

SUSS-EX CLUB

Steering group meeting no. 33

Friday 9 January 2015, at 1715 hrs in Pevensey III, 5C11

NOTES

Present: Sue Bullock (SB), Jackie Fuller (JF), Charles Goldie (CG), Arnold Goldman (AG), Adrian Peasgood (AP), Jennifer Platt (JP), David Smith (DS), Paul Tofts (PT, acting chair)

Apologies: Gordon Conway (GC), Colin Finn, Steve Pavey.

1. The Minutes of meeting 32 were approved subject to the corrections listed in the Agenda.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes:

- (4) John Murrell's meeting with the VC had not yet had a significant outcome.

- (4) DARO's proposed follow-up with HR had not yet had a significant outcome.

3. Matters not mentioned in the Agenda:

1. David Smith reported that HR could provide him with no information whatsoever about a retired technician whose obituary he was hoping to write. Agreed he should ask HR whether this was a single such case, or the result of a general policy of some kind, and if so, what. Noted that data protection legislation specified limits to the retention of personal data by membership organisations, but that it surely did not extend to removal of all information about past employees. [See Appendix]

2. Withdrawal of invitations to emeritus professors to attend meetings of the Court. CG would consider how best to proceed. [Post meeting change of plan.]

4. Reports:

1. Christmas party. As popular (c.160 present - the Meeting House room was at capacity) and successful as usual. GC would be asked to write in appreciation of the University's role. [Done, and reassuring acknowledgment from Allan Spencer received.]

2. Financial. JF reported no substantive change since her previous report.

5a. Future programme, confirmed:

1. February 3: *Arcadia* at the Theatre Royal would be attended by a group of 16, with supper at Carluccio's beforehand.

2. February 16: The Keep. JF said that a booking form should be issued within a week, as part of the next Newsletter if that came out in time. A nominal charge of £3 would be made.

5b. Future programme, possibilities:

1. Attenborough Centre. Unlikely to be available within our immediate planning horizon, but remained desirable.

2. Several requests for another 'speaker with meal' evening were reported. Concern that inviting a distant speaker would produce an obligation to fill many seats; local speaker would be less stressful way of starting. Considered possible short talks by steering group members on aspects of their research, and also inviting more high profile speakers. To start the process, AG will ask Nick Tucker if he would be the speaker sometime in April. [Yes.]

6. Recruitment:

CG reported on continuing small scale activities, and another attempt to improve the address list of members. JP would try to pursue.

7. Pre-retirement courses:

JP spoke to her short paper. It was agreed that, if the University's initiative in this area was to be limited to relatively technical issues of finance and pensions, there was a possible place for a Suss-Ex session on activities post-retirement, and health issues arising with greater age. In the absence of the (unreplaced) Staff Welfare Officer it was not clear with whom any discussion of Suss-Ex input should take place.

8. Newsletter:

CG would produce a Newsletter in the very near future, to include the booking form for the Keep visit, a note about the Christmas party, the annual request for details of publications in the previous year, and reference to obituaries appearing in the Bulletin.

9. AOB:

Noted that the Library had announced that alumni now had free access to Jstor. This strengthened our wish for former staff to have alumni status, as happens elsewhere.

10. Next meeting:

Friday 27 March, at 1715 hrs in Pevensey III, 5C11. (NB not 20 March, as GC unavailable then)

anp

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APPENDIX

www.gov.uk/data-protection has a summary of the requirements. There's a list of the information an employer may keep, but for no longer than is 'necessary'. The general data protection principles, which employers must respect, require the test to be stronger - 'absolutely necessary'. There's also a reminder that use must be for 'limited and specifically stated purposes'.

It seems to me that it would be prudent for an employer to retain 'employer's information' (my phrase, not from the website) at least for several years, for reference in the event of a range of contingencies, but that after such a period retention would need to be covered by registering such purposes as 'institutional history' and/or 'genealogical research'.