



AGM of the Association of Hispanists of GB & Ireland
XFI Building, Henderson Lecture Theatre, University of Exeter
6.15pm-7.45pm, Tuesday 14th April 2015

Chair: Trevor Dadson

Minutes: Sarah Wright

Committee: Tilmann Altenberg (Treasurer); Chris Harris (Conference Secretary); Duncan Wheeler (Membership Secretary); Sally Faulkner (Dorothy Severin Sherman Award); Isabel Torres (President-incumbent), Geoff West (Aclaiir and British Library); Tom Whittaker (Postgraduate); Mel Boland (Irish Representative), Lesley Twomey (UCML).

Apologies: Mike Thompson, (Webmaster); Stephanie Dennison (Luso-Brazilian Studies).

1. President's Welcome (TD)	TD welcomed everyone present to the AGM of the Annual AHGBI conference held this year in Exeter and confirmed that the meeting was quorate.	
2. Apologies (TD)	Mike Thompson (Webmaster); Stephanie Dennison (Luso-Brazilian Studies).	
3. Minutes of AGM Galway 2014	These were confirmed as a true record and signed.	

4. Matters arising		
5. Presentation of eulogies	Eulogies were presented for Dr Norman Lamb (by Prof Phil Swanson) Prof John Macklin (by Prof Nick Round) and Dr Michael Wood (by Dr Barry Taylor)	
6. Chair's Business a) Report from meeting of Trustees	<p>TD explained about the changes to the Constitution put to the Charities Commission under 2: The objects are 'to advance education for the public benefit in Great Britain and Ireland in the languages of the Iberian Peninsula (including Spanish, Portuguese, Catalan, Basque and Galician), and those cultures associated with them throughout the world'.</p> <p>Under 3, (1) (a), add to the category of ordinary members, '(provided that they had a minimum period of residence of three consecutive years in Great Britain and Ireland during which they were affiliated to a research institution)';</p> <p>16 (1) 'the web-based consultation is not a substitute for the AGM but an additional tool for consulting members'. These changes were approved and SW would present these to the Charities Commission for their approval.</p> <p>Reporting to the Charities Commission. The year, with regard to reporting, would run from 1st May to 30th April with reports submitted in July. Interim reports could then be submitted to the AGM in April for approval.</p>	
b) 60 th Anniversary Fund Appeal	TD officially launched the 60 th Anniversary Fund Appeal and outlined the new ventures that might be initiated to support ECRs, Senior members and all other members with increased funds. The Anniversary Fund is linked to 60th anniversary of AHGBI. We suggest to members that they donate a minimum of £60 per year / £5 per month and link it to Gift Aid Declaration. TA would circulate details through the Hispanist's list prior to the conference to prepare members. An online form might be designed for members who don't attend conference.	MT to be asked to look into online form.
c) Spanish Embassy Office for Cultural and Scientific Affairs	TD explained his plans for a 'convenio de colaboración' with OCSA which, it was hoped, would strengthen ties and funding possibilities with the Spanish Embassy.	

d) REAH	TD had met with the Presidents of the Red Europea de Asociaciones de Hispanistas. The AHGBI would host the second meeting of the REAH at the Exeter conference. We looked forward to collaborating with our European partners on funding bids and other matters of common interest.	
e) History of the Association	TD reminded members that Ann Frost was compiling a history of the Association and asked Heads to get in touch with Ann to provide information if they had not yet done so.	
7. Secretary's Report	In future SW would present an interim report at the AGM to be submitted to the Charities Commission on the year's activities.	
8. Treasurer's Report	<p>Last year's major task was to move from payment by standing order and cheque to direct debit + Gift Aid. At present 224 members are set up for payment by direct debit = more than 50% (total paid out by 9 April 2015: £5,600; fees 1% = £56).</p> <p>Contained in these numbers: chasing up of defaulting conference speakers: £1,600. DD easy to track and collect, all online; members can cancel online at any time. 205 members paid their membership subscription for 2014-15 by standing order or individual bank transfer (£5,000). 23 of these have since moved to DD. 30-odd payments cannot be linked to the membership database or chased up, either because no entry could be located (10), or because the identity of the payments' originator is unclear (18), or because they have no email (1). Around 150 of these have been underpaying their subscription (approximate amount of outstanding membership subscription payments since 2013-14: £1,500). Payment by PayPal: £770 (Irish and some overseas members, incl. one-off payments for conference speakers not eligible for membership). Payment by cheque negligible: some institutions (e.g. Cambridge for library staff). Approximate paying membership (including those still not fully paid up): 375. Gift Aid: So far 56 signed declarations received; this corresponds to c. £500 in tax return once claimed.</p>	

