



AGM of the Association of Hispanists of Great Britain & Ireland
Colm O’hEocha Theatre, National University of Ireland, Galway,
Tuesday 15th April, 6.30-8pm.

Chair: Trevor Dadson

Minutes: Sarah Wright

Committee: Tilmann Altenberg (Treasurer), Chris Harris (Conference Secretary), Duncan Wheeler (Membership Secretary), Lesley Twomey (UCML), Phil Swanson (ex- President), Geoff West (Aclaiir and British Library); Mike Thompson (Webmaster); Andrew Ginger (Postgraduate).

Apologies: Sally Faulkner (DSS Fellowship); Stephanie Dennison (Luso-Brazilian Studies); Mel Boland (Ireland).

1. President’s Welcome (TD)	Professor Dadson began by welcoming those present to the AGM.	
2. Minutes of Oxford AGM	<p>These were confirmed and signed as a true record.</p> <p>TD reminded everyone that the minutes were posted on the website and encouraged members to consult the website as often as possible.</p>	
3. Eulogies	<p>Professor David Frier read a eulogy written by Professor David Treece for Professor Patrick Chabal</p> <p>Professor Gustavo San Román read a eulogy for Professor Nigel Kennedy</p> <p>Professor Jeremy Squires read a eulogy for Professor Derek Gagen.</p> <p>We have since learned of the death of Laurence Keates, Senior Lecturer in Portuguese, Univ of Leeds</p>	

<p>4. President's Business</p> <p>4.1 Proposal to move to Charity Status</p> <p>4.2 New Draft Constitution</p> <p>4.3 Approval of new Constitution</p>	<p>The proposal to move to Charity Status had been approved by the AGM in Oxford in 2013.</p> <p>TD explained that a law firm had worked pro bono on the model Constitution. TD drew attention to the change to two categories of membership and TD explained that the Charity would need a Board of Trustees. He also drew attention to a change in 5(f) which should read 'the membership of the Association at the AGM'.</p> <p>Non-members will pay a different rate to attend the conference and should be nominated by a member. The charity will have a Board of Trustees which will be composed of the President, immediate Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Conference Secretary and up to two other members elected at the AGM. Members will serve for two terms and may be elected for a further two terms. We will seek to take out liability insurance for Trustees. The quorum had been reduced to 25 members.</p> <p>TD explained that members would have to take out a new membership of the charity. This would automatically remove those members who have not paid subscriptions. Members would be asked to tick the box for Gift Aid to add 25% of their donation to the charity. These extra funds would be used to spend more on members.</p> <p>The AGM approved the new Constitution.</p>	<p>SW and TD to apply to Charities Commission for charity status for the AHGBI.</p> <p>TD and TA to distribute circular regarding membership and standing order and Gift Aid</p>
<p>4.4 Other Business from President</p> <p>a) A-level syllabus</p> <p>b) Informal meetings with Presidents of other Professional Associations</p>	<p>TD attended a meeting of ALCAB for professional associations. Encouraged by responses towards reforms of A-level and GCSE.</p> <p>TD had met twice already with the Presidents of AUPF, Association of Italianists, SFS and Association of Germanists (at Queen Mary [Dec] and Manchester [April]). The aim was to discuss matters of common interest (e.g. BGP2, Open Access, Language numbers, AHRC etc) and the group would meet on an informal basis twice per year. At the Manchester meeting the Vice President of UCML attended in order that the professional associations could build bridges with UCML and make our concerns better known</p>	

