

RES CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENTS OF ECONOMICS

MINUTES OF CHUDE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

CHUDE Steering Committee Meeting
Saturday 19th February 2005
10.30am for 11.00am

Venue: Room A698 (meeting switched to A588 on the day)
London School of Economics,
Houghton Street,
London WC2A 2AE (switchboard phone no. – 020 7405 7686).

Present: Denise Osborn (Chair); John Beath; David Bell; David Blackaby; Alan Carruth;
Vincent Daly; Simon Parker; Neil Rickman; John Sloman; John Sutton, Tim Worrall

Welcome – Denise welcomed our new members to the Steering Committee

1. Apologies.

1.1 Received from Richard Portes

2. Minutes of CHUDE Steering Committee Meeting of 2nd October 2004.

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 Denise raised the issue of the Department autonomy survey and suggested that we put some information on the Web page. Other current issues meant that the organisational models for economics had not yet been further explored. *Action: Denise and Alan would correspond on a suitable document for the web.*

4. Minutes of CHUDE Meeting of 13th November 2004 (for information only).

5. CHUDE Steering Committee Membership

5.1 The issue of a women's committee member joining the steering group remains unresolved. There was more general discussion of the difficulties being experienced by the Women's Committee in attracting nominations for membership, from which a proposal emerged that CHUDE might be able to help. *Action: Denise would speak to Jane Humphries.*

6. RAE 2008

6.1 It was agreed to invite both David Greenaway (chair of Economics and Econometrics sub-panel) and Mike Pidd (chair of Business and Management sub-panel) to the full CHUDE meeting at the RES conference. *Action: Denise would contact Mike and David.*

6.2 Members of the steering committee raised a number of issues about the how the working practices of the RAE sub-panels would evolve and Denise explained the current timetable. One problem is that the consultation exercise on the draft criteria and working methods is due to take place over the summer, so it may be necessary to convene the full CHUDE meeting in September or have a special meeting exclusively focussed on the RAE. Concern was expressed about metrics, weighting of environment and esteem, parity between sub-panels, and how young economists would be treated, etc.. *Action: David and Mike would be asked to make a short presentation to the CHUDE meeting, with a longer period allowed for questions. The proposal for holding a full CHUDE meeting in September will be put to the March meeting.*

7. RES Job Market Proposal

7.1 John Sutton had circulated a paper setting out a possible format for an RES job market to take place in late January on an annual basis. It was agreed that John should present the proposal to the full CHUDE membership by writing to all heads of affiliated departments. There was also a suggestion that the ESRC might be interested in supporting this venture, possibly through the RTSG. *Action: John Sutton would take the matter forward.*

8. ESRC Matters

8.1 David Bell reported on the latest news regarding studentships following the successful survey he carried out through CHUDE in December. His feeling is that our case has been heeded and we can expect some improvements in studentships and stipends to be announced in due course. The ESRC has decided to also carry out demographic reviews of other social science subjects along the lines of the Economics survey. There are a number of other matters also under review like Quota arrangements, and the problem of drop out rates after the first year of the 1 + 3 scheme, especially in economics. It was felt that ESRC may need to consider specific discipline based rules if it was to have much chance of changing the culture of MSc training in Economics; and a key focus would need to be on funding the +3 phase of the PhD. *Action: As Ian Diamond is to address the CHUDE meeting in March, David Bell would liaise with Denise and Alan over the issues that Ian might be invited to address.*

8.2 The ESRC is still to publish the outcome of its strategic review which CHUDE contributed to in Summer 2004. It was reported that a Bibliometrics project is planned and has gone out to tender. *Action: Issues to be discussed with Ian Diamond at the March CHUDE meeting might also cover these issues.*

9. CHUDE Issues

9.1 It was reported that Richard Portes had agreed that CHUDE could directly access the Blackwell's web team, provided Eleanor was kept in the loop about our requests.

10. HEFCE –Transparency Review and fEC

10.1 John Sutton reported on his discussion with Robert May and Gus O'Donnell, and how our concerns about fEC could be taken forward. A key issue was the impact on QR funding in the future though it was protected under Phase 1, as was (hopefully) the volume of research grants. It is clear that certain beliefs and assumptions about the effects of fEC on academia

in some policy circles need to be engaged vigorously. *Action: John Sutton would continue to discuss this matter with the relevant parties.*

11. GES and BOE

11.1 There was nothing to report.

12. QAA and The Economics Network

12.1 There was an outstanding invitation to the project leaders of FDTL5 to address the full CHUDE meeting. Given the growing agenda for this meeting, it was agreed to hold this session at 11.30am on Monday 21st March with a view to getting the discussion of other issues under way by 12 at the latest. *Action: John Sloman would liaise with the project leaders to try and organise their participation. Alan would announce to members the new starting time of 11.30 for the CHUDE meeting.*

12.2 John Sloman also reported on the success of the Why Study Economics project, and the positive feedback from The Economic Network's student survey.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 Concern was expressed about the complexity of the survey on Gender/Ethnicity issues. It was reported that Alan Manning had suggested a simpler format for the survey, and it was hoped that this could be used to improve the response rate in a follow up.

13.2 John Sutton suggested that at the Women's Committee reception at the RES Conference some video clips might be shown from students praising their economic degree studies, with these students identified from the Economics Network student survey. *Action John Sloman to raise this possibility with Jane and Romesh.*

14. Dates of Future Meetings:

Full CHUDE Meeting, Monday 21st March 2005, (note: agreed an 11.30 start at RES Nottingham at the 19.02.05 Steering Meeting)).

CHUDE Steering Committee 8th October 2005 (LSE).

Full CHUDE Meeting, Saturday 12th November 2005 (LSE) [note: may need a special meeting in September or full CHUDE brought forward]