

Minutes from the Annual General Meeting, 15th Annual Conference – London Metropolitan University, Thursday 4th of July 2013

There were no objections to the agenda or A. Ekeland taking the minutes.

All reports, written and/or oral, have been incorporated into the minutes, except the coordinator's and the treasurer's report which are attached respectively at appendices 1 and 2.

1. Coordinator's report

See Appendix 1.

Item 6 of the agenda, the 2013 "Conference organiser's report" was taken as a part of the discussion on the clarification on the roles, tasks and division of labour between the Management Committee and the Local Conference Organiser(s). Following these the two reports there was a discussion of roles and responsibilities to undertaken by the members of the Management Committee and the local organisers. The 2013 Local Conference Organiser, William Dixon, argued that the local organisers, having been given the responsibility for organising the conference, must be given a large degree of trust and should be able to decide most matters informing the Management Committee accordingly. . Secondly that an important lesson was that the experiences and check lists etc from previous conferences should have been written down, so that the conference organisers do not have to start from scratch.

After a short exchange of views, the recommendation proposed by the Coordinator (in his written report) with a slight modification was moved and accepted unanimously:

The AHE Management Committee appoints a subcommittee, comprising the new Coordinator, the 2014 Conference Organiser, plus one other member, to draft a policy document outlining guidelines for preparing the annual conference. This subcommittee is to report regularly to the Management Committee, with a view to preparing a policy for consideration at the 2014 AGM.

The Coordinator stressed that the ambition for the AHE, in particular the Management Committee must be to be more proactive on structural and institutional issues, like the REF etc. The activities of the Management Committee must have a wider scope than just the conference and the post-graduate workshop.

2. Financial report

(See Appendix 2 for the balance sheet)

Income was considerably lower in 2013 than in 2012 mainly due to nil contribution from the 2012 conference and somewhat lower membership dues (cf. the attraction of the 2012 conference in Paris).

At the same time, expenditure was higher, with large contributions to the 2012 conference, resulting in a deficit cf. last year's large surplus.

However, the AHE has large accumulated funds so will be able to sustain a deficit for several years.

The main balance sheet items reflect the replacement of the Unittrust bank account with a new account at the Coop bank.

The report was accepted.

The question of whether the AHE should return to the previous arrangement where the local conference organisers made a financial contribution to the AHE was raised but not discussed.

3. Post Graduate Workshop

There was no workshop in 2013 because it proved impossible to find dates on which the usual main instructors were available. We have responded to this unfortunate outcome as follows:

- a) we are seeking to broaden the pool of potential presenters - for instance by approaching contributors to Fred Lee's book on Heterodox research methods;
- b) we will agree and announce a date and venue for the 2014 workshop soon: our proposed combination is mid-January at the Open University in London;
- c) the CPEST will be approached about sponsoring the event;
- d) the AGM agreed to set aside a budget of £2000 to fund travel and accommodation for students, plus some expenses for instructors;
- e) Bruce Philp has also suggested that when available, Fred's book could be given to student participants: Fred has agreed that in the interim, draft chapters could be provided.

The report and budget proposal was accepted.

Under this point Alan Freeman introduced the proposal of having a “student liaison officer”, preferably a student, which was favourably received.

3. Membership report

The membership report took as its starting point the fact that:

- AHE-ANNOUNCE list has 675 subscribers
- The HETECON – a not very much used discussion list - has 419
- There were registrations 116 for the 2013 conference (check with W. D.)
- hetecon.org website as of 29 June, Renewals 74
- Previous members not yet renewed 127
- Users of the web site who are not members (and have never been) 55

These numbers show that there is still a big potential for increasing the membership and generate a solid financial basis for the AHE. A reasonable target would be to try to reach 200 members.

The question of making it possible to pay for membership as part of the conference fee was raised, but not further discussed.

The report was accepted.

4. Webmaster's report

The new AHE web site is working well with a few small things to fix. The site primarily is in action in the months before the conference. Regarding content, our first priority in the near future is to make papers from past conferences available. Since the last AGM, the 2010 Bordeaux conference papers has been made available. It is a an initial list of past conference papers and we are looking to make them searchable by author, title, year, topic etc.

We plan to make the 2009 and 2008 conference papers available in the coming year. As we go further back into the past, issues will need to be resolved like: "Do people want to have their old papers on the AHE-site"? Should there be links to published versions of the papers if they have become published? The Management Committee intend to come back to the next AGM with a more concrete proposal on these issues.

We also want the web-site to be an up-to-date resource on heterodox economics. We intend to thave selected news, Calls for papers etc. taken from the heterodox economics newsletter. But given our limited resources, we will only be able to take small steps in this direction in the coming year.

Report accepted.

5. 2013 organisers report (See point 1)

6. 2014 Organisers report

Local organising committee is in place. Next step is to start advertising the dates on various lists etc.

7. The 2015 conference,

Nick Potts and Simon Mouatt indicated that Southampton University could be interested in hosting the conference in 2015. It was also noted that Serap Kayetkin by email had indicated to the Management Committee a willingness to host the conference in 2015 or 2016 in Izmir, Turkey. It was decided that the Management Committee should get more information from Serap Kayetkin so that an informed decision could be made at the next AGM.

8. Heterodox Economics Journal

Fred Lee provided an update on his and Tae-Hee Jo's efforts to establish a new heterodox economics journal. Established publishers will take no risk, so the AHE must guarantee a substantial number of subscribers if the AHE wants one of the traditional publishing houses to produce the journal, which in practice means that the subscription must be tied to membership. Several participants argued that a working paper series could be an alternative/complement to a journal. It was agreed that Toni Prug, one of the advocates of a working paper series, be encouraged to submit a proposal to the Management Committee, and that the Management Committee would delegate to a sub-committee to review such a proposal.

