



SOCIETY OF COLLEGE
NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY
LIBRARIES

MINUTES

of a meeting of the Executive Board held at the
SCONUL Office, 102 Euston Street, London NW1 2HA
on Thursday 23 October 2008 at 10.30

SCONUL E
Doc. 08/69 Rev.1

Present Jane Core (Chair), Toby Bainton, Anne Bell, Michael Breaks (from item 1.2), Elizabeth Chapman, Christine Fyfe (from item 2.17), Alun Jenkins, Maxine Melling, Fiona Parsons and Chris West

Apologies Philip Cohen (CONUL), John Lancaster, Julia Munro, Anne Poulson (RLUK), Christine Sexton (UCISA) and Ian Snowley (The British Library)

In attendance Peter Etherington of Peter Etherington Employment Law Services (item 2.27 only)



Company matters

1 Executive Board

Noted

- 1.1 The resignation of Bidy Fisher following her retirement from her post at Sheffield Hallam University
- 1.2 That six vacancies will arise at the next AGM arising through the completion of term of office of Michael Breaks, Elizabeth Chapman, Christine Fyfe, Maxine Melling, Julia Munro and Chris West
- 1.3 Current external interests of Board members, including their memberships of relevant groups outside SCONUL; and their commitments to specific aspects of the Executive Board's work Doc. 08/56

Agreed

- 1.4 That the Chair would approach one or two people with a view to co-opting a Representative to fill the place on the Board vacated by Bidy Fisher **Action: JC**
- 1.5 That a message should be circulated to SCONUL members prior to the Autumn conference, indicating that there will be vacancies on the Board from the AGM in 2009, inviting members to consider approaching possible candidates, and suggesting that they contact existing Board members for an informal discussion.

- 1.6 That since a register of the external interests of Board members was recommended by the Charity Commission, the Secretary should seek reports from other members of the Board, in order to update Document 08/56, and at the same time revise the schedules of commitments to the work of the Board itself contained in that Document and in a related informal paper tabled by the Chair **Action: TB**



Strategic matters

2 Strategic issues

Collaborative strategic initiatives and developments

JISC

Noted

- 2.1 That after a meeting of the Chair and Vice-Chair with Anne Bell on 20 August, and following the Board's agreement in principle at the Strategic Planning meeting on 1 August, SCONUL had formally endorsed the 'Libraries of the Future' programme funded by SCONUL, the British Library, JISC, the Research Information Network and Research Libraries UK, SCONUL's financial contribution being £20,000 a year for two years – the programme to be undertaken by a consultant under a steering group chaired by Alison Allden (Bristol), with the intention that the consultant would be able to give a presentation at the autumn conference on 16 December. The priorities of the programme would be, first, the future environment for library systems, and second, the 'discovery to delivery' agenda
- 2.2 That SCONUL's comments had been taken into account, and in part adopted, in Sir Ron Cooke's report to the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, on ICT in higher education, sent 8 October [Doc. 08/57](#)
- 2.3 An oral report from Anne Bell on the proposed wiki relating to Library Management Systems (minute 2.2 of the Board's meeting on 1 July 2008 refers), indicating that Ken Chad would arrange for the wiki to be hosted commercially at a cost (which was *approved*) of £5750 for set-up and data transfer, in addition to £1980 for ongoing administration for eight months and £100 for eight months' hosting
- 2.4 That SCONUL, JISC, the Strategic Content Alliance and several other partners had begun a major lobbying campaign in response to the European Commission's Green Paper *Copyright in the knowledge economy*
- 2.5 That following its circulation to the Board and Group Chairs in mid-September, SCONUL had accepted an invitation from the JISC-funded Discovery to Delivery Project for SCONUL representation on its Reference Group, with Jan Howden (Glasgow Caledonian) to be SCONUL's representative

- 2.6 An oral report from the Secretary on the possibility of Associate Partnership with JISC, indicating that an informal discussion with Louisa Dale (JISC Partnerships Manager) had suggested that both JISC and SCONUL would be likely to benefit from the strong, reliable line of communication and regular joint liaison and planning meetings implied by such a commitment
- 2.6.1 *Agreed* that the Secretary should pursue further steps with JISC with a view to formalising an Associate Partnership **Action: TB**

