Suss-Ex Club

Steering Group Meeting no. 3

Friday 13th October 2006 at 4pm, Development & Alumni Office, Bramber House

1. Apologies for absence Jackie Fuller, Charles Goldie.

2. Minutes ('Action points') from the meeting of June 30.

3. Plans for future activities:
(a) Christmas party.   Low Thomson has kindly agreed to take lead responsibility for this, and met with RW, CMG and JP to discuss arrangements. It is proposed that it be held in the Meeting House Quiet Room on Dec. 14 or 15, and that some musical entertainment as well as (optional!) communal carols be organised upstairs. If possible no charge should be made to members of the USPAS pension scheme, but it will be necessary to charge others; something of the order of £7.50 per person is suggested, to cover room hire charges, drink and incidentals. In addition, it is proposed to keep costs down by asking everyone to bring a contribution of buffet food, which could be anything from crisps or nuts to home-cooked quiches or desserts; JP has volunteered to coordinate offerings. The constraint of 120 on total numbers makes it essential that everyone coming book in advance, and it will have to be first come first served, with the risk that later comers cannot be accepted.

(b) House of Lords dinner (JF): suggested date Monday 29th Oct 2007; with minimum number 30. Date OK? Potential speaker? Lead times?

(c) Talks – 'Life After Sussex'; subgroup membership? progress? further ideas?

(d) Country walk with David Streeter: when might this be suggested?

(e) Theatre visits: maybe aim for one per term? Any ideas on how best to decide what plays to choose? Maybe somewhere other than the Theatre Royal?

(f) Other activities?

4. Access to computing facilities. See Appendix A for a description of the technical aspects agreed between CMG and IT Services. This gives a basis for seeking the agreement of the University to the Club providing computer access to its members. However perhaps a more formal structure for the Club is needed first?

5. Subscription proposals: how to progress this?

6. Next Newsletter: items to include?

7. Matters for report
   (a) Web site. CMG reports "I have set up a temporary site at http://www.maths.sussex.ac.uk/Suss-Ex. It is part notice-board, part filing cabinet and part photo album. In its present simple form I can post items to it or remove or alter them very quickly, so suggestions are welcome. The DARO has kindly provided a permanent link from the 'Keep in touch' page of their site http://www.sussex.ac.uk/alumni. With the Steering Group's backing, I plan next to ask the University Web team to give us the web address http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Suss-Ex, and to list us in the online A–Z."

    (b) Progress in extending list of former staff
- (i)   MP-Y to report on the list as a whole (especially non-faculty).
- (ii)   CMG reports that in the case of mathematics, it did not take long to list all staff since the 1960s who have left for other jobs, and to find locations for most of them via Google. With the website in place to refer them to, he expects to have contacted them all by the time of the meeting, and is ready to start the snowball rolling for other departments and units.

(c) Pre-retirement mailing: a mailing was sent out with the course documents.

(d) Oral history: one volunteer has been recruited for archival work. Dorothy Sheridan will provide an updated item for the next Newsletter.

(e) Gym: not enough people were interested for a special class to be laid on for us. Perhaps one more sweep will be made in the Newsletter to see if there are enough interested to try to set this up later in the year.

8. AOB

Membership
    Bob Benewick (BB)
    David Betts
    Sir Gordon Conway (Chairman)
    Valerie Cromwell
    Mike English
    Jackie Fuller (JF)
    Christine Glasson
    Charles Goldie (CMG)
    Willie Lamont
    Mike Land (ML)
    Steve Pavey
    Adrian Peasgood
    Jennifer Platt (JP)
    Ken Wheeler

In attendance
    Maxine Peel-Yates (MP-Y)

Appendix A
Notes of a conversation between Charles Goldie, for the Suss-Ex Club, and Caroline House, User Services Manager for IT Systems, 12th July 2006.

1. User accounts
(a) There is no *technical* objection to the Club's membership list being accepted by IT Services as defining a University "role" for each name on the list. An individual on the list would then be entitled to an IT Services User Account under that role. Conversely, removal from the list would mean that the individual would no longer be entitled to a User Account under that role at least.

(b) A named individual would be trained and enabled to manage the membership list, i.e. the interface by which IT Services knows what names are on the list. This individual does not need to be a "techie" (system administrator, ...), just trainable. When a new User Account is to be created the member, or named Club individual, would arrange with IT Services for the account to be created, and to collect the details of username and password.

(c) Most User Accounts are set up because an individual has a post or role (Lecturer, Dept Administrator, Associate Tutor, Emeritus Professor, ...) within some Unit of the University. The Unit generally places those with a post or role with it "on the system", i.e. entered in the central staff database and hence gaining an entry in the online Staff Directory. Those with several roles have a "main role".

However, User Accounts are not necessarily linked to being "on the system". For staff who have left and are no longer on the system the User Account may continue for a period in order to allow orderly transfer to an IT environment elsewhere.

(d) The University would hold the Club responsible for responsible behaviour of its User Account holders, i.e. for promulgating and if necessary enforcing compliance with Regulations, Network Use Guidelines, etc.

(e) What someone with a User Account gets is
 (i) a login ID, e.g. mmfb9 or similar;
 (ii) an email address, A.N.Other@sussex.ac.uk, with mailbox space;
 (iii) a login and workspace on ITS Unix (mail folders are also stored there);
 (iv) being enabled to logon on desktops on IT Services' campus PCs;
 (v) space on an N: drive;
 (vi) being enabled to download and use software, e.g. Mulberry, F-Prot.

There are no constraints within reason on the amount of filespace in these locations.

(f) An individual gains an official University webpage through being "on the system" as in (c) above, rather than through having an IT Services User Account. An individual who is both on the system and has a User Account gains access to Sussex Direct, with content depending on what the individual's role or post is. Through Sussex Direct the individual can add content to his or her official webpage. Anyone with an official webpage can have a personal webpage linked from it. The personal webpage—indeed website—can be located on an IT Services computer or on a computer of the user's Unit.

(g) Possession of a User Account is necessary but not sufficient for access to the Library's online resources, and the Club should discuss access to such resources with Cath Morgan in the Library.

(h) Noted that external User Accounts, managed by IT Services, are available for an annual fee of around £200 per account. This possibility is very little used. External bodies, such as the University of Gothenburg, employ such accounts but pay less in return for maintaining their own user list.

2. Mailing Lists

The Club can use the Mailing List facility (Mailman) to have a mailing list or lists for e-mail. The list(s) will be owned by one individual (or the job can be shared among two or three) who adds to and removes names from the list(s). Whether all members of the list can post to it, or must go through the owner(s), is a matter for decision.