

ROYAL ECONOMIC SOCIETY

CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENTS OF ECONOMICS

MINUTES OF CHUDE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

CHUDE Steering Committee Meeting
Saturday 30th September 2006
10.30am for 11.00am

Venue: Room H705 Connaught House
London School of Economics,
Houghton Street,
London WC2A 2AE (switchboard phone no. – 020 7405 7686).

Present: Denise Osborn (Chair); David Blackaby; Alan Carruth; Vincent Daly; Neil Rickman; Kevin Reilly; Tim Worrall

1. Apologies.

1.1 Received from David Bell, Nancy Devlin, Simon Parker, Richard Portes, John Sloman, John Sutton.

2. Minutes of CHUDE Steering Committee Meeting of 4th March 2006.

2.1 The minutes of the meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

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

3.1 There were no matters arising.

4. Minutes of CHUDE Meeting of 18th April 2006 (for information only).

5. CHUDE Steering Committee Membership

5.1 Mark Harrison had indicated his willingness to join the Steering Committee. The meeting agreed to put forward Mark's name to the full meeting, inviting him to join CHUDE Steering Committee for a three year period from 1st January 2007. Denise reported that after discussions with Neil she would remain on the Steering Committee until December 2007.

6. RAE 2008

6.1 There was an informal discussion of some issues relating to RAE 2008 in connection with forthcoming papers and research supervisors / research students. However, it was noted that the criteria and working methods have been published and no further advice can be published by the sub-panels.

7. RES Matters

- 7.1 It was reported that the January job market was underway, organised by Oliver Linton. There was some concern that a number of HODs had not been informed of this year's event. *Action: Alan to check details and circulate to HODs.*
- 7.2 David Blackaby reported that the Women's Committee had agreed to commission a new survey of Departments along similar lines as in the past, but using a new questionnaire that Alan Manning had put forward.

8. ESRC Matters

- 8.1 Denise reported that the ESRC 1 + 3 consultation response had been submitted to Jonathan Spencer. A discussion ensued on the working of the open competition this year in the light of the new quota system for studentships. David Blackaby reported some dissatisfaction with the new allocations, and it was agreed to raise this with the full CHUDE membership in November. *Action: David to brief the full meeting.*
- 8.2 It was agreed that David Mills, a member of the 1 + 3 consultation team, be invited to the November meeting to discuss some of the issues that have arisen in the consultation. *Action: Denise to contact David.*
- 8.3 It was agreed that Carol Propper be asked to contribute to the April meeting of CHUDE on issues concerning research grants board, impact of fEC, etc.. *Action: Denise will approach Carol.*
- 8.4 The state of play of the international benchmarking exercise for Economics was raised. *Action: It was agreed that Denise would discuss the matter informally with Iain Jones at ESRC and report to the November meeting.*

9. CHUDE Issues

- 9.1 The draft Benchmarking statement has been released by QAA, and we await to hear of any issues raised by colleagues.
- 9.2 Denise reported that an online response had been submitted to the British Academy's funding consultation, and to the ESRC's consultation on the DfES consultation on post RAE funding (see 10, and note that the two consultations are on the same subject).

10. HEFCE Issues

- 10.1 A draft response to the DfES post RAE funding consultation had been circulated and colleagues were given until the end of the week to provide any further input they may have on this document, which has to be submitted to HEFCE by 13th October.

11. The Economics Network

- 11.1 As John Sloman was unable to attend the meeting, Alan would liaise with him regarding any issues for the November meeting.

12. GES

- 12.1 Sue Holloway or Andy Ross may want to brief the November meeting on any new GES issues. Denise wished to raise some issues with Sue concerning the format of the RES – GES Open days. *Action: Denise would liaise with Sue.*

13. BOE

- 13.1 The discussion of this item led to the proposal that the November meeting might like to consider whether CHUDE should be identifying a wider range of groups to take part in our full meetings; for example the DTI, CBI, TUC, etc.. *Action: Item to be put on the November Agenda.*
- 13.2 Neil raised the issue that the Bank now appeared to be using A-levels to screen placement students, which he felt was harsh on students who had raised their academic game at University. It was suggested that this might be raised informally with Karen Dury. *Action: Alan to clarify the matter with Karen.*

14. Any Other Business

- 14.1 The issue of a venue for future meetings was raised. Alan reminded the meeting that John Sutton had indicated that LSE would be happy to continue to offer this support.

15 Dates of Future Meetings:

Full CHUDE Meeting, Saturday 4th November 2006 and Wednesday 11th April 2007 (RES Warwick)

Tim and Neil to liaise on future steering meeting dates; one of which will need to be a steering meeting in early March 2007