<p>c) International Fellowship Scheme</p> <p>d) Increased level of support for travel and research</p> <p>e) Plans for 2015 and 60th Anniversary</p> <p>f) Anniverary Development Fund</p> <p>g) Association Archive Plans</p> <p>h) Mentoring Plans</p>	<p>Introduction of an International Fellowship scheme for the AHGBI. Departments can bid separately or jointly to bring a Hispanist from Spain/Latin America (or indeed any country) if critical to a current research project and to establish, for example, networks. The International Fellow would give a series of named lectures. Maximum amount available would be £2000 including travel, subsistence plus possibly an additional £500 for lecture expenses, if this involves lecturing in one or more other departments. The aim is establish one award per semester (i.e. two total), although for 2014-15 one Fellowship will be established. Comparable to SFS Scheme. The new scheme will be announced on the Website with a deadline for application in the autumn.</p> <p>We hope to increase what we can offer to members with more awards and prizes. We will draft in more colleagues from outside the Executive Committee to help adjudicate prizes.</p> <p>We plan to hold a reception at Exeter conference to celebrate the 60th anniversary with past presidents</p> <p>To coincide with the introduction of charity status we will introduce a 60th anniversary development fund and ask members to consider donating £60.</p> <p>We are looking for a member of AHGBI to help organize the association's archive. Lyn Ingamells has a series of boxes which need to find a home in an archive. Catherine Davies suggested that a post-doc might be able to undertake the work to archive. MT and GW to talk through the possibilities.</p> <p>We would like to establish a mentoring scheme in particular for mid careerists. Information about this new scheme would be circulated through the list.</p>	
<p>5. Treasurer's Report</p>	<p>TA presented the balance sheets (attached). A proposal was put to the AGM to raise subscriptions to £40 and £20 (50 euros and 25 euros, for Irish members). The AGM approved the proposal to raise the annual subscription rates and also approved that they be kept at that level for at least 3 years. TA will look into having an account in euros. Non-paying members will be dealt with by the</p>	<p>The AGM approved the proposal to raise the annual subscription rates and also approved that they be kept at that level for at least 3 years.</p>

	<p>move to charity status as all members must take out new membership and can tick the box for gift aid.</p> <p>Non-members will be able to present a paper at the conference but must pay a higher fee and have their contribution endorsed by a current member.</p>	
6. Conference Secretary's Report	<p>Galway was proving to be a very successful conference with 30 sessions and 101 speakers. CH thanked the Galway staff for their help with organisation. The PG helpers (in return they attend the conference for free) were once again a great success. Galway produced the abstract booklet which worked well. The online store is a success. Publishers must now pay £200 for a stand and fliers, £150 for a stand only and £100 for fliers only. There was a technical glitch and the system for asking delegates to apply simultaneously for awards will be reviewed for next year. CH acknowledged the support of the Irish Embassies of Mexico , Chile and Spain. TD extended enormous thanks to CH and to the local Galway staff and PG helpers.</p>	
7. Webmaster's Report	<p>MT reported that having a list of all Hispanists was proving unsustainable but pointed out that members could search for other members.</p> <p>MT reminded members that the website could be used to showcase new books and have links to blogs and research groups etc.</p> <p>MT was currently translating main pages into other languages and requested volunteers for translation into e.g. Basque.</p>	
8. Membership Secretary's Report	<p>DW thanked Ann Davies for the handover of the role.</p> <p>We have had 20 new members since the last committee meeting in October. The membership lists would be updated after the move to charity status.</p>	
9. PG Officer's Report	<p>AG thanked TD for plans to extend the funds available to PGs and ECRs.</p> <p>Bursaries and Prizes: AG thanked Katie Brown for helping to advertise the awards through Facebook.</p> <p>A full list of this year's awards is attached to these minutes.</p>	

10. Library-ACLAIIR	<p>ACLAIIR has continued its policy of focussing on engagement with postgraduate students and early-career researchers: With PiLAS - hosted introduction to resources in Latin American Studies in London for beginning postgraduates (British Library, 8 November 2013) – with contributions from BL and ILAS/Senate House. In autumn 2014, the event will be on the morning of 7 November in BL Conference Centre. We would be willing to organize a similar event for beginning postgraduates in Spanish and/or Portuguese Studies.</p> <p>12 Feb. 2014 we held a one-day seminar at Senate House on 21st-century Latin American Fiction in collaboration with Instituto Cervantes, ILAS and the Institute of Modern Language Research. Topics covered: trends in fiction and in research thereon; library resources, including e-books; Latin American fiction in translation in UK. Very successful: involved translators and publishers as well as academic researchers.</p> <p>AGM and Seminar will be held at Cambridge UL on 17 June 2014. The seminar will be on open access and the future of academic publication.</p> <p>British Library report: Hispanic Collections continues to offer one-off sessions for postgraduate students on specific topics, e.g. early printed books.</p> <p>We would welcome proposals for collaborative doctoral partnership projects (with Univ. of Sheffield; or AHRC-funded). Possible areas of collections that might be exploited: Latin American printed historical documents (17th-19th centuries); editions of Golden Age plays (17th-19th centuries).</p> <p>Concern at cuts of 5% by start of financial year 2015/16, this is on top of existing cuts of 15% 2010-15. Will impact upon acquisitions. BL has instituted programme of Voluntary Exit. Will certainly involve loss of posts in Collections.</p>	
11. UCML	UCML report attached.	
12. Nomination of new President	<p>TD explained that a new President now needed to be nominated and approved; the new President would serve a one-year term shadowing the President (2014-15), then three years as President (2015-18) followed by two years as Past-President (2018-20).</p> <p>TD thanked Phil Swanson for his term of office as Past-President, which had</p>	

