

British Philosophical Association
Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held at UCL:
19 Gordon Square
4.00 pm 7 November 2005

Present: Robin Attfield, Helen Beebee, Stephen Clark, Gordon Finlayson, Brad Hooker, Dan Hutto, Dudley Knowles, MM McCabe, Onora O'Neill (Chair), Tony McWalter, Jo Wolff.

1. Apologies received: David Archard, John Dupré, Tom Sorrell, Duncan Pritchard, Adrian Moore, Sacha Stephens

2. The minutes of the last meeting (10 July 2005) were approved.

3. Matters Arising

i) Philosophy Benchmark Statement:

The BPA has been consulted by the QAA on a possible revision to the Benchmarking Statement. A consultation was undertaken with the membership and Helen Beebee co-ordinated the response to the QAA. The general feeling was that beyond a certain amount of routine updating there was no need for a broad revision of the Benchmarking Statement. On the whole the members who had used it had done so because they had been required by their own institution to do so, and that they had not found the statement problematic in its current form.

A further issue raised by the QAA was whether there would be point in preparing an MA Benchmarking document. The feeling of the committee was that this would not be useful exercise.

ii) Philosophy in Schools.

Tom Sorrell approached the RIP concerning a possible collaborative event for schoolteachers. The RIP had responded positively, offering £500 but no administrative help. It was suggested that the RIP may offer more if a fully costed proposal were put to them. It was agreed to continue to pursue this proposal, and to look for additional sources of funding.

iii) Executive Secretary

It was reported that Sacha Stephens had taken over as membership secretary, funded by the University of Hertfordshire. She was, however, finding that it was taking more time than anticipated. JW and DH were asked to discuss this with her and to find an equitable solution.

4. Finance and memberships report for 2 November 2005

2005 running costs and income stream (Aug 04 to Aug 05)

Income

Subscriptions

Full Members (308)		£4611.00
Associate Members (9)		£ 80.00
	Sub-total	£4691.00
Departments (48)		£1880.00
Learned societies (16)		£ 565.00
	Total	£7136.00

Expenditure

Exec Committee expenses	£ 960.32	
Office Expenses	£ 796.51	
Postage	£ 199.71	
Tax	£ 825.00	
2005 AGM room	£ 376.10 (cheque not yet cashed)	
Membership Refund	£ 60.00	
Recruitment flyers	£ 684.20	
Miscellaneous	£ 750.00	
Executive Secretary	£ 3217.50	
	Total	£ 7869.34

2005 Loss **£ 733.34**

Grants

Mind	£5000.00	
Analysis Grant (for reserve)	£ 500.00	
Aristotelian	£1000.00	
Scots Philosophy (for reserve)	£ 500.00	
	Total	£7000.00

Expenses Paid this year but which relate to last year

(The corresponding expenses for this year have also been paid thus we can expect this situation of paying twice in one year not to repeat)

Recruitment flyers for last year	£ 414.20	
Tax for last year	£ 165.00	
Exec Sec last year	£ 292.50	
Exec Committee expenses from last year	£ 279.10	
	Total	£ 1150.80

If we include the expenditure for items relating to 2004-2005 expenses the BPA spent £9019.64 this year and thus made a loss of £1883.64. If we also include the grants of £7000, the income

was £14136, generating a surplus of £5116.36. However, true running costs and income should exclude these exceptional items. Excluding these items but including Executive Secretary's wages income the BPA made a loss of £733.34.

As the Executive Secretary's wages will no longer figure in 2005-2006 hence its listing as an exceptional expense, this will mean a reduction in expenses of £3217.50.

Thus if all other figures remain the same for 2005-2006 the BPA will make a profit of £2484.16

Individual Membership figures for 2004-2005

101 new full members

3 new associate member
33 members who paid in 03-04 did not renew in 04-05
308 full members in total
9 associate members in total

Membership figures for 2005-2005

Associate memberships

Paid for 2005	7
Still to renew	2

Full memberships

Paid for 2005	200
Still to renew	122

Department Memberships for 2004-2005

48 departments
All departments renewed from last year except 1
5 new departments

Department membership details for 2005-2006 are not yet available

Society Memberships for 2004-2005

16 Societies 4 of whom are new
All societies renewed this year who were members last year

Society membership details for 2005-2006 are not yet available

Current bank account balance

Last statement dated 10 October	£11715.80
Cheques paid in	£ 691.00
BACS payments expected	£ 760.00
Sub-total	£13166.80
Uncashed cheques	£ 341.10
 Estimated balance	 £12825.70

Prepared by S Stephens, 2 November 2004

5. Research training, it was agreed that the LTSN-PRS should be asked/encouraged to identify current and best practice.

6. Officers for 2006-7. For discussion. O O'N will not be standing for re-election as President. BH was proposed as President and this was accepted unanimously.

It was agreed to consult the constitution to see what steps would be needed to allow JW to remain as Secretary for a further year and DH Treasurer for two further years.

7. Membership Criteria. It was agreed to offer membership to schools on the model of University Departments. The constitution will need to be amended to allow this to happen.

8. Masters Study in UK. Data has been collected on all Masters Degrees in Philosophy in the UK (and some in Ireland) and this has been posted on the website.

9. AHRC Completion Rates

The AHRC require departments to meet a particular submission rate for postgraduate students with doctoral awards if the department is to be able to receive awards in the next two years' competition. The rate in the past has been 50% (either of current cohort of previous four years) but in 2005 was raised to 60% and in 2006 will become 70%.

It was agreed that there were numerous difficulties with this rate, such as that for a cohort of 3 students 100% submission is needed, and in a cohort of 6, more than 80% is needed. Also it could introduce retrospective unfairness. JW was instructed to take this up with the AHRC.

10. Routledge Proposal. Routledge have proposed to sponsor a school essay prize. This was received warmly although one question was whether Routledge would be prepared to offer some compensation to those marking the essays. Furthermore there was some feeling that the money would be better spent co-sponsoring the schoolteacher event. JW was instructed to discuss this with Routledge.

11. RAE. The state of the current RAE Consultation was discussed. The final rules are currently in the process of formulation, taking into account the submissions already made to the consultation. There are fears that there will be a new drive to 'consistency' between the working methods of the different panels, but at this stage there is nothing firm to go on.

12. Election Results. It was agreed that announcing the results of the election at the AGM was unfortunate, and that in the future some other means would be found.