) so as to avoid school half term. This was agreed.
  - c. There was discussion about agenda items, specifically on merging items 10 and 11. The consensus was that HUK should retain reports from the nations (with the addition of regions) but that item 11 could be subsumed under AOB. Action: to be implemented in future minutes.
- vii. **SC membership**
  - a. There was discussion of the need to fill gaps in the membership of the SC. Actions: members were asked to encourage colleagues from subscribing institutions to put themselves forward; JW to contact HoDs to ask for nominations.
- viii. **Questionnaire**
  - a. A questionnaire on the role of SC member was handed out to those present to inform future planning and recruitment of new members. Action: co-convenors to collate results and send out e-survey to those who were unable to attend the meeting; co-convenors to make a version of the survey to send around to HoDs of subscribing institutions gather input into their views on future of the organisation
- ix. **Senate House boycott**
  - a. There was discussion of the current boycott of Senate House. Action: co-convenors would gather more information and circulate to SC for comment.
- x. **Events outside London**
  - a. LMJ raised the issue of HUK holding more events outside London
  - b. AT mentioned that there had been discussion of holding an event in Belfast on public history and/or digital humanities; QUB would be able to provide rooms for free; the co-convenors confirmed that HUK would be able to support this (e.g. by paying for speakers' flights)

- c. ER talked about discussions at Bangor about an event on government-led efforts to place more Welsh history in the curriculum; possibly Welsh government involvement was discussed; it was agreed that HUK should support such an event, possibly with a focus on national history and the school curriculum, possibly with emphases on local history, BAME history, gender history.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

- a. The financial situation of the organisation is healthy and has improved considerably over the past two years;
- b. It was agreed at the last AGM that HUK would look to maintain a reserve of £8000 to enable the organisation to operate for 1 year without income

#### **6. Secretary's Report**

- a. The secretary sent her apologies

#### **7. Education Officer's Report**

- a. The education officer sent his apologies
- b. LMJ outlined plans for an event in Liverpool on 'Empowering the History Curriculum', funded by a teaching award that she won at LJMU (this would be advertised by HUK and badged as a HUK event); there would be a morning of papers with an afternoon of workshops. Action: SC members to send ideas for speakers/workshops to LMJ
- c. The possibility of running an event on HEA fellowships was raised by RH

#### **8. Research Officers Report**

- a. NF noted that the research event in September will focus on impact with practical examples (case studies). Action: SC members to send suggestions to NF and LMJ

#### **9. Media Officer's Report**

- a. JW noted that the website is now fully hosted by the University of Lincoln, which gives HUK more control of content and saves a considerable amount of money.
- b. HUK now has nearly 3000 followers on Twitter
- c. JW and LMJ asked for a volunteer (from SC or for someone to be co-opted onto it) to act as Media Officer now that JW is co-convenor; other options were outlined (e.g. paying a PG student to do the work of updating the blog and tweeting). Action: SC members to contact co-convenors with suggestions for new MO.

#### **10. Reports from**

##### **i. Northern Irish Representatives**

- a. AT outlined issues connected to funding of students by NI government.

##### **ii. Scottish Representatives**

- a. No Scottish reps were present

##### **iii. Welsh Representatives**

- a. ER outlined (1) reduction in no. of students studying history at Welsh institutions (large variations across the sector); (2) the impact of Welsh government funding scheme encouraging students with at least ABB to apply to study outside Wales, with the implication that the best A-Level students are being encouraged to leave Wales.
- b. There was a discussion about how this compared to the situation elsewhere in the UK. A similar situation used to pertain in Northern Ireland until the government changed policy

#### **11. Reports from:**

- a. No reports were received from the following organisations:
  - i. **Historical Association**
  - ii. **Royal Historical Society**
  - iii. **Institute of Historical Research**
  - iv. **History Lab/History Lab Plus**
  - v. **Postgraduate Representative**
  - vi. **ECR Representative**

#### **12. Any other business**

- a. The HUK event in collaboration with British Library Labs will be taking place in Northumbria this year; CA will be organising HUK input
- b. DG noted the impact of Brexit (and resulting threats to OA licences) to various archives, some of which are being withdrawn
- c. LMJ mentioned Plan-S. Actions: (1) LMJ to circulate RHS materials on this to the SC; (2) CA to add item to agenda for next meeting

#### **13. Dates of future meetings**

- a. The next meeting will take place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May at the IHR. The SC will start at 10.30, to be followed in the afternoon by the Job Boot Camp.