

EHES: WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

- 1) The Society is governed more by custom than rules, though some guidelines are slowly emerging. Most business is done by email and the trustees usually have one contact meeting per annum, at the same location as the AGM.

- 2) The Society is registered with the Charity Commissioners of England and Wales and its aims are stated as : “The advancement of education in European economic history through the study of European economics and economic history, particularly through the comparison and analysis of European economies”.

- 3) I usually tell new trustees that, so far as their duties are concerned, custom and practice is that trustees will:
 - a) act as representatives of their country and its interests in economic history,
 - b) respond to requests, from the Society's officers, for help and advice,
 - c) promote the study of economic history through the European Review of Economic History, the Society and its conferences
 - d) promote membership of the Society

- 4) Membership of trustees board. The following was agreed at the July 2004 trustees meeting:

“In these early stages of the Society’s existence, there is a need for flexibility in the membership of the board of trustees. Subject to that proviso,

 - i) there will normally be 12 trustees
 - ii) at least 3 must be resident in England and Wales (redundant if HQ move)
 - iii) editors need not be trustees but are ex officio, members of the board
 - iv) the normal term of office will be 4 years.”

- 5) Relationship between editors and trustees. It was also agreed at the July 2004 trustees meeting that:

“New editors will be appointed by the President, after consultation and agreement with the existing editors and the board of trustees. The editors will report annually to the board and to the AGM. The editors will appoint the editorial board”.

- 6) As a Society registered with the Charity Commissioners of England and Wales, at least 3 of the trustees must be resident in England and Wales. All such residents are answerable to the Commissioners and form the executive committee required by the registered constitution of the Society (Chairman, James Foreman-Peck, who formally submits each year a brief financial report and details of all members of the executive to the Charity Commissioners). In practice this executive committee effectively meets once per annum as part of the trustees board.

- 7) We are required by the Charity Commissioners to hold annual meetings of the Society (the AGM) and annual meetings of the executive committee and to keep minutes of all such meetings. All the trustees have to be re-elected each year at the AGM which also has to approve the financial accounts.

R.Millward Summer 2004.