	<p>Auditing of accounts</p> <p>Although not a legal requirement for charities with a yearly income of up to £25,000, we commissioned an Independent Examiner's Report on our accounts (attached)</p> <p>Documents inspected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Balance sheet - Complete set of bank statements - Complete list of all movements in and out of AHGBI accounts <p>Report follows procedures laid down in the Charities Act</p> <p>Key phrase: "No matter has come to my attention to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached"; i.e. the accounts are in order</p> <p>Balance sheet (attached)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moderate deficit, but overall healthy financial situation - Significant liabilities (worst-case scenario): unlike in previous years, the Spanish Embassy is unlikely to renew PG support at the same level - Deposit bond of £25,000 has now been added to current account - Costs for trustees and members of executive committee have gone up significantly: mostly travel and conference fees (Westminster HE Forum) - PG support has increased considerably 	
9. Membership Secretary's Report	<p>In terms of the database, 30 new people had joined last year. The membership was around 400 members. Regarding the database, the issue is that the username is currently the member's e-mail address, and we need a search function that can be done by their name and membership number. Non-paying members would be purged by a certain date.</p> <p>In the future, non-members may only give a paper at the conference if invited to form part of a panel formed by a member (maximum of one per panel).</p>	

10. Conference Secretary's Report	<p>The conference had been a huge success in all aspects. There were 300 delegates and 112 papers being given. There were also three plenaries, including a journalists' session, and this model looks likely to be adopted for future conferences. CH thanked SF and her team as well as Jonathan Bradbury and Kathryn Murphy and Jenny Hickman and the student helpers. Their work had been exceptional on behalf of the AHGBI.</p> <p>TD extended his thanks to CH.</p>	
11. Webmaster's Report	<p>Small improvements have been made to the website, including the addition of a listing of blogs and websites of research groups involving members of the Association. Members are reminded that publications and projects can be publicized on the site: for recently published books, log in and complete the 'New books by Hispanists' form; for big funded research projects and blogs or networks, just send MT a brief description and weblink.</p> <p>Some of the pages on the site have been translated into Spanish and Portuguese, and will be available in Catalan.</p> <p>The searchable Directory of Hispanists now contains only members of the AHGBI. Members are urged to update their profiles with details of their research interests. MT intends to set up a list of departments/sections of Hispanic/Lusophone/Latin American Studies, with links to their websites.</p> <p>Work on the administrative side of the website is ongoing, with the intention of making it easier to track membership. A facility for conducting online ballots of the membership via the website has also been developed (implementation subject to a decision on the validity of this kind of voting system).</p>	

12. PG Officer's Report	<p>£250 AHGBI conference grants: Elisangela Franco (Queen's Belfast) Rhannon McGlade (UCL) Sara Naylor (Leicester) Richard Ryan (RHUL) Sophie Louise Stevens (KCL) Charlotte Fereday (KCL) Maite Usoz de la Fuente (KCL) Nicola Astudillo-Jones (Manchester)</p> <p>Annual AHGBI Research Travel Award for Graduate Students (£500 each): Alisa Peate (Liverpool)</p> <p>AHGBI/Embassy Postgraduate Conference Grants (£500 each) <i>1st round : September - March 2014-2015:</i> Jennie Rothwell (Trinity) Jesús Sanjurjo Ramos (Leeds) <i>2nd: round: April - September 2015</i> Deadline has been extended until 10 April</p> <p>Valentina Guevara Prize Deadline was 31 March. Two submissions are presently with the family.</p> <p>AHGBI Publication Prizes Lindsay Kerr (Tamesis), Mar Diestro-Dópidio (Legenda)</p> <p><i>Runners-up prizes:</i> Beatriz Tadeo Fuica (Tamesis), Elizabeth Ramírez Soto</p>	
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13. ACLAIIR	<p>Since the last meeting of the Executive Committee (Oct. 2014), ACLAIIR - with PiLAS - has held the annual introduction to Latin American Studies in London (7/11/14) at the British Library aimed at new postgraduates.</p> <p>The seminar at the next annual meeting will be devoted to trends in research and resources for Portuguese and Portuguese African Studies (British Library, 22/06/15).</p> <p>The question of continuing with mutual observer status between ACLAIIR and AHGBI was raised, prompted by the retirement of the current Co-Chair, Geoff West, from the British Library. It was proposed to discuss this at the autumn meeting of the Executive Committee which GW is able to attend.</p>	TA and SW to agree dates.
14. DSS Fellowship	<p>Following a request from Prof Ann Davies, President of WISPS, the deadline for applications would be changed to 1st May to allow for candidates to present papers either at AHGBI or WISPS conference.</p> <p>SF would add to the criteria that the report should be supplied 'within 12 months of the end of the fellowship' and that the conference costs would form part of the award.</p>	SF to take this forward
15. ABIL/Luso-Brazilian Studies	Nothing to report.	
16. Irish Representation	Nothing to report.	

