

## **Arts and Humanities Alliance: Note of a Meeting, 23 October 2015**

17 societies were represented.

### **1. Comprehensive Spending Review/Green Paper**

- a. Research funding. There was a discussion that highlighted the significance for the humanities of protecting QR, which represents 85% of humanities research funding, though attention was also paid to the science budget and AHRC.
- b. Teaching Excellence Framework. Emphasis was placed on the need either to rebut arguments for metrics based on graduate salaries or to put forward arguments for metrics that better captured the value of the humanities (e.g. ‘happiness’ or ‘well-being’).
- c. Rumoured de-funding of British Academy Institutes (BASIS).

### **2. AHRC DTP Consultation**

Alex Thomson, representing University English, opened the discussion. There was concern that the proposed requirement for match-funding was expecting too much from HEIs – notably that they devote large sums of their own discretionary income to implementing AHRC’s strategy. The removal of the cap on studentships suggested a further concentration of resources on a smaller number of institutions.

It was agreed that consideration of ‘strategic and vulnerable subjects’ should be restored as a criterion, especially as the proposal is to eliminate the Centres for Doctoral Training.

It was agreed that there was too little public information about the current arrangements for funding of the DTPs (e.g. how much match-funding or ‘leverage’ was currently being supplied). Representatives who will be attending future public discussions of this consultation agreed to put this to the AHRC and to report back (by email circulation) if any further information was released.

### **3. MA and PhD recruitment**

There was only sketchy information available about postgraduate recruitment by discipline. HESA and Paul Wakeling (the York University sociologist who has done the best academic work on postgraduate recruitment) should be consulted about data with sufficient granularity to show trends over time of recruitment to specific PG degrees by discipline.

### **4. Open Access**

The letter to JISC and AHRC regarding their ‘Guide to Open Access Monographs’ had been signed by 21 societies, and sent to JISC and AHRC. JISC has acknowledged receipt and is consulting the authors of the guide.

### **5. Future of AHA**

The AHA website ([www.artsandhums.org](http://www.artsandhums.org)) is now live. Thirty societies are listed as affiliates (with links to their websites). Societies are encouraged to link back to the AHA.

AHA will need a new convenor at the end of 2016.

It is proposed that the next meeting take place on Friday 22 April, 12-3, in the offices of the Royal Historical Society in UCL.

Peter Mandler  
29 October 2015