UCISA

Noted

- 2.7 An oral report from the Vice-Chair on UCISA's Executive Committee meetings held on 3 September and 15 October, indicating that 'green computing' was an issue of growing importance revealed in UCISA's recent 'Top concerns' survey, and that JISC InfoNet had been asked to investigate institutional information strategies. Issues of leadership had also been discussed. A notable success had been the tactic of Jean Sykes (LSE) in providing briefing materials, and in asking for personal briefings of vice-chancellors by SCONUL and UCISA members, immediately prior to her presentations to gatherings of vice-chancellors and principals on the subject of the proposed UK Research Data Service. SCONUL should learn from this effective technique.
- 2.7.1 *Agreed* that the Chair should discuss with the Secretaries of SCONUL and UCISA how best to maintain communications, given that the co-option to SCONUL's Board was proving difficult for the UCISA Vice-Chair to take up **Action: JC &TB**
- 2.8 That following e-mailed surveys of SCONUL and UCISA members (2 and 22 July), representatives of UCISA (having fully involved SCONUL in previous discussions and SCONUL's Chair having signed a joint letter to Macolm Read), met members of the JISC Executive early in August, as a result of which, JISC had confirmed a further three years of funding for Service Provider support, continuing the work of the Access Management Team and JISC Collections to bring publishers and others into the UK Access Management Federation
- 2.9 An oral report from Chris West on the HAERVI2 project to the effect that the concept was faltering in the face of the complexities of a new régime for identity and access management; although the WAM25 project, developed by the M25 Consortium of libraries, might go a long way towards providing the investigation required
- 2.9.1 *Agreed* that Chris West should consult Maureen Wade (LSE) about the WAM25 project in order to obtain useful information for the purposes of SCONUL's proposed Associate Partnership with JISC **Action: CW**
- 2.10 That the third instance of the 'Future Leaders' course (designed for the highest ranks of the academic and research library and information services professions), would be run as before by the Leadership Foundation in collaboration with SCONUL, the British Library and UCISA, with the selection of participants taking place at the end of 2008 and the

course to begin from 8 April 2009

- 2.11 That the steering committee consisted of officers and consultants of the Leadership Foundation with the Secretary, Suzanne Enright (Westminster), Anne Murray (Cambridge) from SCONUL, Ian Snowley from the British Library, and David Harrison and Peter Tinson from UCISA
- 2.12 *Confirmed* SCONUL's contribution in 2008 of £5000 (matching the BL and UCISA contributions) to a fund to provide financial support for good candidates whose institutions would otherwise be unable to meet the course fee

HEFCE

Noted

- 2.13 That following discussions between the Chair, Vice Chair and Anne Bell, and Paddy Walker of HEFCE's Shared Services programme, a proposal had been submitted to HEFCE arising from the SCONUL/JISC study of the Library Management Systems and related systems landscape and subsequent community engagement event on 27 June: a decision by HEFCE was likely by the end of November Doc. 08/62
- 2.13.1 *Agreed* that this was a very important piece of work for which other sources of funding should be sought if necessary; and that members of the Board would send comments on the proposal directly to Anne Bell **Action: All**
- 2.14 A tabled paper on progress on the UK Research Reserve project, including the recent decision that the Research Information Network would service the UKRR Advisory Board Doc. 08/69
- 2.14.1 *Agreed* that in accordance with the bid for funding bid for Phase 2 of the project, SCONUL's commitment was limited to adjudicating, by means of a panel meeting two or three times a year, in those cases where routine decision-making had failed to find an institution or institutions willing to hold the final copies; or where the proposed whereabouts of holdings were otherwise disputed
- 2.15 That the Secretary had produced a revised version of the evidence submitted in June to JM Consulting for HEFCE's investigation into the sustainable cost of teaching Doc. 08/60
- 2.15.1 *Agreed* that it be made available on the website, and that the Secretary should send a copy to the Learning and Teaching Group **Action: TB**

