

## Minutes of the AGM held at University College Dublin

1pm, Saturday 10 July 2010

*Present:* Helen Beebee, John Callanan, Dudley Knowles, James Ladyman, Alex Miller, Dawn Phillips, Clare Saunders

**1. Apologies:** M.M. McCabe

**2. Minutes of the 2009 AGM:** Unfortunately there were no minutes for last year's AGM. The meeting had contained no substantive items of business; a note of the meeting together with the financial report is now available on the BPA website.

### **3. Election of Committee Members, and officers for 2010-11**

Helen Beebee gave the results of the election on behalf of the returning officer (Herjeet Marway). The candidates were: Mark Addis (BCU), Maria Alvarez (Southampton), Sorin Baiasu (Keele), John Callanan (KCL), and Brendan Larvor (Hertfordshire).

Mark Addis, Maria Alvarez and John Callanan were elected to serve for a term of three years (i.e. until 2013).

M.M. McCabe had come to the end of her term and was not eligible for re-election, but would remain on the Committee as a supernumerary member until she had finished her term as President. Helen Beebee would remain a supernumerary member for one more year until she had finished her term as Director. Mark Addis would remain as Treasurer for 2010-11.

### **4. Director's report**

HB presented a brief report, noting that the BPA's activities during 2009-10 were explained more fully in the 2010 Newsletter.

### **5. Financial report**

The financial report for the year to July 2010 had not been finalised due to the recent change of Executive Secretary. The report would be presented to the next meeting of the Executive Committee. HB reported that the BPA had made a loss in 2009-10 because of a failure to pursue departmental and learned society membership renewals, but that the bank account was still healthy.

### **6. The REF and the impact agenda**

Dudley Knowles reported back from a recent meeting run by HEFCE on the role of impact within the REF. It was noted that despite the change of government and a clear indication that engagement with the impact agenda was no longer politically expedient, HEFCE were attempting to portray the arts and humanities community as 'on side' with impact, and downplay objections and difficulties. In the light of this, HB agreed to discuss with the Executive Committee the possibility of writing to David Willetts on behalf of learned societies and heads of department, expressing the view that it is inappropriate for QR funding for philosophy departments to be determined to any extent by impact.

**ACTION: HB**

## **7. Temporary contract staff**

HB reported that the BPA had set up a working group to look at possible action and recommendations on the working conditions and career trajectories of temporary contract staff, and Dawn Phillips made a brief presentation on this topic, summarising a report she had written, which will be used as a basis for discussion at the first working group meeting. HB noted that, particularly in the current financial climate, effectively stymieing the ability of temporary teaching staff to pursue research may have serious repercussions for departments' ability to hire permanent junior staff with a good track record of research in the future.

It was agreed that while the constraints imposed on individual departments by financial and HR considerations generally make it very difficult, and sometimes impossible, to provide temporary teaching staff with good working conditions (e.g. lectureships and 12-month contracts rather than teaching fellowships and contracts covering only the teaching part of the year), there is still some scope for the BPA to make recommendations that might result in improvements.

## **8. AOB**

There was no other business. The meeting closed at 2.00pm. The next AGM will be held at the University of Sussex in July 2011.