

Summary – NAMHE Committee Meeting 4 June 2011

PALATINE

Thomas Schmidt-Beste reported that he had been contacted by a member of the new HEA Board, who had explained plans for the new HEA structure. She had contacted all chairs of subject centres and it appeared that they all have similar concerns to NAMHE. NAMHE is concerned to make sure that two particular areas of PALATINE's work are covered, namely their development awards and the workshops they run.

Advocacy Statement for Music

It was decided to hold a workshop session on Advocacy at the next committee meeting on 8 October and hopefully to involve the National Association for Music Educators (NAME). The Committee felt that advocacy statements were needed, not only for government, but also for potential students and for those writing, sometimes misleading, web sites about music degree courses. The Committee is looking into the possibility of making a film about HE music as part of this project.

NAMHE Conferences

The 2011 Kingston Conference had been a successful and enjoyable occasion. The 2012 Conference will be held at MMU Crewe campus on Tuesday 8 May 2012. The theme will be REF and further details will be published on the NAMHE web site as soon as available.

AHRC Matters

- Paul Archbold reported on an extraordinary meeting of subject associations held to discuss AHRC policy going forward, following reduction in funding.
- The Committee discussed the recent change of policy by RCUK on the funding of equipment through research grants.
- The Committee discussed the recent exchanges between James Ladyman (Philosophy, Bristol) and Rick Rylance of the AHRC and noted that Professor Ladyman was now calling for a vote of no confidence in Rick Rylance.
- It was noted that following changes to HEFCE guidance, some university staff were now only able to class time spent on research as 'research time' if it was externally funded. Members of the NAMHE Committee will be contacting departments in their region to find out how institutions are approaching this change.

Henley Review

The Committee hopes that NAME will join NAMHE in a joint approach to Michael Gove and David Willetts, following the Henley Review of 14-19 music education,

which failed to mention university music departments. This omission was highlighted in a recent NAME newsletter.

Future Projects

The Committee felt that it was currently fully committed with the Advocacy project. It will review NAMHE's financial position in due course to determine whether it can fund other projects.

Administration

The Committee looked ahead to the elections due in the autumn. Edward Venn, the current Treasurer, will be stepping down. Martin Blain has agreed to take on the role of Treasurer from January 2012.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday 8 October 2011 at 11 am.