

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 2 September 2008

University of Edinburgh, UK

Present:

Clive	Archer	Manchester Metropolitan University
Kenneth	Armstrong	Queen Mary, University of London
Martyn	Bond	Royal Holloway
Ferran	Brunet	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Eamonn	Butler	Glasgow
Michelle	Cini	University of Bristol
Judith	Clifton	Universidad de Cantabria
Anne	Corbett	London School of Economics & Political Science
Sue	Davis	UACES
Jenny	Fairbrass	University of Bradford
David	Galbreath	Aberdeen
Ted	Hallett	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Katy	Hayward	Queen's University Belfast
Dermot	Hodson	Birkbeck College
David	Howarth	University of Edinburgh
Ann	Kennard	University of the West of England, Bristol
Stergios	Mavrikis	University of Leeds
Jocelyn	Mawdsley	Newcastle University
Desa	Mlikotin-Tomić	University of Zagreb
Vicki	Morris	Birkbeck College
William	Paterson	University of Birmingham
Frands	Pedersen	University of Westminster
John	Peterson	University of Edinburgh
David	Phinnemore	Queen's University Belfast
Yolana	Pringle	UACES
Antonio	Raimundo	London School of Economics & Political Science
Jim	Rollo	JCMS / University of Sussex
Jo	Shaw	University of Edinburgh
Stijn	Smismans	Cardiff University
Mike	Smith	Loughborough University
Albrecht	Sonntag	ESSCA, Angers, France
Malin	Stegmann McCallion	Aberystwyth University
Fabro	Steibel	University of Leeds
Anne	Stevens	Aston University
Handley	Stevens	London School of Economics & Political

Graham	Timmins	Science
Alex	Warleigh-Lack	University of Stirling
Richard	Whitman	Brunel University
Kamil	Zwolski	University of Bath
		University of Salford

Apologies

Amelia	Hadfield	University of Kent
Nieves	Pérez-Solórzano	University of Bristol

- 1 Minutes of AGM held on 4 September 2007 in Portsmouth** **Action**
- a) The minutes were approved and signed.
- 2 Matters Arising**
- a) There were no matters arising.
- 3 Officers' and Executive Director's Reports** (all Reports tabled and available on the website)
- Chair's Report**
- a) UACES had been recognised as the largest ECSA in the world.
- b) Several new initiatives were launched, such as the Media Prize.
- c) The financial situation of UACES had been healthy. However, many funding streams were being reduced, including those supporting ECSAs worldwide. The Officers and Committee were to work on further strategies for financial health in the future. OFs & Comm
- Treasurer's Report**
- d) UACES was in a strong and healthy financial position. However, there was uncertainty over European Commission funding.
- e) The main streams of funding remained strong, including publications, journals and membership.
- f) All members were urged to actively recruit new members. ALL
- g) UACES had been looking to launch a new journal, which could further buttress the financial situation.
- h) The composition of UACES membership was discussed. The Executive Director noted that over 1/3rd of members came from outside the UK and 2/3rds of members from within. The Treasurer then stated that while UK membership was stable the number of members based outside the UK was rising.
- i) The new journal was discussed. The Treasurer stated that UACES was still in the process of planning and negotiating. The title was almost agreed upon and a call would be made to publishers for tender by the end of 2008. The journal was also intended to be a practitioner and teaching journal. The Chair then noted that the proposal was for a journal which would feature various kinds of pieces of interest to practitioners and which could be used in teaching at a range of levels. It was hoped that the journal would appeal to students from outside of the European Union who required accessible information. The Chair continued by saying that the call for expressions of interest by publishers was the end of October, and that so far there had been some good responses in meetings with publishers. The title of the journal was to be something which sounded relevant and contemporary, and the frequency of publication was expected to be quarterly.
- Secretary's Report**
- j) The Chair asked for questions on the Secretary's Report. There were none.
- Executive Director's Report**
- k) The total number of members was over 1000, of which 38% were from outside the UK.
- l) All members were urged to take new membership flyers for distribution.
- m) The website had been regularly updated and would be revamped soon.
- n) The promotional strategy for Expert on Europe was in two parts: a) to

- encourage users to update their details, and b) to attract new users.
- o) The e-mail list had seen a lot of traffic but remained manageable due to certain restrictions over content.
 - p) The Executive Director reminded everyone that the newsletter was one of the ways in which members could promote courses and publications. ALL
 - q) UACES had been looking to expand the newsletter, in terms of structure and content.
 - r) Thanks were extended to the Officers, as well as to Luke Foster and Yolana Pringle.

