

**Draft Minutes of AUPHF Executive Committee Meeting
29 June 2002
Room G 79, 17 Woodland Rd, University of Bristol**

Present: Simon Davies, Charles Forsdick, John Gaffney, Mary Orr, Tim Unwin.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Kate Beeching, Hilary Foottit, Mike Kelly, Margaret Majumdar, Ana de Medeiros, Phil Powrie, Ian Revie, Naomi Segal, Penny Sewell, David Walker, Valerie Worth.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting (9 March 2002)

2.1 Accuracy

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

2.2 Matters arising (not elsewhere on the Agenda)

There were no substantive matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

3. Minutes of AGM

3.1 Matters arising

2.4 – it was agreed that the Association would explore the possibility of organising a further schools event to complement the Employers' Forum held in 2000, allowing discussion of issues relating to secondary and tertiary education. It was felt that focus on the 14-19 curriculum might provide an appropriate subject for such an event.

The introduction of institutional rates was discussed. It was felt that the adjustment of such a rate to account for differing departmental sizes would be excessively complicated as differential rates would prove too complex administratively. Mary Orr suggested that fuller institutional representation would be possible if more departments were to take out Head of Departments' subscriptions. **[ACTION: MO]**

3.2 2003 AGM

It was suggested that the 2003 AGM should be linked to another larger event in London, possibly organized with other relevant organisations.

4. post-RAE symposium, 27 April 2002

The meeting discussed the accounts of the two plenary sessions and the workshops. It was agreed that the website would be used to disseminate latest information on the RAE. Issues relating to the renewal of UK French studies were considered, and Simon Davies drew the

attention of the meeting to the worrying decline of certain areas of expertise. It was agreed that the Association should reflect its commitment to renewal in a mission statement setting out aims for the next few years. In a discussion of plenary 2, the meeting considered the reintroduction of the binary divide in HE, the absorption of UK French studies into European studies and the impact of institutional restructuring on the subject area. Mary Orr reminded the meeting that UK French studies seems to continue to set the agenda for European studies. Tim Unwin added that the Association should stress the distinctiveness of UK French studies while contributing to the representation of languages in general. John Gaffney commented that a mission statement should stress the AUPHF commitment to representing all those working in UK French studies in the University sector and to serving as a forum for information sharing and debate. In the notes on workshop A, the meeting's attention was drawn to the suggestion that the AUPHF should represent research in French to the wider community. Although Tim Unwin suggested that further clarification of this proposal was necessary, John Gaffney commented that the Association might consider preparing press releases in order to develop a higher media profile.

Key issues raised by members at the close of the symposium were considered. It was agreed that AUPHF should endeavour to act as a clearing-house for all information on the next RAE and should make suggestions to HEFCE in relation to the next exercise. It was also agreed that the Association's website might be used to publicise the range and variety of courses currently available in French departments and that Ana de Medeiros should be asked to present a fuller proposal in relation to this to the next meeting of the executive [**ACTION: TAU**]. John Gaffney reminded the meeting that areas of UK French studies are also taught outside French departments.

Mary Orr was thanked for her work in preparing such full minutes of the symposium. Charles Forsdick agreed to finalise the texts relating to the symposium before their posting on the Association's website. [**ACTION: CF**]

5. AUPHF future developments

5.1 Membership

Mary Orr reported that she is currently compiling a list of all members' e-mail addresses and endeavouring to prepare an up-to-date membership list.

5.2 projects and events

This item was discussed above.

6. Treasurer's report

The current balance is healthy (£3110), and the treasurer continues to pursue the subscriptions of those who have not yet paid for 2002. The April event generated funds for the Association, and this would allow the maintenance of expenditure at the current level.

7. Info gathering

7.1 contract research staff

Information would be gathered on numbers of contract research staff in departments.

7.2 supply and replacement teachers

Information on this subject is currently available via the Reading 2001 group website.

7.3 external examiners

John Gaffney requested that the database of information on external examiners should also list those in French departments examining other subjects.

7.4 professorial salaries

Charles Forsdick agreed to contact Alex Hughes about the letter sent to professors when salaries were last surveyed. **[ACTION: CF]**

7.5 staff profiles

Departments should be asked to provide information on age/gender profiles and on details of women in promoted posts.

Charles Forsdick and Mary Orr would continue to confer on information gathering. It was agreed that part of the Association's mission statement should refer to the provision of up-to-date information about the profession. The provision of AUPHF funds to support information gathering would be discussed at the next meeting.

7.6 website

The meeting stressed that the website should continue to serve as an authoritative source of information on the field.

8. AHRB postgraduate review

It was reported that Naomi Segal had sent a reply to the review. Tim Unwin told the meeting that the BA review on postgraduate study was now in a second stage and that a position paper taking account of recommendations had been produced.

9. DfES 14-19 Green Paper

The meeting recorded and endorsed the BA, Nuffield and UCML responses to the Green Paper. The strategic importance of language learning was discussed, and there was concern expressed not only about the possibility of a lost generation of linguists at secondary level but also about the lack of staff available to provide the planned 14-19 curriculum.

10.AOB

Date of next meeting: 26 October 2002. Venue to be confirmed. [**ACTION: CF**]