

Annual General Meeting of the Association for Heterodox Economics

Minutes of meeting held on 14th July 2006

Room G06, Roberts Building, University College, London

1. Election of chair and secretary for the meeting.
 - Andrew Mearman was elected as chair and Serhat Kologlugil as secretary.
2. Approval of last year's minutes.
 - Minutes from last year's meeting were approved.
3. Matters arising from last year's minutes.
 - Journal. There had been unsuccessful discussions with Economic Issues as regards establishing a link with the Association. No agreement was reached as to whether the Association should link to any specific journal. **Action: Continue discussions.**
 - AHE Website. There was discussion on the quality of the website and the Association's control over it. As a possible solution purchasing of web hosting was suggested; it was also pointed out that this might require some extra payments on the part of the members of the Association. Vince Fitzsimons volunteered to continue looking into this issue. **Action: Andrew Mearman to make another call for volunteers.**
4. Principle of Unity for AHE.
 - Principles of Unity were accepted. (three abstentions, no vote against, vast majority in favor)
5. Membership Report.
 - The Membership Report prepared by Judith Mehta the Membership Secretary was accepted. Fred Lee will send notices through Heterodox Economics Newsletter e-mail list. It was also suggested that some actions should be taken towards establishing a web-based membership system especially for those living overseas.
6. The 2005 and 2006 Conferences.
 - There were reports on the financial position of the AHE. It was pointed out that the AHE expects a loss of £1000-2000 from the 2006 Conference. This results in the AHE having approximately £4000 in reserve. Paul Downward argued that we should not run a reserve lower than that.
 - An evaluation of the 2006 conference is to be undertaken. It was suggested that participants be asked about whether they would have paid more to attend than they had to. **Action: Alan Freeman and Julian Wells to carry out evaluation.**
7. Finance
 - See 6 above.
8. Book Series.
 - Apologies for the delay of the publication of the 2005 conference volume in the series "Advances in Heterodox Economics", edited by Fred Lee, were noted. It was pointed out that this issue would be solved as soon as possible. Another

volume would be published for the 2006 conference as well. **Action: Andrew Mearman and Fred Lee to progress the book.**

9. Postgraduate Events.

- The importance of such events for the future of heterodox economics and of the Association was emphasized. It was also agreed that the AHE should carry on with such events. Paul Downward reported that a bid for funding for 2006 had been unsuccessful and that one has been submitted for 2007 onwards. A British Academy grant may be applied for. The Cambridge Political Economy Trust was noted as a possible source of funding in the future. **Action: Paul Downward and others to continue developing these bids and events.**

10. The RAE and the AHE.

- It was pointed out that the Association needs heterodox people in RAE. **Action: Andrew Mearman to put out a call for a volunteer to monitor the RAE.**

11. Relations between the AHE and other heterodox groups.

- It was noted that discussions have been ongoing with EAEPE about a research methods workshop. It was agreed that links with EAEPE may be fruitful.
- It was noted that some contact with the new committee of the PKESG had been attempted, but had yielded nothing so far.
- It was agreed that the Association would offer other heterodox groups presence at the next AHE conference. A long discussion ensued about the image of the AHE. Some argued that the AHE has remained perceived as impartial but others worried that the AHE is seen as biased towards Marxists, Post Keynesians and Sraffians. **Action: Andrew Mearman to identify the heterodox groups and contact them.**

12. Next Conference.

- Financial issues regarding next year's conference were discussed.
- It was agreed that next conference would be a residential conference and proposed that it should be outside of London.
- It was pointed out that Lancaster Institute for Advanced Study stands out as a possible venue for the next conference.
- A proposal was made and received favourably to establish an institutional rate for conference participation higher than current rates, and an individual rate comparable to this year's rate.
- It was agreed that an attempt ought to be made to recoup the losses from the 2006 conference

Action: Establish a committee for the conference comprising Alan Freeman, Miriam Kennet and others.

13. Election of Offices.

- The following officers and committee members were elected

Membership Secretary: Judith Mehta

Treasurer: Paul Downward

Secretary: Claudia Jefferies

Coordinator: Andrew Mearman

Committee: Fred Lee, Vince Fitzsimons, Andy Denis, Wendy Olsen, Karl Petrick

14. Any Other Business

A number of positive developments were noted, of projects in conjunction with the Economics Network. In May 2006 an event was held on 'teaching heterodox economics'. A chapter on 'teaching heterodox economics' in the Network's handbook on teaching has been commissioned. A grant has been awarded to facilitate a survey of students' experiences of studying heterodox economics.

Action: members are encouraged to run events under the AHE banner.