

Summary – NAMHE Committee Meeting 11 October 2014

Current Issues and Projects

- **Institute of Musical Research (IMR).** The Committee noted with concern the reduction of funding for the IMR and they continue to monitor developments closely. Meanwhile, NAMHE has committed £600 per annum towards providing travel grants for students to attend events at the IMR. Applications are invited for the attention of the NAMHE Administrator and these will be reviewed by the Projects Sub-Committee.
- **Facilitating Subjects.** The Committee noted with regret that the DfE's reply to our letter failed to engage with our points and that the Russell Group's response to a joint letter from NAMHE, SCUDD and DanceHE was similarly unsatisfactory. NAMHE plans to make a full response to each.
- **Joint conference with SCUDD and Dance HE.** This event, originally scheduled for October, will now take place in February 2015, with the theme 'Survival of the Fittest?: Promoting our Disciplines Through Higher Education'
- **GCSE/A' Level Reform.** Chris Collins and Michelle Phillips have been working closely with colleagues in MEC and the ISM to make the views of Music heard. This has involved responding to consultations and attending meetings at very short notice. Chris's report of progress was received at this meeting. NAMHE, MEC and ISM have agreed to collaborate on a response to the latest proposals from the DfE and Ofqual.
- **Gender Equality Mark (GEM) Research Project.** Dr Danijela Bogdanovic is making excellent progress with this research project and her report is expected in late November. As far as we are aware, no other subject association has sponsored such discipline-specific research and NAMHE is considering applying for external funding to continue the work.
- **External Examiners Database** – updated records are now available on our web site.
- **'Value of a Music Degree' video project.** This is nearing completion and the first two films will be released shortly. Video footage was taken of the 2014 Conference and this will also be available shortly on the NAMHE web site.
- **MA Numbers project.** Paul Rodmell has taken over from Jan Smazcny on a project to investigate numbers enrolling on taught MAs in Music. Members are urged to assist with the research; a survey is to be set up via SurveyMonkey to allow members to give feedback anonymously if they wish.
- **Conference 2015.** The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland has been confirmed as the venue for the 2015 Conference on Tuesday 5 May, with the conference theme Technology and Learning (exact title to be confirmed). It is hoped that Professor Georgina Born will be available to deliver the keynote speech. The 2016 venue is likely to be the Royal Northern College of Music. The Committee has agreed that there should be a standing item at each future conference on pressing issues currently facing the sector.
- **Engagement of members.** The Committee is concerned that we may not be reaching all academic staff in our member departments. We will be emailing department reps and heads of department to request a list of names and email

addresses of all academic staff so that we can write to people directly and encourage them to take part in the important debates in which we are involved.

Committee business

- **Jan Smaczny.** The Committee was sorry to learn of Jan's resignation from the Committee due to ill-health. We wish him a speedy recovery and thank him for his outstanding service to the Committee and the Association over many years.
- **Treasurer's Report.** NAMHE is currently investing in a number of projects and its finances are fully committed for 2014-15. The Committee has agreed a reserves policy, which is to retain a contingency of £3k in its budget. Members are urged to pay invoices promptly to assist with cashflow and the Association will be actively looking to recruit new members to increase representation.
- **Committee elections.** Chris Collins, Miguel Mera, Helen Julia Minors and Michelle Phillips all complete their terms at the end of 2014. All four have confirmed that they are standing for re-election.

Meetings in 2014-15

Tuesday 5 May – Annual Conference

Saturday 24 January

Saturday 6 June