

**AUHE AGM**  
**Minutes**  
**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> 2015**  
**University of Sydney**

1. **In attendance:** Heather Nielsen (UNSW Canberra), Sue Martin (ASAL Pres.), Deborah Pike (Notre Dame Sydney), Helen Groth (UNSW), Anthony Uhlmann (WSU), Brigitta Olubas (UNSW), Nicole Moore (UNSW Canberra), Julieanne Lamond (ANU), Liam Semler (Sydney), Sue Kossew (Monash), Peter Marks (Sydney), Melissa Hardie (Sydney), Matt McGuire (WSU), Chris Danta (AAL Pres.), Joy Wallace (Charles Sturt), Will Christie (ANU), Alex Segal (Charles Sturt), Chris Lee (Griffith), Simon Ryan (ACU Brisbane), Meg Tasker (Federation), Elizabeth McMahon (UNSW), Vijay Mishra (Murdoch), Elaine Lindsay (ACU Sydney), Ann Vickery (La Trobe), Antonina Harbus (Macquarie), Ken Gelder (Melbourne), Tom Clark (AULLA Pres. & VU), Paul Giles (Sydney), Ralph Crane (UTas), Lisa Fletcher (UTas), Clare Archer-Lean (USC), Guy Davidson (UoW), Paul McGee (UC), Lyn McCredden (Deakin), Amanda Nettlebeck (Adelaide), Elizabeth Hale (UNE), Giselle Bastian (Flinders), Kieran Dolin (UWA).
2. **Apologies:** Jesper Guiddal (Newcastle), Ann Maxwell (Melbourne), David Carter (UQ), Tim Dolin (Curtin), Leigh Dale (UoW).
3. **Minutes 2014.** These were passed with amendments made to the attendance list: add Alex Segal, Ian Syson, Peter Groves and delete Sue Martin (she did not attend).
4. **President's Report – Anthony Uhlmann** provided an overview of the actions taken arising from the 2014 AGM and ongoing projects: the drafting and finalisation of the AUHE constitution and the incorporation of the association; the literary studies convention in 2015; the secondary/tertiary nexus workshop convened with the Australasian Association for Teachers of English (AATE) at UWS on November 24<sup>th</sup>, prior to the AUHE AGM.
5. **Administrative and Financial Report – Helen Groth and Brigitta Olubas** reported in detail on the process of incorporation and acquiring an ABN. As of 2016 AUHE is incorporated as a non-profit association in the state of NSW, able to collect dues. As agreed at the 2015 AGM, membership of AUHE is institutional rather than individual. Late in 2016 invoices were issued to Heads of almost all of the English programs in Australia. Delegates with outstanding institutional payments were asked to follow up and any missing invoices reported.  
The statement of account as of November 25<sup>th</sup> was \$3600.  
Outstanding invoices, subsequently paid - \$1290.  
Plans for expenditure in 2016 were outlined. These included:
  - a. AGM 2016 - \$2000 (catering, travel assistance)
  - b. Website –design/hosting etc. \$2000 (VP admin)

- c. Casual support/RA - Support for working group activities, approved President or VP Outreach activities. \$1000

**Action: Matt McGuire – follow up on website and casual support**

- 6. **L & T Thresholds Working Group report – Joy Wallace** reported on the developments post the unsuccessful TLO application of which results were announced in May 2015. She outlined the details of issues discussed at the May 2014 and June 2014 sessions in which the TLOs were drafted and noted the significant contribution made by AUHE members of the committee. Joy discussed the details of these sessions focusing on key points including: 1. 1<sup>st</sup> year thresholds for the English Major; 2. TLO number 4 in the draft document – understanding and interpreting complex texts. Joy also outlined future plans including TLOs for Honours, PG (Masters and PhD).

**Discussion:** Tom Clark suggested the need to focus on the relationship between the written and spoken word. Sue Kossew raised the alignment with reading resilience. Deborah Pike raised implications for TESQA auditing – suggesting further use of external benchmarking for small programs and looking to AUHE for help with this. There was also a discussion of the forms of Honours benchmarking that are already in place. This included input from Melissa Hardie, Antonina Harbus, Guy Davidson and Elizabeth McMahon.

