

MINUTES of the 43rd meeting of the Film Institute Production Board held on 20 August 1975 at 81 Dean Street W1V 6AA

PRESENT: Mr Michael Relph (in the chair)
Mr Malcolm Legrice
Bernice Reubens

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Keith Lucas
Mr Barrie Gavin
Mr Peter Sainsbury
Mr Jack Way
Anita Bird

295. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Frances Berrigan, Peter Lennon, Colin Young and Tony Rayns.

296. MINUTES (PB42/1)

The Minutes of PB 42 were tabled and the Chairman moved that a phrase directly quoting a member's comment under item 294 be deleted on the grounds that it did not comply with usual procedure in minuting deliberations. This was agreed, and the minutes were subsequently signed.

297. FINANCIAL REPORT

The state of current expenditure was noted; £11,138 was available for allocation at the meeting. In view of the almost complete depletion of the Board's funds for the current financial year, and in view of the stipulations on cash flow now affecting the Board's activities, it was agreed that the order of the agenda be altered to allow Other Matters and their financial ramifications to be discussed before new proposals be tabled.

298. OTHER MATTERS

i. KME Situation

The officers of the Board described a series of situations in which they had lost confidence in the grantee's willingness and ability to fulfill the necessary conditions of co-operation to bring a large scale and heavily financed project to a satisfactory conclusion. They asked for the authority of the committee to impose conditions on the grantee for the continuation of the project, since they felt that their primary function was to service grantees and that there existed no clear guidelines for the necessary degree of administrative control to be exercised. The problem of formalising relations with the grantees of the Board was deemed to be a subject for fuller discussion not related to a specific instance of difficulty. It was agreed that a sub-committee consisting of the Chairman, two other members of the committee and the officers of the Board should survey progress on this particular production and make recommendations accordingly.

ii. London Film Makers Co-operative

The Director pointed out that in awarding a grant for the establishing of a film production workshop, the Board had come close to colliding

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with the emerging policy of the Institute's Regional Department. He suggested that without prejudicing the award under discussion, the Board and the Regional Department should co-operate in reaching policy formulations in areas of mutual concern. The officers of the Board reported on the discussion held with the LFMC to determine the precise figure required by the Co-operative and enumerated a precise breakdown of figures totalling £16,020. It was agreed that this figure represented the real needs of the applicants and the award was made accordingly, it having been made in principle at the previous meeting.

iii. London Women's Film Group

The LWFG had previously received an award of £800 for a documentary film project and had subsequently written to the Board requesting an increase of £729. Their reasons for this request were accepted as legitimate and the supplementary award was duly made.

iv. Immigration Film

The Head of Production detailed the circumstances under which an award of £7000 had previously been made in support of this project, whereas a budget of £9500 was the actual amount required to conclude the project satisfactorily. The Chairman noted that a proportion of the budget earmarked to finance the proposed shooting of a section of the film overseas would revert to the Board should it prove impossible to arrange such shooting. A supplementary award of £2500 was approved.

v. King Lear

The Head of Production reported on his visit to the location on which this project was being shot, and gave an account of his reasons for requesting that a supplementary award be made in order to alleviate the extreme pressure on actors and crew attempting to complete the shooting schedule under very demanding circumstances. After discussing the issues involved, the Board awarded a supplementary grant of £1500.

vi. Production Deficits

The officers of the Board presented figures in support of the argument that an amount of £860 ought to be set aside from remaining funds to meet unforeseen exigencies on a number of existing production budgets. The Board set aside £1000 for this purpose pending a further review of cash flow.

vii. Student Films

It was decided that as a matter of policy the Production Board ought not to contribute to the costs of completing films initiated by funds provided by other bodies financed by the DES.

viii. NFS Portugal Project

The Head of Production reported that the National Film School had requested that the BFI remunerate them for expenses incurred on the proposed Portugal project. He stated that the circumstances of the situation contained no moral obligation by which the Board