

ROYAL ECONOMIC SOCIETY

CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENTS OF ECONOMICS

MINUTES OF CHUDE MEETING

CHUDE Committee Meeting

Tuesday 18th April 2006

11.00am Start

Venue: Gallery 1

First Floor (Overlooking Atrium)
East Midland Conference Centre
RES Conference
University of Nottingham

1. Apologies.

1.1 Received: and noted on list of attendees.

2. Minutes of CHUDE Meeting of 12th November 2005.

2.1 The minutes of the November meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters arising and not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

3.1 There were no matters arising from the chair, and none raised from the floor.

4. Minutes of CHUDE Steering Committee Meeting of 4th March 2006 (for information only).

4.1 Steering Committee Minutes were received by the meeting without comment.

5. CHUDE Committee Memberships

5.1 Denise announced that after consultations and discussions, Steering Committee recommended that Neil Rickman become Chair of CHUDE and Tim Worrall become Secretary of CHUDE from 1st January 2007 till 31st December 2009. This was agreed unanimously by the meeting. Denise also announced that under the self nomination procedure, Kevin Reilly and Nancy Devlin had joined the Steering Committee.

6. RAE 2008

6.1 David Greenaway addressed the meeting and set out the current state of play with RAE 2008 following the publication of criteria and working methods in January. He indicated that the role of the international users remained unclear. A discussion followed on a number of issues:- what does 4* mean; how will maternity leave be dealt with; problem of a quality profile for esteem; "forthcoming" papers; do PhD students need to be linked to research active staff.

6.2 Following the announcement in the budget that RAE 2008 would be the last RAE and that the government was keen to introduce a simple metric to allocate QR funds, John Beath and David Hendry outlined some of the issues raised by the policy document. It was clear that the metric proposed in the document (based on research income) had weaknesses and would have adverse consequences for social sciences, so it was agreed that a small

group would respond to the forthcoming consultation exercise on these new proposals. John Sutton indicated that this issue should also be discussed by the RES Executive Committee. The group would include John Sutton, John Beath, David Hendry, Denise Osborn, Neil Rickman and coordinated by Alan Carruth.

- 6.3 Given the issue of metrics in 6.2, Tim Worrall talked to his paper on some of the issues that need to be addressed if suitable metrics of research quality like citations are to be developed. John Sutton was keen to support further work to develop these ideas and it is likely that the RES would provide some financial support. It was agreed that discussions would continue on how to take this forward.

7. RES Matters

- 7.1 John Sutton reported that the Job Market event had been successful with 17 UK and 8 Continental European Institutions participating. Unfortunately it had been necessary to reject a fair number of job market papers as only 100 could be accommodated. A survey of the students who took part was imminent, and in future John hoped that it would be feasible to accommodate a greater proportion of the students who submitted papers. The job market next year would take place in January at LSE. He also reported that the EEA had decided not to set up a potentially competing job market event.

8. ESRC Matters

- 8.1 David Bell discussed the potential developments from the Demographic Review published earlier in the year. He believed that Ian Diamond sees it as a critical document for the development of ESRC policy. Economics is seen as a research intensive discipline and so has been favoured with additional resources, including studentships, for the short term. The consultants for a review of the 1+3 studentships have been commissioned, and there is to be a review of the Recognition exercise. David believes it likely that different solutions for different disciplines may emerge.
- 8.2 Denise raised the issue of the international benchmarking exercise which was kicking off with Social Anthropology followed by Politics and then Economics. Once again CHUDE would need to keep a watching brief on this.

9. CHUDE Issues

- 9.1 The subject benchmarking revision was circulated and colleagues were invited to raise any issues with the Secretary before final submission to QAA.
- 9.2 The bibliometrics paper was taken under item 6 of the Agenda.

10. HEFCE Issues

- 10.1 Denise reported that the response to the HEFCE funding consultation was submitted in January 2006, and circulated to members. There were no other issues raised.

11. The Economics Network

- 11.1 John Sloman presented his report on the activities of the group, in particular advertising their staff and GTA workshops, and the student film productions. Killian Ryan spoke about his involvement in the FDTL5 projects and that they were ready to visit departments to help with implementing the embedding of WinEcon in teaching and learning.

12. GES

- 12.1 Andy Ross reported that Philip Arestis is now the GES External Advisor on CPD, other externals will also be sought. The GES is inputting to the A-Level curriculum debate. Nick Stern is keen to promote the GES requirements for economics recruits through

engagement with the HE sector. Andy would be happy to field any enquiries on these matters.

13. **BOE**

13.1 It was reported that Karen Dury would address the November meeting of CHUDE.

14. **Any Other Business**

14.1 There was no other business raised with the meeting.

15 **Dates of Future Meetings:**

CHUDE Steering Meeting: Saturday 30th September 2006

Full CHUDE Meeting: Saturday 4th November 2006