Universities UK

- 2.16 *Noted* that the Secretary had liaised closely with two policy officers at Universities UK in connection with their response to the European Commission's consultation on the Public Sector Information Directive (see Secretary's report, 2.3 for SCONUL's response)

INSPIRE

- 2.17 *Considered* a report and proposals from Philip Payne (Birkbeck) for new terms of reference and new composition of INSPIRE's governing board Doc. 08/64
- 2.18 *Agreed* that although the Board fully supported the achievements of Inspire, SCONUL should not, in view of the withdrawal of other partners from the project, put itself in the position of lead body. The Board expressed doubts about the UK-wide approach when regional solutions seemed more effective, and asked the Secretary to consult Philip Payne with a view to finding other ways for SCONUL to engage with the project.

Action: TB

SCONUL's international agenda

Noted

- 2.19 An oral report from Maxine Melling on the SCONUL study tour to Canada, 29 September to 10 October, noting that the tour had been a great success, and that a fuller report would be brought to a future meeting of the Board in order to highlight (a) aspects of the Canadian experience that SCONUL could learn from and act upon; and (b) possibilities for collaborative work with our Canadian colleagues
- 2.20 An oral report from Michael Breaks on the Task and Finish group set up to develop the international strategy and *Approved* the members of the group (Chair, Michael Breaks), following a call for expressions of interest on 21 July: David Ball (Bournemouth), Margaret Coutts (Leeds), Sonja Haerkoenen (Cardiff), Christopher Pressler (Nottingham), Kate Robinson (Bath)
- 2.21 That during the IFLA congress (9-15 August) the Secretary gave official support to a proposal for a new IFLA special interest group for people concerned with international relations in national organisations; and also, in a brief meeting with the current Chairs of SCONUL's equivalent associations in France and Germany, it was agreed that we should send representatives to each other's conferences and exchange information. At the invitation of Werner Stephan of the Deutscher Bibliotheksverband, Sektion 4: Wissenschaftliche Bibliotheken (Germany), and after an appeal for volunteers on lis-sconul-exec, David Ball (Bournemouth) will be SCONUL's representative to their conference in Hamburg 22-23 October
- 2.22 *Approved* progress on the planned SCONUL study tour to Scandinavia in 2009 (fifteen expressions of interest having been received), including the draft programme Doc. 08/65

Internal SCONUL developments

SCONUL's Learning and Teaching Strategy

- 2.23 *Noted* an oral report from Fiona Parsons that she had met Sue McKnight and Julia Munro to discuss terms of reference for a short-life group whose aim would be to develop key messages backed by evidence. The group were considering holding an invitation-only workshop to support their task.

SCONUL Top Concerns Survey

- 2.24 *Noted* that the final report had been uploaded to the SCONUL website, with a link from 'latest news' on the home page, and that an article would appear in SCONUL Focus 44

Working Groups

Considered

- 2.25 A revised proposal from the Working Group on Information Literacy for a SCONUL Information Literacy Award Doc. 08/35 Rev.1

- 2.25.1 *Agreed* that the Board's misgivings (expressed in minute 2.25 from their 1 July meeting) were unchanged in the light of the revised proposal, which also presented the risk that the Working Group would need to devote a high proportion of their annual business to administering such an award. Given that LILAC already makes prestigious awards in the field the Board did not support a new award by SCONUL.

Action: JC & TB to confer with Jan Howden

- 2.26 A proposal from the SCONUL Access Steering Group for continued funding for the development of the SCONUL Access website Doc. 08/67 (tabled)

- 2.26.1 *Agreed* that despite the Board's full support for the proposal, additional funding should not be allocated because of the risk that the proposed work would be badly timed in relation to the forthcoming redesign of the website as a whole. **Action: TB to conf**

Secretariat and communications

Considered

- 2.27 A paper from Peter Etherington concerning the review of the Secretariat

- 2.27.1 The Board discussed and *approved* the report and Peter would communicate with the SCONUL Secretariat accordingly by 30 October

- 2.28 *Approved* revised 'key media messages' for SCONUL prepared by Liz Chapman and the Secretary, subject to the addition of a reference to 'the library as a valuable space' Doc.08/59 **Action: TB & EC**

