



British Association of Film,
Television and Screen Studies

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

5 January 2012

Bankfield House, Leicester University

Present: Alexander Marlow-Mann, Anna Claydon, Brian Winston, Chris Berry, Dina Iordanova, Joe Andrew, Sarah Street, Tim Bergfelder

Apologies: Andrew Moor, James Chapman, Lucia Nagib, Paul Elliott, Paul MacDonald, Racheal Keene, Rajinder Dudrah, Stefano Baschiera, Victoria Kearley, Yosefa Loshitzky

It was noted that the meeting was quorate according to the constitution, which requires a third of EC members present. Thanks were expressed to Anna Claydon and her department for hosting us.

1. STRATEGY/VISION. LEADERSHIP AND IDENTITY. PRIORITIES.

1.1 The mission statement was approved unanimously:

In the belief that any fully-informed understanding of our world today requires the critical analysis of all forms of screen media, the British Association for Film, Television and Screen Studies exists

- to represent the academic and professional interests of those engaged in these field to the academy, to government, to funding agencies, to the cultural industries, and to the public;
- to encourage best teaching and research practice;
- to promote graduate training and research;
- and to facilitate the establishment of such study as a distinct and discrete disciplinary area.

1.2 The meeting affirmed broad agreement with the priorities set out by the minutes of the last meeting and Dina Iordanova in her email of 6 December 2011 (see appendix 1)

2. IEC MODUS OPERANDI FOR 2012

- The meeting agreed that the members of the IEC deputed to carry out tasks were mandated to proceed according to their own understanding of the mandate and without waiting for the next IEC meeting, but that they should consult with either the 4 interim officers of BAFTSS (PM, BW, CB, DI) or the whole IEC by email if they felt it appropriate.
- It was noted that the no formal rules for the operation of the organization can be developed until the next AGM has elected an EC and officers.

3. IDENTIFICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF JOBS FOR MEMBERS OF THE IEC

On the principle that all member of the IEC should have at least one area of responsibility, the following tasks were assigned to the following working groups. Everyone is to set to work (see 2 above) and report back at the next meeting (24 May) on what has been achieved:

3.1. Membership Drive: Alexander Marlow-Mann, Brian Winston, Andrew Moor (BW to email and confirm), Paul Elliott (BW to email and confirm) and Joe Andrew. (Prepare communication to potential members, lobby with potential institutional members, research the size of the field, ensure legal compliance, set membership levels for later on. Mainly active in initial drive period January-March 2012. Aim to recruit at least 100 members by the end of March.)

3.2 Awards: Tim Bergfelder, Sarah Street, Yosefa Loshitzky (BW to email and confirm). (Announce awards competition in three categories, organize receipt of submissions and judging committees,

organize awards announcement/publicity and ceremony. Active mainly in the March-September 2012 period.)

3.3 Events: Paul McDonald, Lucia Nagib, Vicky Kearley, Rachael Keene (all to be confirmed by BW via email). (Responsible for coordinating all aspects of the agreed event(s): communications, publicity, structure, speakers, logistics, funding, coverage etc.)

3.4 Political agenda/lobbying: Dina Iordanova, Brian Winston, Chris Berry, Anna Claydon. (colleagues to work on political agenda and recognition of the organisation: create a systematic approach to various bodies such as HESA, QAA (subject benchmarking), REF, Leverhulme, the AHRC, etc.)

3.5 Funding: Dina Iordanova, Rajinder Dudrah (BW to email and confirm), James Chapman (BW to email and confirm). (Seek external funding: identify sources, develop proposals, pitch)

3.6 Communicating with members Chris Berry (Secretary), Stefano Baschiera (Website). (Responsible for communications with members and web-site. Communicate priorities and schedule of activities for 2012 and further. Solicit feedback from members; collect and disseminate information. Maintain web-site.)

4. MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

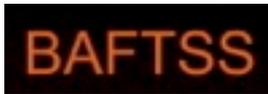
- The meeting notes noted that the Paypal and password-protected facilities will be on the website within a matter of days, and then the Membership Drive can begin. Membership will be by the calendar year (1 Jan - 31 Dec).
- We have a draft letter. The primary elements of the “offer” are: an organization that will lobby for recognition of the field; eligibility to be considered for the BAFTSS awards; access to the password-protected area of the website, where jobs and other opportunities will be posted; access to BAFTSS events.
- Membership for the 2012 calendar year is on special offer at £10 (waged) and £5 (unwaged). No institutional members will be sought formally, but if members of the IEC can informally recruit their departments as institutional members or any institution enquires, the rate is £100.
- IEC members present joined at the meetings. Those unable to attend on the 5th should mail their cheques to Alexander Marlow-Mann a.s.a.p. (apmm@st-andrews.ac.uk).

