



British Education Studies Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Bishop Grosseteste College 30 June 2006

Present: Steve Bartlett, Jane Bates, Stephen Bigger, Laura-Lee Duval, Les Hankin, Yvonne Hill, Alan Hodgkinson, Elizabeth Hopkins, Alan Howe, Derek Kassem, Annie Kirby, Sue Lewis, Kate MacDonald, Nick Mead, Emmanuel Mufti, Barbara Murphy, Lisa Murphy, John Sharp, David Smith, Hugh Somervell, Jane Tapp, Claire Taylor, Chris Wakeman, Steve Ward, Sue Warren, Bob Waugh, Terry Wrigley,

Apologies: Sian Duffty, Daphne Evans, Gill Haynes, David Matheson, Gwenan Williams

1. **Outgoing Chair:** Steve Bartlett, standing down under the terms of the Constitution after the inaugural year of office, welcomed all present to the AGM that concluded BESA's first highly successful year. He passed over the Chair to Steve Ward, previous Vice-Chair. Steve Ward paid warm tribute to Prof. Bartlett's sterling work as inspiration for the association and as piloting BESA through some significant early achievements.
2. **Minutes** of the previous AGM (1 July 2007, Chester) were received and accepted. The incoming Chair noted that these minutes represented the point when BESA came into being.
3. **Matters arising:** All such matters would be taken up under agenda points below.
4. **Appointment of Vice-Chair**
Two nominations were made: Sue Lewis (proposed by Bob Waugh, seconded by Steve Ward) and Yvonne Hill (proposed by Les Hankin, seconded by Annie Kirby). Both nominees were invited to present a pen-portrait to help those present in a secret paper ballot, which was then conducted with the results collated by officers of the group after the meeting. Sue Lewis was duly elected. (Ballot papers have been retained.)
5. **Executive Membership:** All members had agreed to continue on the Executive, except for Gill Haynes (University of Exeter) who had retired. This appeared to leave a vacancy. Jane Bates (MMU) was nominated by Yvonne Hill, seconded by Hugh Somervell, and duly elected. It was pointed out that the position of the outgoing Chair needed to be clarified, with the wish of the meeting clearly being that he should be considered now to be a member of the Executive. The Secretary and Treasurer had agreed to continue in their roles to give continuity, although the tenure of these posts needed to be clarified.
6. **Financial Report:** David Smith, as Treasurer, noted that the primary source of income so far had been the surplus from the Chester conference, of approximately £4,600. A bank account with Natwest had been set up. The main expense incurred over the year was that around the setting up of the BESA website. £500 had been paid to the site developer. Further small disbursements needed to be made to the technician who had helped develop the database and £80 to cover the final registration of the website with JANET. £4,100 was currently lodged in the account with the prospect of a similar amount generated from the Bishop Grosseteste conference. A higher interest deposit account had also been set up and

David was placing the accruing funds to best effect.

The Chair formally thanked David for his brilliant work in establishing the account framed around charitable status and organising signatory rights along with general administration. It was agreed that an independent auditor would need to be appointed in time for the next AGM.

7. **Website:** David Smith was also warmly thanked for his work leading a team at Liverpool Hope in framing the website and organising its clearance for an academic domain name. This had been problematic partly because of the similarity of the BESA name to that of other organisations, although none covered a same territory. Direct contact with the panels governing academic names was not permitted but two panels had been survived and there was every hope that the name would go through under the BESA.ac.uk address within the next month, at which point the full address would be recirculated. Thanks were particularly due to Dr. Stephen McKinnell, Learning Manager at Liverpool Hope, who had developed the site. Comments were invited on the ‘fitness-for-purpose’ of the site, which had been demonstrated at the start of the conference that morning. It had been pointed out then that BESA’s constitution played strongly to the presence and needs of students and that some part of the website should represent their interests. Student representation on the Executive was also discussed but it was pointed out that without a student membership, the election of students to the Executive was not possible. **Action:** it was agreed that the Executive would form a smaller sub-group to develop a set of ground rules covering the engagement of students’ interests (‘the student voice’) both on the website and in wider terms in the functioning of the Association.
8. **Journal:** The Chair thanked Derek Kassem and Emmanuel Mufti for their development of the ejournal (also demonstrated at the outset of the conference). They conceived their role as that of general editors, harvesting material and arranging for refereeing and eventual publication online. They made an appeal for a Reviews Editor, given the expanding body of work on Education Studies: their text on Education Studies was to be published in August and a new text (Sharp, Ward and Hankin, eds: Education Studies: an issues-based approach) had been launched at the start of the conference. To avoid confusion between the website and the journal, abstracts and PowerPoints would be posted on the website, with high quality reviewed papers published in the ejournal. An editorial panel was needed, it being currently the Executive Committee. The long-term plan was to accumulate evidence of quality to demonstrate to publishers that a print journal was appropriate and feasible. The Chair noted that Steve Bartlett had done considerable work on cultivating publishers and that this was the only way forward. BESA’s trajectory so far suggested that it would be able to sustain ejournal publication following its annual conferences and at a midway point during the academic year. **Action:** the deadline for papers from this conference (and last year’s resubmitted) was 15 September.
9. **Proposed Colloquium:** BESA had established a rhythm of annual conferences interspersed with a colloquium at a midpoint in the year. The next was scheduled for Wolverhampton University (either Walsall of Telford campuses) before the end of 2006. ESCALATE sponsorship had paid for the conference reception and would also similarly cover an event at the forthcoming colloquium, whose theme would be Employability and/or Teaching and Learning depending on the speakers arranged. Contributions were invited from members to this colloquium. The Executive had agreed a schedule of events and locations, including the Wolverhampton

Colloquium.

The 2007 conference would be at Bath Spa (probably around July 6-7).

The 2007-8 Colloquium would be at Manchester Metropolitan University.

The 2008 conference would be a joint Liverpool Hope/ John Moores University event in Liverpool, to coincide with the City of Culture events of that year.

10. Links with other organisations:

One of Steve Bartlett's achievements as Chair had been to engage the interest of ESCALATE as the subject body of Education, with increasing references to ES and an article published in ESCALATE's latest newsletter. The point was made that BESA needed now to become proactive rather than reactive in promoting its role.

The QAA planned to revise the benchmarks for ES and has approached BESA to involve it in consultations, a link that had come through ESCALATE. It was suggested that a pitch be made to give the Association a substantial role in the working group that was being convened.

Derek Kassem raised the possibility of ES becoming a BERA Special Interest Group (SIG). This would give access to the back page of the BERA journal.

Action: The Executive Committee would take this forward by finding 5 BERA members willing to endorse this bid.

11. **AOB:** The Chair thanked John Sharp and Team for what had turned out to be an excellent conference, superbly well arranged and with very relevant keynote speeches from Mike Bottery and Peter Tymms. John in turn thanked all the back-room team, who had been working on arrangements almost since the last conference concluded. He also wished to thank the DfES, since the Minister for Higher Education, Bill Rammell, had given BESA an interview, arranging for a film crew. The resultant DVD would be downloadable from the website.

Action: The Chair would write to thank the Minister on headed BESA notepaper.

12. **Next meeting:** The next AGM would take place during the Conference at Bath Spa on 6 July 2007.

The next Executive meeting was scheduled for 4 October 2006 at Keele.