17. British Library	<p>The proposed cuts outlined in the report to the October 2014 meeting of the Committee have been implemented in order to meet the Government's spending reductions by 04/2015. These have seriously affected European Studies and American Studies which have been combined as European & American Collections. European has lost 4.5 posts (2.5 in West European; 2 in East European). The posts of Heads of French, Hispanic and Italian Studies have been replaced by a single post, Head of Romance Collections. Management reprieved the Latin American post in American Collections, which had initially been identified as a saving. This leaves 1 post each for Iberia and Latin America. Essentials will be done (selection, enquiries), but less will be done in terms of exploitation of the collections: digitization, exhibitions, events etc., unless proposals make provision for appropriate additional funding. This was GW's final report. Library would, in the future, be taken over by Barry Taylor. TD thanks GW for his hard work over many years for the Association.</p>	
18. UCML	<p>Vice Chair (Language and Intercultural Education) is standing down, following his appointment as PVC at Salford. The call for nominations is presently up on the UCML website http://ucml.ac.uk</p> <p>It would be good to have a Hispanist stand for the post as the present Steering group only has myself and my term is due to end next year.</p> <p>HEFCE financial support for PGT students starting in 2015/16. The issue has been raised with HEFCE that a high proportion of 2015 ML graduates will be excluded from the scheme because they entering HE under the former fee regime. It is not clear whether the new scheme to be brought in for 2016 will be restricted to certain designated disciplines. The Chair had a meeting arranged with HEFCE at which these points were to be raised.</p> <p>British Academy report, <i>Building a Stronger Future</i> has been launched.</p> <p>UCML is shortly to undertake a REF survey to gauge experiences for staff entered or not entered to the REF. It was agreed to distribute the survey to both ML departments and to subject associations to gauge wider perspectives.</p> <p>The UCAS stats have been extracted for Modern Languages. They are available on the web and make grim reading.</p> <p>UCML is running a pre-election campaign. HEIs' twitter feeds are being pulled together, curated on 'Storify' and then being redistributed to bring languages up the</p>	

	<p>political parties' agendas. To make some noise about languages, use #ucml or #language policy uk. Key themes:</p> <p>18 April How can languages contribute to social cohesion?</p> <p>25 April What does a global graduate need?</p> <p>2 May What does the future of language learning look like?</p> <p>UCML is consistently using Europe House which the European Commission has offered free of charge for meetings in order to keep fees down. We are also in-sourcing tasks previously undertaken by the Southampton team to keep cost down. We have raised the institution subscription to £200 but association continue to pay £100.</p> <p>Information from other subject associations:</p> <p>Initial teacher training. Issues around recruitment of graduates with 2 languages to ITT were reported and also that many institutions are recruiting abroad to make up the shortfall. Continuing difficulties with School Direct were also reported.</p> <p>Italian Studies. Now has a 'Choose Italian' campaign up and running which is supported by the Italian Embassy to match the Think German campaign which has been running for some years.</p> <p>Language teaching. Following the initial survey on language teaching in French, German Spanish, a direct approach had been made by ABIL about having a dedicated survey about Portuguese and this is now being developed.</p> <p>HEA no longer has Fil Nereo in post nor a dedicated Languages person, as HEFCE is now organized in a cross-disciplinary way. Languages are supported by HEA through IWLP and also have a presence though the new internationalizing HE framework agenda where they should contribute. Accreditation for language strands in degree programmes is part of the Newcastle Catalyst bid.</p> <p>Routes into Languages is due to end in Summer 2016. A rise in the number of entrants to University for Languages from the second worst postcode areas has been noted.</p> <p>The UCML plenary meeting (July 3 2015) is to be dedicated to the REF and the future of Modern Languages research. Steven Hill, Head of Research Policy at HEFCE, has agreed to speak.</p>	
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19. Appointment of new Trustees	Katie Brown and Aaron Kahn were elected as Trustees.	
20. Committee Roles and Rotation. Formal handover to new President	<p>Roles would be advertised with their period of appointment on the website. Members were asked to express their interest in being considered for a role to SW.</p> <p>Prof Isabel Torres was formally inducted as President.</p>	
21. AOB	<p>A proposal from a member to introduce a journal with an essay prize was considered but thought too difficult to implement at present.</p> <p>There was a request to supply agendas and other paperwork electronically rather than printing paper.</p>	