

Association for Heterodox Economics

Annual General Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on 16th July 2005

Birley Lecture Theatre, Centenary Building

City University London, Spencer Street, London, EC 1.

Chair: Andrew Mearman.

Meeting Secretary: Claudia Jefferies

1. AM welcomed the members to the first AGM of the AHE.
2. Apologies for absence from Paul Downward and Fred Lee were noted.
3. Matters arising from previous meetings of the AHE
 - a. Membership. It had been proposed that the Association move towards a membership system. AM felt that there were still issues to address in composing a package of benefits of membership. **Action: continue to work on developing membership benefits. Develop a system for creating membership.**
 - b. Journal. Discussions with the journal Economic Issues with a view to establishing a link with the Association had not been conclusive but would continue. **Action: Continue discussions over/with Economic Issues.**
 - c. Book series. The conference packs had contained a flyer for the "Advances in Heterodox Economics" series, edited by Fred Lee, and published by Michigan University Press. The conference volume would appear in this series and consist of 10-15 chapters. All conference participants, but particularly session chairs and discussants, were asked to identify papers worth considering for the volume. Members were invited to volunteer to act as referees of the papers. Offers to referee and nominations of papers should be sent to Karl Petrick and Andy Denis as soon as possible.
 - d. Newsletter. It was pointed out that we already have a world-wide newsletter in the form of Fred Lee's *Heterodox Economics Newsletter*. It was dubious whether a UK Newsletter would add anything.
4. Report of AHE activities 2004-5 (AM)
 - a. Postgraduate training. The annual post-graduate workshop was held at the University of Manchester in February, funded by the ESRC. Paul Downward had applied to the ESRC for a large grant to fund further post-graduate workshops for the next 3 years, but the application was unsuccessful. The meeting agreed that post-graduate events were very important for the future of the heterodoxy. It was agreed to hold such sessions at the same time as the annual conference in the future.

Action: develop a postgraduate event close to the conference next year

- b. Seminars. A series of AHE seminars on "Pluralism in Economics" had been held at the LSE, with 6 speakers of the previous two terms. It was agreed that these should continue in the new academic year.
- c. Other heterodox events. Steve Fleetwood had issued an invitation to heterodox economists to support a range of activities at Lancaster during the academic year 2006-2007. It was agreed that this initiative should be supported. There was a possibility that the AHE annual conference 2007 might be held there. **Action: the new committee would investigate this further.**

5. Financial Report

- a. AM for Paul Downward reported on the financial position of the AHE, excluding the current conference.
 - i. Prior to the conference, the balance was £4590.55
 - ii. PD had received three batches of cheques for the conference from Andy Denis worth £1935.00
 - iii. AHE contribution to the postgraduate workshop: -£740.50
 - iv. Balance prior to current conference: £5785.05 **Action: clarify financial situation**
- b. Andy Denis apologised for not yet being able to give a precise report on the conference finances, but gave an overview. Unfortunately some of the costs reported were incorrect, giving a misleading impression, and the correct (though still not final) costs and revenues are as follows:
 - i. Revenue from registration fees: about £8,000
 - ii. Revenue to come from the Economics Dept and RES: £1,400
 - iii. Cost of conference dinner: about £1,400
 - iv. Cost of rooms: £1,600
 - v. Cost of catering: about £4,750Therefore balance: about £1650
Bearing in mind that delegates paid an implicit membership fee of £10 for the AHE, this leaves the conference with a small surplus. The previous year's conference in Leeds had broken even.
- c. Grants and bursaries. It was proposed that some of the AHE's current surplus should be used to offer Third World academics and PhD students bursaries to attend the AHE conference through remission of fees and contributions to their travel and subsistence expenses. This was agreed in principle. Details to be agreed by the new committee; it was felt by many that the priority should be helping PhD students.
- d. Budget for next conference. Alan Freeman proposed the setting up of a budget for the incoming meeting, that would allow to provide for an automated website and for publicity expenses. No firm decisions were

made. **Action: Committee should decide on a budget for the coming year**

6. Annual Conference 2006

- a. Venue. The association had received an offer to host AHE 2006 at the Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Science at the LSE. Lancaster University may be a possible venue in 2007.
- b. Organising Committee. Alan Freeman and Julian Wells had agreed to chair the organising committee jointly, Alan until the end of December 2005, and Julian from January 2006.
- c. Date. It was agreed to hold the conference on Friday 14 – Sunday 16 July 2006, with the possibility of extending it backwards into Thursday 13 July.
- d. Length of sessions. It was proposed that the time assigned for each paper would be reduced from 45 to 30 minutes, in order to increase the number of papers presented. No decision was taken.

Action: local committee to be convened, in co-operation with AM and other Committee members

7. The AHE Website

The AHE website, hosted by the Open University, has had problems of accessibility and design. There was discussion on setting aside a budget of £1000-£2000 for developing a dedicated website. No decision on the budget was taken, but it was agreed that a working party of expert users should be established to look into the matter.

Action: AM to convene a sub-group from members and Committee members of those with interests and expertise in developing the website

8. AHE constitution

There was some discussion of the draft constitution. It was agreed that the new membership-based AHE needed a constitution or set of rules. The draft was not adopted, but the task of further drafting remitted to the new committee to take forward.

Action: AM to convene a sub-group to develop a document including rules and principles of unity

9. Proposed honorary life membership

It was agreed unanimously that the Association should honour Professor Frederic Lee with an honorary life membership in recognition of his outstanding contribution to heterodox economics.

10. Election of officers and committee

The following officers and committee members were elected:

Coordinator: Andrew Mearman (University of the West of England, Bristol)

Joint Secretaries: AM to act in lieu of elected officer with assistance of Claudia Jefferies (American Intercontinental University, London) and Susan Pashkoff

Treasurer: Paul Downward (Loughborough University)

Action: AM to clarify exactly who else is on the Committee.