



Association of Hispanists of Great Britain & Ireland

AGM

Business School Lecture Theatre, Room 003, Northumbria University

6.00-7.15pm, Tuesday 5th April 2016

Chair: Isabel Torres

Minutes: Sarah Wright

Committee: Tilmann Altenberg (Treasurer); Chris Harris (Conference Secretary); Trevor Dadson (Past-President), Geoff West (Aclaiir), Barry Taylor (British Library); Tom Whittaker (Postgraduate); Mel Boland (Awards and Fellowships/Irish Rep), Lesley Twomey (Mentoring/UCML), Mike Thompson (Webmaster).

Apologies: Stephanie Dennison (Luso-Brazilian Studies), Sally Faulkner (Dorothy Severin Sherman Award), Duncan Wheeler (Membership Secretary).

1. President's Welcome (IT)	IT welcomed everyone present to the AGM at the Annual AHGBI conference held this year in Northumbria and confirmed that the meeting was quorate.
2. Apologies (TD)	Stephanie Dennison (Luso-Brazilian Studies), Sally Faulkner (Dorothy Severin Sherman Award); Duncan Wheeler (Membership Secretary).

3. Minutes of AGM Exeter 2015	<p>Corrections: 5. Should read ‘Michael Woods’.</p> <p>These were confirmed as a true record and will be signed electronically as we go paperless.</p>
4. Matters arising	<p>These would be dealt with as they arose later in business</p>
5. Presentation of eulogies	<p>Eulogies were presented for David Mackenzie (by Stephen Boyd), W. F. Hunter (by Barry Taylor) and Manuel Bermejo Marcos (written by Rob Rix and read by Trevor Dadson)</p>
6. Chair’s Business (external)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) IT had attended various meetings of the Standing Committee of Presidents of Associations of Languages, and a larger, specially-convened meeting at the IMLR in February 2015 which also included representatives from MHRA, AHRC and Eastern European and Asian Languages. The idea of establishing an association for Modern Languages in the style of the US MLA was the focus of the meeting but had been rejected in favour of an alliance (called the Alliance for Modern Languages in the UK – AMLUK) which could provide a platform from which to lobby for ML issues collectively and at a national level. b) Support for colleagues in departments currently experiencing difficulties. The situation in Ulster, Nottingham, Birmingham and Northumbria was outlined. IT had signed a letter to protest the proposals at Nottingham. The AHGBI was offering its solidarity with colleagues from Northumbria through the conference. IT had initiated consultation with colleagues at Birmingham. c) Heads of Spanish meeting. Following positive feedback on this meeting, it will continue next year. The meeting has no formal minutes, but provides a platform for support, discussion and sharing of good practice and is chaired by the AHGBI in collaboration with Catherine Davies of the IMLR. d) “Convenio” between the AHGBI and the Spanish Embassy. Fernando Villalonga had spoken to IT about this but there had been no further news. TD would write to Fidel López to ask about progress. This year we did receive funds from the Embassy

Chair's Business (internal)	<p>e) The Mentorship scheme would be launched at the Northumbria conference with a pilot scheme involving five 'guinea pigs'. LT was thanked for her work with this scheme.</p> <p>f) Strategies to encourage the participation of retired members at conferences and on panels was discussed. More thought would be put into this: the recent scheme to invite retired members to act as respondents had not produced volunteers. More would be made of this at the AGM.</p> <p>g) Roles rotation. Kirsty Hooper would take over from Mike Thompson as webmaster; Katie Brown would take over from Tilmann Altenberg as Treasurer; Antonio da Silva would replace Stephanie Dennison as ABIL rep. 2017 would see the end of the terms of office for the following roles: Association Secretary, Awards and Fellowships/Irish Officer; Membership Secretary, Dorothy Severin Sherman Award.</p> <p>A comment was received from the floor as to whether we could approach other Embassies – we reported that we were currently making plans to do this. The agreed strategy was to focus our efforts on Chile, Brazil, and Mexico.</p>
7. Secretary's Report	<p>A report is attached.</p> <p>a) A successful bid had been made to the Spanish Embassy.</p> <p>b) Reporting to the Embassy and the Charities Commission would take place after the conference. There was also a need for a new cycle of business therefore.</p>
8. Treasurer's Report	<p>See report and balance sheet attached.</p> <p>a) The new membership cycle would run from May to April. Those who had not paid membership would be purged from the database lists.</p> <p>b) The web developer had not put in place a filter to search for those who had not paid up.</p> <p>c) The take-up for Gift Aid was low and could be encouraged. Similarly, take up for the Development fund (17 members) could be much higher. If the Embassy withdraws funds we will be unable to continue with activities unless we have an alternate source of funding.</p> <p>d) Trustees now have liabilities insurance.</p>

<p>9. Conference Secretary's Report (CH)</p>	<p>See report attached.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) An FAQ for guidance on who can give a paper and how would be devised. b) A list of responsibilities for the conference Secretary and host institution would be drawn up. c) A scheme whereby retired members act as respondents on panels had not been successful – there would be a renewed attempt to make this scheme work next year. d) The Lusophone presence was dwindling. It was agreed that the integration of lusophone papers within panels more broadly would be a more constructive way forward than a separate lusophone panel with reduced audience. e) The Third Plenary panel of experts was too expensive for the Association to support - in the future host institutions would have to seek alternative funding to host an event of this type.
<p>10. Webmaster's Report (MT)</p>	<p>A report is attached.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) MT reminded members that they can contribute news about new books by Hispanists to the web-page as well as links to any major research projects. b) Podcasts from the conference would be placed on the website for the first time. c) MT issued a reminder to update membership profiles – this could be used to search for colleagues in Hispanism. d) The membership list would be purged of non-paying members. e) Kirsty Hooper would take over from MT as webmaster..
<p>11. PG Officer's Report (TW)</p>	<p>A report is attached.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the question of whether to reduce the fee for PGs would be considered later. b) The £500 travel award would be re-advertised. c) PGs who had been previously successful in the awards scheme may not re-apply.
<p>12. Awards and Fellowships (MB)</p>	<p>A report is attached.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) There were 11 applications and 3 awards for the PG prize – it will run again next year b) The Visiting International Fellowship would be judged soon.

13. ACLAIIR (GW)	A report is attached.
14. British Library (BT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Geoff West's retirement had been a great loss to Hispanic collecting and curating at the British Library. b) On 9th May a Translation joust would be held. c) On 13th May there would be a conference on the Spanish Book. d) BT was very happy for groups of Hispanists PGs etc to visit the library and be shown the collections.
15. Mentorship Scheme (LT)	The mentorship scheme was aimed at mid-careerists. LT had drawn up guidelines and forms. The pilot scheme was now launched with a rolling out to other members in due course (with ECRs included later).
16. UCML (LT)	See report attached. LT stressed that there was a vacancy for UCML Secretary and it would be great to have a Hispanist in this position.
17. Appointment of New Trustee	Francis Lough was nominated and confirmed as the new Trustee.
18. AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) New cycle of business. IT outlined the new cycle of business necessitated by the charity status of the AHGBI. This would mean that the membership cycle would run from 1st May to 30th April. Those members who had joined just before the conference would not be billed twice. b) KB and Geoff West had been working on the archive – many thanks to them and particularly to Geoff West for all his work for the AHGBI.
19. Membership Secretary's Report (DW in absentia)	See report attached.
20. Dorothy Severin Sherman Report (SF in absentia)	See report attached
21. Luso-Brazilian Report (SD in absentia)	See report attached