- 2.29 A tabled paper from John Lancaster on the SCONUL website Doc. 08/**

- 2.29.1 *Agreed* that the Secretary should circulate to SCONUL members the questionnaire included in the paper **Action: TB**

3 **Financial report**

- 3.1 *Noted* an oral report from the Treasurer, indicating that SCONUL's reserves, due for review at the Board's December meeting, stood at around £365,000 of core reserves and around £140,000 of disposable reserves; and that their current lodgement in the Charities Official funds seemed as safe as, or safer than, other means of investment

4 **Company matters**

Approved an application for membership from Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication

Noted a paper from the Secretary on activities and developments, including the following appointments which were *approved*: Doc. 08/46

- 4.1 The appointment of Janice Bell (Birmingham City University) to the Working Group on Information Literacy in place of Jo Parker who was currently on maternity leave
- 4.2 The appointment of John Lancaster (University of Huddersfield) to the Inspire Steering Group

5 **Membership of SCONUL**

Noted

- 5.1 That Pauline Corrigan had been appointed acting University Librarian, University College Dublin, and SCONUL Representative
- 5.2 That Norwich School of Art and Design became Norwich University College of Arts on 1 August
- 5.3 That North East Wales Institute became Glyndŵr University on 18 July
- 5.4 That the College of St Mark and St John had become University College Plymouth St Mark and St John
- 5.5 That the University College for the Creative Arts had become the University for the Creative Arts
- 5.6 That Bethan Adams had been appointed Library Services Manager, St George's University of London, on 1 September, following the retirement of Marina Logan Bruce on 30 July
- 5.7 That Bidy Fisher retired from the post of Head of Academic Services and Development, Sheffield Hallam University, on 14 August and that Edward Oyston, Head of Business and Planning Services, had been appointed SCONUL Representative
- 5.8 That Gordon Hunt had been appointed University Librarian, University of the West of

Scotland, following the retirement of Teresa Gilbert

- 5.9 That Pat Noon would retire from the post of University Librarian, Coventry University, on 31 December
- 5.10 That John Tuck had been appointed Director of Library Services, Royal Holloway University of London and will be the SCONUL Representative
- 5.11 That Bernard Shaw had been appointed Director of Information Services, Staffordshire University. David Parkes, Head of Learning Support, would continue to be the SCONUL Representative
- 5.12 That Mike Hopkins would retire from the post of Director of Information Services, Aberystwyth University, on 31 January 2009
- 5.13 That John Bagnall would retire from the post of University Librarian, Dundee University, on 31 December
- 5.14 That John Cox had been appointed Acting Librarian, National University of Ireland, Galway, and the SCONUL Representative, from 2 September, following Marie Reddan's retirement on 1 September
- 5.15 That Cathal McCauley had been appointed University Librarian, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, on 22 September



Conferences, etc.

6 Meetings and conferences

- 6.1 *Noted* an evaluation compiled by the Assistant Secretary of the residential conference in Edinburgh, 11-13 June 2008 Doc. 08/58

Agreed

- 6.1.1 That an evaluation of sponsors' reactions to the conference should be brought to the Board's December meeting
- 6.1.2 That a thorough review of the structure of the annual residential conference (from 2010 onwards) should be initiated at the December meeting

Action: TB

- 6.2 *Considered* progress on the one-day conference to be held at the British Library Conference Centre on 16 December, including the draft programme Doc. 08/61

- 6.2.1 *Agreed* that the programme, though excellent, should be shortened by omitting the updates on the UK Research Reserve and the UK Research Data Service (morning) and the proposed speaker on library management systems (afternoon). **Action: JM and Robin Green**

Noted

- 6.3 Progress on the annual residential conference to be held in Bournemouth 10-12 June 2009

- 6.4 An oral report from the Chair indicating that Ex Libris was interested in sponsoring the conference

7 **Minutes**

Approved the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on 1 July 2008 Doc 08/44 (previously circulated)

8 **Dates of forthcoming meetings**

Noted that future meetings of the Executive Board would be held at 10.30 on

Tuesday 2 December 2008
Tuesday 17 February 2009
Tuesday 21 April 2009
Wednesday 1 July 2009