

Summary – NAMHE Committee Meeting 7 June 2014

Current Issues and Projects

- **Institute of Musical Research (IMR).** NAMHE quickly took action when it learned of the threat of closure. This threat had been avoided, but only for a year. The Committee feels it is important for the Royal Musical Association and British Academy to lead the campaign to preserve it, but NAMHE has offered to participate in discussions about the IMR's future.
- **Higher Education Academy (HEA).** The Committee was concerned to learn of the severe cuts being made to discipline specific-support and very sorry to hear of the impending departure of Paul Kleiman. Rachel Cowgill will be discussing the position with the chairs of SCUDD and Dance HE, and steps that can be taken to maintain access to online materials developed by PALATINE as well as by the HEA. Committee members expressed their appreciation of everything Paul Kleiman has done for the subject. It is hoped that he may work with NAMHE in the future in his new role as a freelance consultant.
- **Joint conference with SCUDD and Dance HE.** It is planned to hold a joint conference between the three subject associations on Saturday 18 October. Advocacy was suggested as a suitable theme. Details will be circulated to NAMHE members as soon as available.
- **Music Subject Criteria.** Chris Collins and Michelle Phillips had attended several meetings to discuss the GCE and GCSE reforms and co-ordinated a response from NAMHE to the consultation.
- **Gender Equality Mark (GEM) Research Project.** Dr Danijela Bogdanovic has been appointed by NAMHE as researcher on this six-month project. Members who would be interested in talking to Danijela about their perspectives on gender issues in HE Music, or who have plans to prepare an application to the GEM Award scheme when it is formally launched in November, are encouraged to contact NAMHE via the Administrator.
- **Consultation on REF metrics** – this was in progress at the time of the meeting. NAMHE's response is now available on our web site.
- **External Examiners Database** – a drive to update this database has produced a significant response from the membership. The new database will include both colleagues who are currently engaged in external examining and those who are not engaged but are available. Once set up, the database will be uploaded to the web site but access will only be available to paid-up members of NAMHE.
- **'Value of a Music Degree' video project.** The Committee received the filmmaker's brief and watched three short films produced from two days filming at Cardiff University. The filming is being directed by Miguel Mera and produced by Rachel Cowgill. Further filming is planned for the autumn and there is a possibility of some edits being shared with delegates at the joint conference in October.
- **MA Numbers project.** Jan Smazcny is leading on a project to investigate numbers enrolling on taught MAs in Music.

- **Conference 2015.** The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland has been suggested as a venue and the use of technology in teaching as a possible theme. The Committee recorded thanks to Charles Wiffen and his team at Bath Spa for the very successful 2014 conference.
- **Protect Music Education.** NAMHE will join the ISM's *Protect Music Education* campaign, and Rachel Cowgill will draft a response to the Government consultation paper *Savings to the Education Services Grant for 2015-16*, which details proposed cuts to UK music funding. The response would reflect the Committee's discussion of HE-relevant issues in the meeting.

Committee business

- **Helen Julia Minors.** The Committee congratulated Helen on her recent promotion to Associate Professor.
- **Treasurer's Report.** The membership agreed at the AGM to raise subscriptions in 2014-15; this is the first increase for a number of years and is needed to finance the growing number of projects in which NAMHE is involved. The Committee will be looking at establishing a reserves policy at the next meeting.
- **Student representation.** It was originally intended that a student election be held at each annual conference, but only one student attended this year. It was suggested that the host institution for the annual conference might nominate a student for a one-year term. Rachel Cowgill is going to discuss the possibility of running a session for students at the joint conference with SCUDD and Dance HE.

Meetings in 2014-15

September/October meeting – date to be confirmed
 Tuesday 5 May – Annual Conference
 Saturday 24 January
 Saturday 6 June