

Conveners

H.E.

The Higher Education Convener reported on the December 1986 meeting arranged by BAIS at which UGC and DES personnel had met the Higher Education Sub-Committee and a representative selection of those active in Irish Studies in the Universities. She noted that there had been unanimous support from the academic representatives for the conclusions of the earlier survey and ranking exercise which the Association had carried out and she commented that an equivalent exercise for the Public Sector Institutions would begin shortly.

Compulsory

The Convener of Compulsory Education Sub-Committee prefaced his remarks with a personal expression of concern lest the Association, through excessive emphasis on the higher education sector, create the impression of élitism. He commented on the extent of schools-based work that was being carried out which, to be extended, would require pump-priming funding. He called for consistent support from the Association for the needs of this particular sector.

Adult and Continuing

The Adult and Continuing Education Convener regretted that the advances in higher education development would be difficult if not impossible to emulate in this particular sector because of the fragmentation of provision and the pressures upon funding. He noted, however, that advances in ILEA provision such as the proposal for an RSA validated course at Kilburn Polytechnic indicated that healthy developments were taking place.

Constitutional Amendments

The Secretary introduced a series of minor clarifying amendments which had been requested by the Charity Commissioners. Under the present (1986) Constitution these could be submitted for the approval of the meeting on a show of hands. These were accepted unanimously.

Any other Business

Owen Dudley Edwards expressed his appreciation for the work of the Association and extended his thanks to the Conference Secretary for all her labours. He felt, however, that there had perhaps been a disproportionate number of speakers from Ireland and that in future more speakers from the ranks of Irish Studies specialists in Great Britain ought to be called upon. There was general approval for this point, which was noted.

Ms Bonnie Dudley Edwards called attention to the need to coordinate promotion of opportunities for Adult Education students and to circulate information on Tutors, courses and materials. This point was generally supported.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4 p.m.

D.W. Cairns
Hon Sec.