**Action: Joy Wallace and the L&T committee to continue to workshop the draft TLOs, working towards a final agreed set, in consultation with the executive.**

**Action: Nicole Moore, Joy Wallace and the exec. to agree on a timeline and method to endorse and disseminate a final set of TLOs for an undergrad English major.**

- 7. **Tertiary/Secondary Nexus Group** – Matt McGuire reported on the meeting held at WSU on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November between the AUHE group and representatives of the AATE from all states, as well English education academics from University of Melbourne and WSU. See Appendix 1 for list of attendees/overview.

**Key issues discussed included:**

1. Divide between secondary and tertiary English curricula.
2. Formulating models for translating skills between secondary and tertiary systems.
3. Resources – limited resources that effect text selection at primary and secondary levels.
4. Discussion of current state of teacher-training education in different states, especially after graduation.
5. Discussed the challenge of finding a common language between the sectors and between English and Education academics – literacy (English/Education) vs critical thinking (English Depts).
6. Challenge of acting on national level when there is no national curriculum.
7. Nicole reported on the AUHE TLOs project.

8. Report on current project (ARC Linkage) of Larissa Maclean Davies and Wayne Sawyer – what is a national literature?
9. Future projects and potential collaborations between AUHE and AAT, including possible ARC linkages and further conference attendances.

**Actions (Executive and Secondary/Tertiary Nexus Committee):**

1. Strategic focus on building a better dialogue between English and Education academics.
2. Ensuring that the AATE annual conference and the tri-annual literary studies convention do not clash. AUHE representatives to attend AATE conference – can the chair of the secondary/tertiary nexus committee attend or send a delegate?
3. Extend membership of AUHE to AATE President on an ongoing basis and invite her to attend next AUHE AGM.
4. Liaise with state-based secondary teaching associations at a state level more directly – identifying what they want from us. How can English academics assist them in teaching students how to read texts critically?
5. Work on identifying clearer pathways from school to university, working with or without national curriculum.

**8. Research: Discussion of 2016 ARC outcomes and strategies** for addressing the small number of grants awarded to English/Literary Studies projects from 2016 – 4 in total. Anthony Uhlmann presented data on funding patterns over the last 5 year funding period which revealed an increase in large scale projects rather than dual or single CI projects. The group discussed sending a letter to the current ARC CEO raising our concerns as a discipline group.

**Action: Nicole Moore and Helen Groth will draft and circulate a letter for discussion via email in early 2016.**

**9. Election of new officers.** The returning officer Helen Groth declared the positions open, clarified the order of election and asked for further nominations from the floor. The new executive was elected and outgoing officers thanked for their service.

**New Executive 2016-2018:**

Past President – Prof. Anthony Uhlmann (WSU)  
President - Prof. Nicole Moore (UNSW Canberra)  
Vice President Outreach – Prof. Leigh Dale (Wollongong)  
VP financial – A/Prof Brigitta Olubas (UNSW)  
VP Admin – Dr. Matt McGuire (WSU)  
State Reps: NSW Deborah Pike, ACT Monique Rooney, Queensland Clare Archer-Lean, WA Kieran Dolin, Tas Ralph Crane, SA – Amanda Nettlebeck.

**Ex officio members:**

AULLA Pres.: Tom Clark  
ASAL Pres.: Sue Martin  
AAL Pres.: Chris Danta

## **Working Groups/Committees:**

L&T Committee: Chair, Joy Wallace; members Lisa Fletcher, Melissa Hardie, Richard Lansdowne, Lucy Potter, Alison Ravenscroft, Anne Surma, Nicole Moore

Secondary/Tertiary Nexus Committee: Chair, Giselle Bastin; members Matt McGuire, Ralph Crane, Tim Dolin.

(New) Research Committee: Chair Helen Groth: members Sue Martin, Ken Gelder, Paul Giles, Tom Clark, Will Christie.

Voss Prize Committee: Chair, Elaine Lindsay, members to be appointed.

