Minutes – Committee of the Association for Heterodox Economics 4 July, 2008
Cambridge UK

Present: AF, IN, WO, IR, AD, AM, AH, RH, AD, DB, PD, SP, GM, NP, and VB. Numerous others joined the meeting as it progressed – thanks to all for attendance.

Points agreed:

- 1. next time, Alan will bring the Bylaws of the AHE with him to the meeting.
- 2. Andy Denis spoke about the Economics Network, an activity of the Higher Education Academy. Its journal is the International Review of Economics Education, and they have agreed to have a special issue on pluralism and economics education. Workshop at City Univ., London, Nov. 2008. Journal issue will be 2009. There were 9 submissions so far; Royal Economic Society has provided £150 toward the Workshop. The Workshop responds to the Benchmarking Statement for Undergraduate Economics. In all other social sciences, the Benchmarking Statements are pluralist. (e.g. in this discipline one might ... or one might ...). In economics it is monist (economics do ...). So the workshop should be a debate between the monists and the pluralists. The QAA team from CHUDE has delegated someone to write the Benchmark. Now CHUDE have appealed to all Heads of Departments of Economics ie its members to bring the workshop and special issue to the attention of HODs and staff in economics across the UK. So CHUDE may, we hope, send someone to the workshop ie. A Head of Economics dept.

The theme of the Journal issue is what pluralism would look like in economics. Important to stick to this theme.

ACTION points – Andy to send the Call for Papers out to Critical Management conference mailing list. Wendy Olsen to send the call to SASE and ensure that they are informed of the special issue. The email addresses of any other relevant groups/lists are to be sent to Andy Denis via email.

The minutes of the Nov. 2007CHUDE meeting are on the RES website. CHUDE want to accredit economics degrees across the UK. So establishing pluralism is important at this time.

ACTION on post-graduate training – Paul Downward reviewed 6 years of training. Adding history, politics and social aspects can enrich both heterodoxy and economics PhDs, and also advertise the heterodoxy to other disciplines. Ideas for training include grounded theory, qualitative methods, critical realism. Team: Andy Mearman, Iaona Negru, Wendy Olsen, Vinca Bigo, and Paul Downward to liaise with Julian Wells. Decided to try to integrate the workshop more into the Conference. Paul Downward to explore funding again. Ensure coherent advertising via the conference advertising.

Treasurer's report Vinca Bigo - £3000+ was received net for AHE conference 2007. This leads to a current £7300 balance, up from £3816 in June 2006. Membership fees

were just £130 because most members get to join at the Conference itself. Publisher's income £130 too.

AGREED: A £5,000 reserve will be preserved to ensure that the Conference of the next year can go ahead with prepayments out of reserves.

ACTION: There is a need for a membership drive. Who will act on this – not clear.

ACTION: Alan Freeman proposed a new web site independent of university management. AHE would manage a public knowledge system. Costings around the £2000 or £3000 mark inclusive of regular upkeep and technical support on open source basis. Proposal to pay out £1000 in the first year agreed. Annual updating. A subcommittee me later in the Conference and agreed to review the draft web sites: WO, AM, AF, Jack Reardon, Ioana Negru, Julian Wells, and David.

Conference 2009 – agreed to meet at Kingston University, greater London not too far from Heathrow Airport on London's west side. The capacity for residential bookings is 135 people. ACTION JULIAN WELLS. Thank you to Julian for leading this team.

ACTION ON COMMITTEE – Agreed to leave the Committee open to new members up to about Mid July 2008. This avoids having to vote any interested party off the committee.

THE 2008/9 COMMITTEE up to 4 July 2008 consisted of:

Alan Freeman

Andrew Mearman

Andy Denis

Barbara Harriss-White

David Vazquez-Guzman

Ioana Negru

Jack Reardon

Judith Mehta

Julian Wells

Miriam Kennet

Paul Downward

Paul Lewis

Pritam Singh

Vinca Bigo

Wendy Olsen