



British Education Studies Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Bangor University

1 July 2010

1. Attendance:

Steve Bartlett, Jane Bates (incoming Chair) Brendan Bartram, Gary Beauchamp, Zeta Brown, Steve Burwood, Will Curtis, Les Hankin (Secretary), Alan Hodgkinson, Sue Lewis, Kathryn McFarlane, Mark Murphy, Elizabeth Newman, Ioanna Palaiologou, Andy Reynolds, Chris Wakeman, Bob Waugh, Gwenan Williams (outgoing Chair).

Apologies:

Steve Ward, Marie Morgan.

(Gwenan noted that attendees at conference might need reminding that they had the right to attend the AGM since their fee included a year's membership.)

2. Gwenan transferred her responsibilities as Chair of BESA to Jane.

3. **Minutes of the last AGM** held at Staffordshire University on 2 July 2009 were received and accepted as a true account.

4. Matters arising

The old website is now closed down and the new website fully operational. John Sharp, who took over the journal, has since felt obliged to step down, along with his administrator. Steve Bartlett had now accepted the editorship of the journal.

The locale of the Bangor conference had been transferred from the University's Business Centre since that venue had proved too expensive.

5. Outgoing Chair's Report (GW)

Gwenan, who was standing down after her year in office under the terms of the Constitution, welcomed all present to the AGM at the end of BESA's sixth successful year. She saw it as a still young association that is constantly developing and creating new links. As this was its first conference in Wales, the event's title, Education without Boundaries, was highly suitable. While there were slightly fewer delegates than at Staffordshire and Hope, this reflected the general tightening of belts from now on. Given the possible distance of the location the general indicators were good, with 42 academic papers entertained.

Links were being nurtured with the equivalent Irish association and Gwenan would be happy to carry that on.

Sue and Jane were fostering links with the America Education Studies Association and for Gwenan these outreaching efforts meant that BESA had moved on from 'contemplating our navels'.

Chris has worked tirelessly on maintaining and extending the website, which had grown significantly in value as a link between institutions.

Steve Ward had continued to look after the funds excellently and unobtrusively as Treasurer.

A potentially very significant development has been the appointment of Zeta as student representative, a role that she was pursuing with great energy, encouraging them in so many ways and organising the development of the student link. It was essential for BESA to move away from stereotypical views of students by such endeavours. The New Researchers' Forum, on the final day of the conference, was being ably organised by Ioanna.

The change in editorship of the journal had not been easy and it was a relief that Steve Bartlett has acted as a safe pair of hands. His interest and enthusiasm for BESA has proved invaluable in institutional membership. Gwenan paid tribute to the work of Chris as Chair last year, when he had left the role in good order.

She expressed thanks to Les as long-term Secretary and concluded by expressing to all BESA members a heartfelt *diolch yn fawr*.

6. Treasurer's Report

Jane spoke to the spreadsheet provided by Steve Ward, noting that the funds were very healthy but that it was at all times essential to be clear how much funds were available, as Steve always did.

The spreadsheet item on MMU Colloquium catering needed to be amended to MMU Executive meeting catering.

7. Confirmation of Membership of the Executive Committee and Executive Officers for 2010/11

Outgoing members were thanked for their work: Les, Liz, Marie. Two other members have run out of allotted time (Chris and Bob). A call had been sent out and all six received nominations were accepted:

Mark Murphy, Derek Bunyard, James O'Keeffe and Anthony Edwards with Chris and Bob being re-elected. Jane will write to all new members in welcome.

8. Education Futures – BESA Journal (SB)

Steve Bartlett outlined progress made in producing two editions but noted that BESA were now in the position of having a third edition produced by the end of the summer. From that point the aim is to have two editions per year, rationalising and therefore making them bigger. Conference was relied upon for copy and BESA expects (and actively encourages) many delegates to turn their papers into articles. Steve was prepared to guide individuals through this process. The address for such contact is:

Steve1bartlett@virginmedia.com

9. BESA website (CW)

Chris has renewed the URL subscription for the next two years (maximum time allowed). He pointed out the work done by Will on the site and drew attention to the blog link currently on the front page. There is scope within the blog to promote publications. Those developments will continue and a considerable investment of time and funds is proposed. The website is emerging as a key feature of BESA, with constant work to keep it current and up to date.

10. Institutional Membership (WC)

Will noted that work was still going on concerning what benefits IM will confer, but mainly this will be to encourage students. A new student book had just been opened on the site.

11. Student representation

Zeta outlined her new role including individual student support and email

encouragement and encouraging students to use the blog. Additionally, the research panel organised by the Executive would continue and develop. Students could now access pages designed for their needs, including those covering the experience of under- and postgraduate life.

12. Conference 2011 (JB)

Jane indicated this would take place from 30 June to 1 July at the MMU sites in Manchester City Centre. Currently the accommodation issue is being explored, using local hotels rather than student halls. The Executive would meet on 29 June, following the well-established pattern.

13. AOB

No points were received.

14. Date and time of next meeting

30 June 2011 4.30, in the Council Chambers in Ormond St Manchester.

In thanking Gwenan for her quite excellent conference arrangements, again, Jane noted that the Conference had about it that lovely BESA feel and that every aspect including catering and the general welcome, had affirmed it as 'the friendly conference'. Jane recognised the great honour attending being Chair. Nominations were sought for the Vice-Chair, to be emailed to her at Sec.j.e.bates@mmu.ac.uk by 30 August.

The next scheduled meeting is a constituting meeting of the Executive Committee.