5. POLITICAL AGENDA/LOBBYING

Discussion affirmed that the primary task here is to seek recognition of the field from organizations including: HESA (Bristol-based), QAA subject benchmarking (the existing procedure is described at the QAA web-site), liaise with REF, AHRC, ESRC, Leverhulme Trust, THES league tables, and other partner organizations.

6. FUNDING FOR BAFTSS

- The meeting noted that the organization would rely on memberships, but if it is to be successful it would need a start-up grant or other funding as well. IEC members will work toward identifying possible grant sources and agree plan for action (pitch, develop proposals, seek funding).
- Discussion mentioned HEA, ECREA, BFI, and IAMCR as potential partners and sources of funding. In particular, there was interest in the possibility of seeking funds to collect information on what kind of work graduates in the field find, and what elements of their university training they find most useful in that work, with a view to highlighting and further



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enhancing employability.

7. AWARDS

- The meeting agreed that in this first round, BAFTSS awards would be offered for: Best Monograph; Best Article published in a refereed journal; Best Postgraduate Student Essay. Only members are eligible to nominate their own work or that of other members. The publication period to be covered in the first round is the calendar year 2011, the deadline for nominations is 31 May 2012, and the results will be announced at the 2012 AGM. Only works published in English can be submitted.
- The student essay can be specially written for the awards or an essay written for a class, and its length should be between 4,000 and 6,000 words. The working group will investigate the possibility of publishing the winning essay in a postgraduate student-edited journal.
- Responsible IEC members will set up sub-committees to read and judge each award. The announcement of the awards and invitation to nominate should be made by the end of January.
- The responsible IEC members will also investigate the possibility of approaching the David Lean Foundation or similar sponsors.

8. EVENTS FOR 2012

8.1 Annual Conference (including AGM and announcement of BAFTSS Awards)

- The meeting noted that the constitution requires that 25% of voting membership participate in an AGM for it to be quorate and that members would need to present papers to get funded for conference attendance. Therefore, BAFTSS will need to run annual open-call conferences. However, it was also agreed that we had neither time nor resources to do this in 2012.
- It was decided the 2012 AGM and Announcement of the BAFTSS Awards will take place in London on 20 September 2012 (CB to locate a venue). We anticipate relatively few will be able to attend in person and that we will need to ensure a viable mode of online participation to be quorate (AMM and SB to investigate and report back to BW a.s.a.p.).
- The meeting decided the regular time for AGMs would be the end of the Easter break each year. BW will follow up on his earlier investigations (see appendix 2) to set a date for the 2013 AGM at Lincoln. This 2013 BAFTSS Awards (for the publication period of the 2012 calendar year) will also be announced at this event.

8.2 Postgraduate Training Sessions and Workshops

Possible events might include:

- Scotland: May 2012 (DI to follow up in coordination with responsible IEC members)
- North of England: LN and RD to follow up.
- Midlands: PM, BW, and AC to follow up.
- South: 8 July 2012. TB to coordinate with the responsible IEC members
- London: Early October 2012. CB to follow up with University of London Screen Studies Group and coordinate with responsible IEC members.
- London, late 2012: DI and CB to follow up with Luke McKernan of the British Library, and in coordination with the responsible IEC members.

9. WORK WITH MEDIA: AGREE PRIORITIES AND TACTICS



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The meeting agreed that it is essential for us to try to dictate the slant of the story (a neglected field that wants to come out of the shadows and seeks recognition) and identify journalists/bloggers and outlets that we could approach to seek coverage. We will pursue this proactively once we have stories with positive slant to tell, in the first year most likely related to initiatives in the areas of Awards and Events. Colleagues are encouraged to share information/ideas on suitable media outlets and individuals to be approached for coverage of these positive stories.

10. WEBSITE

The meeting noted the importance of SB's role in developing and promoting a regular flow of announcements and activities via the website, including to the password-protected area.

Next Meeting: 24 May 2012, Nottingham (details to follow)