4 **JCMS Report**

- a) The editorial board was changing and thanks were extended to Ray Barrell.
- b) William Paterson was standing down as editor on the political side and Dan Wincott had been invited to take his place.
- c) An electronic archive going back to 1962 had been completed and it was hoped that this would offer an opportunity for people to look at the development of EU studies as a discipline. The archive could be accessed through the JCMS website.

5 **JCER Report**

- a) The journal had nearly 1000 registered readers.
- b) The schedule plan for 2009 was to be four issues and everything has been running smoothly.
- c) A competition had been run in 2008 and the winner was to be announced at the conference dinner in the evening.

6 **Contemporary European Studies (CES) Report**

- a) Apologies were given by Michelle Cini for her two co-editor colleagues.
- b) Everything had been running smoothly and seven books had now been published.
- c) Only two books had been published in paperback, but there were plans to move forward with others if they proved popular.
- d) When the book series was set up the aim was to publish 3-4 books per year. That target had been reached and had perhaps moved beyond it.
- e) Although proposals were arriving at a regular rate, all members were encouraged to spread the word about the series. ALL
- f) Routledge was unavailable to comment on book sales.

7 **Student Forum Report**

- a) The Student Forum had organised two successful conferences. It had been hoped that the April conference would have had more attendance but it was still successful and delegates went away with a good impression of Kent.
- b) The Student Forum was looking for a host for the next conference and urged members to get in touch if they were willing.
- c) The speaker noted that the next conference would be in November at the EU Commission Office and urged research students to attend. ALL
- d) Members were reminded that nominations for four posts were now being sought. ALL

8 **Standing Conference of Heads of European Studies**

- a) The Chair asked members for comments on the SCHES report.
- b) The Executive Director added that SCHES would be having a Committee meeting in the middle of September and that any changes would be reported in the UACES newsletter.
- c) A question was raised regarding the fall in the number of European Studies departments and its effect on UACES membership. The Chair noted that SCHES was a separate organisation and that UACES membership was healthy, even increasing. The Chair also stated that the effect of the decline of European Studies departments was being seen more in publicity terms, as it was harder to advertise through departments. A comment was made from the floor which noted that fewer students were studying modern languages in schools, so fewer were studying the European Union. Those who may have gone into European Studies departments were tending to move into Politics and History. However, the rise of International Relations as a discipline meant that a lot of people were still interested in UACES.

9 Future Programme

- a) The Chair urged members to submit ideas of ways in which UACES could develop, whether they be extra activities or improvements to services, websites and newsletters. Members were also encouraged to think about the future programme for UACES as a whole. The Special Interest groups suggested by David Galbreath were given as an example of a recent initiative.
- b) The future programme of the conference was discussed, with the possibility of a four day programme suggested. The Chair noted that as the number of members was growing it was increasingly difficult to house all papers and presenters. Moving to a four day programme would raise costs to members and UACES, but would provide an opportunity to extend activities, such as the networking of Special Interest groups. A comment was made from the floor suggesting two two-day conferences, one in the Spring and one in the Summer. This would allow for greater focusing of papers.

10 Any Other Business

- a) The Treasurer stated that earlier this year the Committee decided to introduce a new membership structure. From 1 January 2009 rates for individuals will be: £40 for one year, £75 for two years, and £105 for three years. All members were urged to take advantage of these discounts. ALL
- b) Finally, the Chair welcomed Amelia Hadfield to the position of Secretary and thanked the outgoing Secretary, Nieves, for all her hard work.