

Report to the LAGB committee

The Education Committee, September 2007-August 2008

1. Membership of the committee

Billy Clark has stepped down and has been replaced by Judith Broadbent (who will also serve as an LAGB representative on CLIE).

2. 2008 LAGB Education session

The 2008 session is entitled "Foreign languages: changes at school (and university?): how changes in primary and secondary education will affect future undergraduates, and how universities can help." The speakers are Teresa Birks (Higher Education Advisor, CILT) and Ros Mitchell (Southampton).

3. EC activities

- (a) Members of the committee attended three meetings of CLIE. The details of these meetings (including minutes) are available at: www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/dick/ec/cliemeetings.htm. Invited speakers at the CLIE meetings this year were Adrian Beard, discussing a recent English Subject Centre report on English Language at school and university, and Jan Blommaert who gave a talk entitled 'On being declared illiterate'.
- (b) Members of the committee attended various meetings of the LLAS Subject Centre.
- (c) Dick Hudson (on behalf of the EC) has maintained and updated a list of courses for A-level English Language teachers and pupils (including courses offered by university departments) - details are available at <http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/dick/ec/courses.htm>. He has also continued to expand and update a collection of statistical data on language education in UK (mostly England) - again details are available at <http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/dick/ec/stats.htm>.
- (d) The committee is about to submit a small comment on the proposed new English Language GCSE, which we support.