### **10. Panel on Policy, Advocacy and Speaking to Government – John Byron (independent lobbyist), Kylie Brass (AAH) and Nicole Moore (chair)**

Key issues raised and discussed:

1. Kylie Brass spoke to the Academy response/strategy to promoting the Humanities – including *Mapping the Humanities* and *The Power of the Humanities*. Identified key role Humanities plays in Aust tertiary sector: in 2011 65% of tertiary students were in HASS. Kylie also discussed the impact of the AHA *Power of the Humanities* report and ARC project on mapping the humanities in Asia.

2. John Byron spoke about ways to take the argument to government and making a case more broadly to the community through data-driven arguments, compelling narratives, 'being authentic' and identifying the distinctiveness of the discipline. He emphasised the question of why literary studies matters as well as how it aligns and can build on agreed principles of research across STEM/HASS. The group discussed the challenges of meeting with and making the case to politicians and the current funding challenges across the sector in a time in which government funding is being drastically cut to arts bodies especially the Australia Council, on which long-standing and prestigious literary studies journals have depended for funding. The lack of ARC funding for literary studies projects was also raised in this context. The group discussed strategies for making the case – international rankings, citation, the rhetoric of prestige and impact.

### **11. Literary Studies Conventions – Past and Future.** Helen Groth reported on the outstanding success of the inaugural literary studies convention organised by Prof. Leigh Dale and hosted by the University of Wollongong in July 2015. HG also reported on AUHE's involvement in the convention. Julieanne Lamond reported on the plans for the next convention, which will be convened by herself and Prof Will Christie and hosted by ANU and the Humanities Research Centre. Dates agreed upon were 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2018, chosen not to clash with the annual AATE conference. The theme will be 'Literary Interfaces'.

**12. Final session – State of the Field.** Anthony Uhlmann (Chair). Key issues and initiatives for AUHE to address in 2016 were discussed by the group. These were:

1. **Antonina Harbus** proposed an AUHE collated ranked journal list, to counter the use of out of date lists by many universities or the compilation of their own. Many concerns were raised about this repeating the mistake of past ERA journal rankings processes and the current DASSH ranking exercise.

**Action: Helen Groth as chair of research working group (see below) will consult with Sue Martin regarding the DASSH ranking process.**

2. **Lisa Fletcher** raised the prospect of an AUHE undergraduate student prize – this was discussed but no action decided.

3. **Brigitta Olubas** suggested that AUHE fund and administer an annual prize for literary scholarship. This was welcomed by the meeting and eligibility criteria, judging committee membership, and nomination process (to be sought from membership) were discussed.

**Action: Brigitta will continue to develop this idea in consultation with members of the research committee and executive.**

4. **Paul McGee** reported back on building relationship between the Australasian Association of Writing Programs (AAWP), as the peak association for creative writing in universities, and AUHE.

**Action: Nicole and Paul consult about initiating contact with AAWP president and inviting them to become a member of AUHE.**

5. Group proposed the formation of a research working group or committee. This was welcomed by the meeting. Prof. Helen Groth (UNSW) was nominated as chair by Nicole Moore. Committee members for 2016 volunteered or were nominated: Prof. William Christie (ANU), Prof. Sue Martin (La Trobe), Dr Tom Clark (Victoria), Prof Ken Gelder (Melbourne) and Prof Paul Giles (Sydney).

**Suggested actions included:**

**ARC submission on behalf of the discipline, working with the AUHE President; consultation on DASSH report on journal and press ranking for report to 2016 AGM.**

6. **Discussion of teaching English texts in translation** and the broader context of comparative and world literature.

7. **The future of Honours** was discussed and the broader implications for the discipline. One of the concerns shared by the group was the implications for the English major of the increasingly popular 3/2/3 model, in which a single honours year is replaced by a two year Research Masters.

**Action: The group suggested that Honours and Honours benchmarking should be an item for the next AGM and that the L & T**

**committee contact specific institutions where the 3/2/3 model has already been implemented, i.e. Melbourne, Macquarie and Sydney (in process).**

**8.** The final item discussed was **the formation of the Voss Committee** for the judging of the Voss award for 2016. Dr Elaine Lindsay (ACU Sydney) was nominated to chair.

**Action:** Elaine will contact Anthony Uhlmann in early 2016 to confirm the process for contacting publishers etc. Elaine will also be responsible for appointing 5 judges from English programs in Australian universities, with an emphasis on national representation.