

CHUDE Annual Report to RES Executive Committee for 2013-14

There have, as usual, been two full meetings this year: on 1st November 2013 at UCL and on 7th April 2014, at the RES Conference held in Manchester (University of Manchester); and two Steering Group (SG) meetings both at UCL on 1st March 2014 and 27th September 2014.

With the submissions to REF 2014 completed at the end of 2013, 2013-14 has been a relatively quiet year for CHUDE. The most significant items discussed at meetings have been the Economics Network (EN), which this year will provide its own report to the RES Executive Committee, and developments with regards to Open Access.

Economics Network (EN)

Notwithstanding the independent EN report this year, there are four items which may be of more general interest to the RES:

- (i) The HEA is starting a 'kitemark' light touch accreditation process and the Economics Network may be used as a pilot, which would reduce cost. This should be coupled by an endorsement by the Royal Economic Society and the Scottish Economic Society.
- (ii) The Economics Network is developing workshops in continental Europe as an additional income stream with a pilot planned for Summer 2015 in Hamburg.
- (iii) The first issue of *The Economic Review* run by the EN has been published. The *Review* is happy for RES to put its name on the cover and have some space, which it is hoped may help the RES to reach out more to school audiences.
- (iv) Robin Naylor and Eric Pentecost now represent the RES and CHUDE, respectively, on the Management Board of the EN, replacing John Beath and Neil Rickman.

Open Access

- Open Access has been an issue that has been discussed at some length by CHUDE following the Finch Report. CHUDE has prepared responses to three successive consultations which have been submitted as a CHUDE/RES response.
- Daniel Zizzo has prepared and continues to update a spreadsheet on the HEFCE open access compliance status of Economics journals. The need for HEFCE compliance of Economics journals when coupled with this tool is proving useful to put pressure on publishers to allow green open access. Most significantly with Elsevier changing (or at least 'clarifying') its policy and making most of its journals HEFCE compliant via the green route. There remain, however, reputable Elsevier journals, most notably the *European Economic Review* and the *International Journal of Forecasting*, that are still not HEFCE compliant via the green route. Both have been recently written to.

EAJG Journals Ranking

- The Steering Committee reiterated the long-standing CHUDE/RES policy that it is not willing to endorse any list and agreed to recommend the CHUDE Full Meeting against CHUDE being listed as being consulted, due to the lack of control on how this would be portrayed and the possible misunderstandings that could result from this. Further agreed to recommend that a statement that no journal ranking is endorsed by CHUDE be circulated once the EAJG journal ranking is published.

Other Matters

- I have been chairing the QAA Economics Benchmarking panel. The final updated document is due out at the end of the year and is likely to include additional paragraphs on employability skills and the need for economics to be taught within an historical and empirical policy context.
- I attended the GSR External Liaison Group meeting at HM Treasury on 13 May and will attend the second meeting for 2014 on 18 November.
- I attended a British Academy meeting in April at which the ESRC and the Humanities Research Council talked about their plans for research funding, including Big Data (see below).
- Paul Meller (ESRC) gave a presentation on Big Data to CHUDE at the 2014 RES Conference. The ESRC has a £64m budget to support Big Data and wishes to encourage the use of the Big Data infrastructure that is being generated. Key challenges and opportunities relate to exploitation, capacity, methods, cross-disciplinary working, developing relationships with new data owners, combining and linking, privacy, ethics and security, public engagement. The announcement of Phase 3 has been delayed and its precise timing will depend on the outcome of the scoping exercise, but should be made by the end of 2014. There will be training courses available from the Big Data network.
- Over the past year the high level of interaction between CHUDE and practitioners in the GES and Bank of England has continued. This has been significantly aided by Charlie Bean's attendance at CHUDE Steering Group meetings and the hope is that this level of interaction will continue.

Eric Pentecost (Chair of CHUDE)

October 2014