9. Elections

Unanimously the 2013-2014 Management Committee was elected with the following members and responsibilities:

Jamie Morgan – Coordinator

Bruce Cronin – Treasurer

Bruce Philp – Secretary

Alan Freeman – Membership Secretary

Vinca Bigo – Diversity Officer

Anders Ekeland – Webmaster

William Dixon – 2013 Conference Organiser

Fred Lee – Editor, Refereed Conference Papers and Honorary Life President

Andrew Mearman - Postgraduate Workshop Coordinator

Molly Scott Cato – Committee Member

Radhika Desai – Committee Member

Arturo Hermann – Committee Member

Pritam Singh – Committee Member

Ioana Negru – Committee Member

Dan Wheatley - Committee Member (new)

Nick Potts - Committee Member (new)

Simon Mouhat - Committee Member (new)

Victoria Chick – Honorary Life President

There was a proposal for a succession committee, among other things also looking at the question of having a coordinator-elect or similar succession mechanism for the coordinator in order to have more planned continuity.

10. AOB

Vinca Bigo, made a proposal for having prizes awarded for excellent conference papers along the following lines:

HE Prize Award proposition 4th July 2013

1. Best Early Scholar Paper AHE Award £500 (max PhD + 5 years) + one year membership
2. Best PhD Scholar Paper AHE Award £500 + one year membership
3. Submission criteria: addresses and/or is in the spirit of and/or advocates heterodoxy, inter disciplinaryity and pluralism
4. Award criterion: attendance of the AHE conference at which the prize is to be awarded
5. Prize competition to be announced on the AHE website in August 2013

6. Award winners will be announced at the AHE annual conference with a special slot allocated to their presentation
7. As the award committee was elected: Ioana Negru, Radhika Desai, Jamie Morgan, Alan Freeman, Vinca Bigo, Lynne Chester, Simon Mouatt
8. Decision making-process: unanimity

There ensued a discussion of whether the persons submitting a paper had to be AHE members, criteria for the paper to be eligible, obligation for the winners to be present at the conference receiving the award. The amounts for the two prizes were left to the Management Committee to decide on the basis of a discussion of AHE's long term financial prospects.

Appendix 1 – Coordinator’s report

This my second year as AHE Coordinator, having acted as Conference Organiser the year before that. In this report I intend to reflect on what has been achieved, and identify issues which I feel need to be addressed by the incoming Coordinator.

2011-2012. Considerable work went into preparing the joint Paris Conference, with IIPPE and AFEP. In retrospect, I feel this joint venture did not serve our interests. The other associations are dominated by a particular political economy approach and, while this is part of the subject of investigation of heterodox economics (and of interest to me), we are broader in composition than these societies.

Last year we revised the constitution and got our new website functioning.

2012-2013.

This has been another busy year. The website continues to evolve, and we have reworked our finances. Changes include:

1. We now bank with the Co-operative, having closed The Unity Trust Account. Dealing with a high-street bank makes day-to-day banking more straightforward. There are presently three signatories: Coordinator, Treasurer and Secretary. In addition Ioana Negru manages the PayPal account on our behalf.
2. Issues with our PayPal account are now resolved. We had some trouble getting the funds released, but the process is now smooth (thanks to Ioana).

The 2013 Conference will be another successful one, with many prestigious presenters. The theme, *Economy and Organisation*, represented a departure from recent conferences which had tended to focus on the crisis. I think this was an imaginative theme, which has attracted high-calibre papers. One issue which did emerge during planning of the 2013 Conference concerned the lack of clarity, in AHE policies, regarding the interrelationship between the Coordinator, Management Committee, and the Conference Organiser. There was thus ambiguity concerning the rights and responsibilities of each party, and this gave rise to creative tensions.

Recommendation: the AHE Management Committee appoint a subcommittee, comprising the new Coordinator, the 2014 Conference Organiser, plus one other member, to draft a policy document outlining the key organisational roles for various parties in preparing the annual conference. This subcommittee is to report regularly to the Management Committee, with a view to preparing a policy for consideration at the 2014 AGM.

Another concern I have relates to the engagement of the Management Committee. Although the Committee comprises 19 members, a significant proportion of those have hardly contributed to any discussions through the year (and, in the case of some, last year either). I feel that all Committee members should be proactive, trying to push forward issues and develop aspects of our activity themselves through the committee, rather than responding to particular issues as and when they arise. In other words, I feel we need, as an Association, to be less reliant on the Coordinator to generate ideas (which were limited in my case) and progress.

Finally, I’d like to thank the colleagues who have supported me throughout my tenure. Alan Freeman, Fred Lee, Ioana Negru and, especially, Lynne Chester, have been particularly supportive, providing much good advice.

Bruce Philp

3rd July, 2013

Appendix 2 – Treasurers’ report – the numbers

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Year to 30 June	2013	2012
Income		
Membership Dues	1560,0	2320,00
Interest	0,05	
2011 Conference		3000,00
2012 Conference	0	
AJES Sponsorship		400,00
Total Income	1560,05	5720,00
Expenditure		
Website maintenance	777,60	
Mgmt Co Travel	271,40	77,00
2012 Workshop		1800,95
2013 Confernce		
- Travel	53,20	
- Bursaries	1000,00	
- IAFFE	720,00	
Bank Fees		6,00
Total Expenditure	2822,20	1883,95
Surplus(Deficit)	-1262,15	3836,05

Balance Sheet

30 June	2013	2012
Assets		
2013 Conference	0	
Coop Bank	13702,83	400,00
Paypal	733,29	2320,00
Unitytrust	0	11280,88
Total Assets	14436,12	14000,88
Liabilities		
IAFFE	293,00	
Members' Funds	14143,12	14000,88
Total Liabilities	14436,12	14000,88