

Agenda for the meeting of the Executive Committee of BAIS which will take place at 12.30 p.m. on Saturday, 21 September 1991, in Room E102 at Birkbeck College, Malet Street, London WC1.

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Minutes of the previous meeting
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Notice of AOB
- 5 Reports A: Officers and Executive Director
- 6 Irish Studies Review
- 7 Higher Education Irish Studies Brochure
- 8 Executive Director's Contract
- 9 Reports B: Advisory Subcommittees
- 10 AOB
- 11 Date of next meeting

Wine and sandwiches, 12.15 p.m. onwards.

Any apologies for absence to Office (071-403 6660) by Thursday, 19 September, please - to facilitate catering arrangements.

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GOOD NEWS

There are a number of positive developments to report since the last meeting of the Executive.

1 The Association will shortly produce a brochure with endorsements from leading figures in politics, business, scholarship, and the arts. This will be used to enhance the standing of the Association and to assist its fundraising.

2 A brochure on Irish Studies in Higher Education is currently being prepared by George Henry and David Cairns. It is hoped

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE

As I have received no papers for circulation, I have produced a report which is an update on Association developments since the last Executive meeting. In some cases I have indicated areas which, in my opinion, need further attention, or where there is potential for development. Most of the matters mentioned here will be referred to in the various reports to the Executive or stand as separate agenda items.

In addition to the matters referred to below in which I have been directly involved, I have carried out the normal administration of the Association during this period and have been involved in routine liaison with civil servants, Irish Embassy personnel, etc.

MANAGEMENT OF EXPENDITURE

I have located and moved to a new office which achieves the economies projected in office costs.

An interim, half-time contract is still under negotiation with the Officers due to pressure of time on all concerned, summer holidays, etc. The main aspect to be still determined is the copper-bottoming of the half-time element. It is hoped to bring a document to the Executive on 21 September.

It seems sensible also for the Treasurer to identify the other main areas of Association expenditure and to propose ceilings for all of these.

The auditors have proposed a standard claims form for expenses, and the Treasurer is currently devising such a form.

Efforts continue to reduce outlay on publications and bulk post through earnings from advertising, distribution of fliers, etc. The last bulk post, for example, was assisted by £100 from Faber for distribution of a flier and £150 from Wolfhound for the distribution of their catalogue.

The cuts in the two chief areas of the expenditure give the Association some extra time within which to fundraise. However, given the nature of the fundraising process, this is still a matter of great urgency.

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2 A brochure on Irish Studies in Higher Education is currently being prepared by George Boyce and David Cairns. It is hoped

that this will be ready for distribution by mid-October. This will be useful both in advertising Irish Studies in higher education and in making friends of BAIS aware of the progress of Irish Studies at this level.

3 The discussions and negotiations which have been in progress since the last Executive meeting have led to the identification by the Officers of an enthusiastic team who are prepared to produce a new association magazine to replace the Newsletter and Irish Studies in Britain. They will attend the Executive meeting outline their plans.

The non-appearance of the Newsletter and Irish Studies in Britain and the continued erratic distribution of the ILS (at the same time as the membership fee was being raised) were factors which were beginning affect retention of membership. I have talked to Robert Lowery directly and made arrangements with him which will eliminate the difficulties which have arisen. Distribution, beginning with the Fall 1991 issue, should be more regular. *re the ILS*

Hopefully, the improved service resulting from these last two developments will assist in the retention of members.

4 The BAIS lectures will take place at Bath College of Higher Education this autumn in conjunction with the Bristol Irish Festival. The theme is "Irish writers".

5 I have been negotiating for some time now for a tripartite conference of sixth formers from Britain, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Funding has already been made available for this purpose by the Ireland Fund of Great Britain and the Department of Education in Northern Ireland; and we are approaching the DES and a number of other sources for funding. This conference is likely to increase our capacity to gain funding from these sources. Both Bob Bell and I feel that will also be a useful springboard for other schools-orientated activity.

6 Bob Purdie, in addition to drawing up a prospectus for a new Association magazine, has located a volunteer willing to assist with the Association's cultural programme - in the person of his colleague at Ruskin College, Steve Reagan. Steve will meet the Officers on 20 September for an exchange of ideas and, hopefully, there will be a report on this matter to the Executive on the following day.

ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEES

As ever, the situation here is mixed. George Boyce will have a number of items to report on the Higher Education front. Kate Thompson intends to organise two day courses for Irish-language teachers during this term. She is also working on proposals to obtain LINGUA funding for a number of the subcommittee's activities. Bob Bell and Joe Sheeran are still committed to initiating activity on the schools front; and it may be that the

meeting with Steve Reagan may mark a beginning in this area.

With news of continuing developments in adult education, many of them following the model developed by Nesson Danaher in his autumn course at Soar Valley College, I have suggested to Nesson that it would be useful if the Adult Education Subcommittee were to generalise from the cumulative experience of recent years to produce a document which would assist others in initiating courses.

MEMBERSHIP

The Treasurer and I have discussed and begun to impliment a series of procedures on membership which we hope will improve the efficiency of the membership procedure.

The facts suggest that we need to give more thought to the retention of members, although some of the lapse in membership is certainly due to individuals ceasing to retain an interest in Irish Studies areas (as teachers or researchers), and through death!

Members who have renewed for 91/2	65	
Members who renewed for 90/91	170	
Total of those in current membership	235	(19 corporate)
Total of those in membership at any time since 88/9	402	
Total of lapsed members since 88/9	167	

Jim McAuley has offered to analyse the data on the BAIS Questionnaires, completed by just under 20% of the membership. This may give some indication of the sort of services required by BAIS members.

THANKS

I would like to thank George Boyce, Mary Hickman and Shaun Richards for offers of help with duplication and/or distribution of materials; and Shaun Richards for a literature bibliography (in response to letters to Executive following discussion at last meeting).

Seán Hutton
13/09/91