	<p>been extended in order to facilitate the new terms of office. In response to the call for nominations there had been one nomination for President: <u>Professor Isabel Torres</u>, nominated by Prof Catherine Davies and Prof Phil Swanson. Prof Torres's appointment was approved unanimously.</p>	
13. AOB	There was no further business and the meeting ended at 20.40	

Awards and prizes 2013-14

AHGBI Conference Awards

Cara Levey, Dunja Fehimovic, Diana Battaglia, David Jiménez Torres, Leticia Villamediana, Felipe Jiménez Berrio, Michela Coletta , Carolina Orloff

AHGBI/Spanish Embassy Conference Travel Awards

María Belén Rabadán Vega, Mirna Vohnsen, Mary Farrelly, Guillem Comon-Montero, Anna Kathryn Kendrick, Miquel Pomar-Amer, Rachel Scott, Leticia Blanco, Lucila Mallart, Talia Garza Garza, Eva Nieto McAvoy, Elisangela Abadia Franco

AHGBI/Spanish Embassy Publication Prize

Maite Usoz de la Fuente, *La Luna de Madrid and la movida*, winner of Legenda prize 2013

Laura Muñoz Pérez, *Inquisición, poder y escritura femenina en tiempos del conde-duque de Olivares*, winner of Támesis prize 2013

This year we had such a strong field that we decided to award two runners-up prizes (£500 towards publication costs with either Támesis or Legenda) to:

Paul Humphrey, *Gods, Gender and Sexuality: Representations of Vodou and Santería in Haitian and Cuban Cultural Production*

Benedict Hoff, *Relocating Cities and Dissident Sexualities: Queer Urban Geographies in Recent Latin American Cinema*

AHGBI Research Travel Awards

Jill Dixon, María Rabadán Vega

University Council of Modern Languages report 25.3.2014

1. UCML co-organized an event on collaborative provision in HE sponsored by the British Academy in February. Despite the snow it was well attended, with 50 people making it through the snow. One of the areas discussed was Portuguese together with its traditional reliance on support from the Instituto Camoes, now reducing. Portuguese was determined to be flourishing despite small numbers of staff. There are some BGP plans to collaborate at Postgraduate level. UCML has strengthened its links with HEFCE as a result of this event and is involved in talks there this April. HEFCE has declared that it is keen for languages to remain part of a strong HE provision and in a diversity of institutions. HEFCE recognizes that market forces do not match demand to national needs
2. I would also draw your attention to the data available on language provision in the British Academy's *Languages The State of the Nation Report* which came out on 14 February. This document is a valuable resource for all involved in language delivery. Another report, this time with a Europe-wide remit, has just been published by the British Council – *Language-Rich Europe*, which shows the UK to be in a parlous state in terms of language capacity.
3. UCML was notified formally of HEFCE's plan to formally consult on post-14 REF and sent a response to the consultation (today). UCML also responded to the BIS consultation on Open Access raising concerns about Open Access and how it could apply to languages research.
4. We were advised that following David Cameron's U-turn on the E-Bacc that languages are no longer compulsory for achieving A-C grades and the indicators are that take-up for GCSE will be badly affected after the boost afforded in recent years. The present plans for secondary education include language entitlement up to KS2 only
5. UCAS figures are showing a downturn for language applications, which does not augur well for the coming academic year.
6. The UCML Chair reported he had liaised with various Departments at risk of having specialist language degrees withdrawn. University Alliance members have made a special case to HEFCE for protection of language degrees entitled *Maintaining the Strength and Diversity in HE*.
7. Forthcoming is the Plenary and AGM to look at steering a course through the current situation, 5 July. There will be a 'Managing Departments in difficult times' event again in September 2013, date to be confirmed.
8. LLAS re-tendered for Routes into Languages. At time of writing the outcome of the bid is not known. LLAS had been asked to provide clarification on some points of their bid which they saw as positive. The funding is due to last for 3 years and will provide £1million per year.