

MINUTES

A Meeting of The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland was held at 7:00 pm on Thursday 25th March 2010, in the Society House, 73 University Street, Belfast. BT7 1HL

Present

Ms A Bowen (President)
Mr M Nelson (Vice-President)
Mr P Kelly (Hon. Treasurer)
Mrs M Singleton
Prof D Woolfson
Mr R Anderson
Mrs R Tasker
Mrs H Buchanan
Prof J McElnay
Dr C Fitzpatrick
Dr K McClelland
Dr L Byers **left the meeting at 9.35pm**

In Attendance

Mr T Patterson (Chief Executive)
Mr B Kerr (Registrar)
Mr M Neale (Head of Public Affairs) **left the meeting at 8.25pm**
Mrs N McGarrell (Clerical Officer)

Apologies

Prof G Linden
Dr G Fleming
Ms A McCollum
Ms J Hughes
Prof P McCarron

Public Attending

1. Introduction and Welcome, Apologies.

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Dr L Byers who had returned to Council after the birth of her son Patrick. The President thanked Council members for attending the meeting which was deferred from 18 March and presented the apologies of those who were unable to attend.

2. Minutes of the Council Meeting of 18th February 2010

i. Matters of Accuracy

None.

ii. Adoption of Minutes

February's Council minutes were proposed by the President, seconded by Mr R Anderson and agreed by Council.

iii. Matters Arising

All actions completed.

Mr R Anderson asked whether there was anything that Council needed to be made aware of in the CHRE initial FTP audit report.

The Chief Executive and the Registrar updated Council on this subject and noted that the Registrar would be attending a CHRE Fitness to Practise audit meeting on Tuesday 30 March and will subsequently update Council at the next meeting. A link to the CHRE audit report will also be sent to all Council members by email, when available.

ACTION: The Registrar to update Council on the CHRE Fitness to Practise audit meeting which takes place on Tuesday 30 March 2010.
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ACTION: A link to the CHRE audit report to be sent to all Council members by email.
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3. Tabling of Any Other Business

The President reminded Council members that the Council appraisals were due to take place very soon.

4. Correspondence

The incoming correspondence log – 19.02.10 to 25.03.10 was included in Council packs for information.

5. Lay Member Accreditation Panel Recruitment

Council members, Prof. D Woolfson and Prof. J McElnay who have declared a conflict of interest in Accreditation Panel Recruitment left the Council hall.

The President asked whether anyone wanted to pass comment on the appointment of the Lay Member of the Accreditation Panel, following last month's discussion at the Council meeting and the distribution of paperwork on Accreditation to those Council members who do not have a conflict of interest.

The Chief Executive stated that he believed that the Committee followed the correct process and applied the appropriate standards, and the decision made should therefore be upheld. Council members were invited to ask questions or raise any issues or concerns.

A discussion then ensued on this subject. Council members asked questions surrounding the legality and transparency of the process. There was a specific question around when the title of Professor was given to the appointed Lay Member.

It was unanimously decided that subject to further clarification from the Lay Member which the Chief Executive has been asked to obtain, Council are

satisfied that the processes that are followed and the standards that are applied are appropriate. Council are willing to accept further specific submissions on concerns from either of the accredited universities.

Prof. J McElnay and Prof. D Woolfson returned to the Council hall.

6. Staff Reports

(i) Director's Report

White Paper Work

The Chief Executive updated Council on the recent White paper work. He stated that the Society had made significant progress in relation to the draft Order and that we were now looking at the potential for an interim, hybrid solution subject to one further piece of clarification noted below.

The Department has agreed to two major requested changes to the draft Order: (1) The Department must consult the Council before making regulations under paragraph two. (2) The Department clarified the issue of the Committees and accepted the rewording of section three, allowing the formation of committees by both regulations and internal procedures.

At this point, the issue of the hierarchy of the Fitness to Practise Committees remains unresolved – whether the existing Statutory Committee can have additional powers so that it holds all the powers of lesser committees as well as its own. The Department has agreed to receive a letter from the Society's solicitors – Cleaver, Fulton and Rankin setting out the case for allowing this. A copy of the letter on legislative reform to the Departmental Solicitors office from the Society's legal advisors is included in Council packs for information.

The Head of Public Affairs updated Council on the meeting with Philip Robinson on 25 March 2010. The timeframes for introduction of legislation may be restricted due to the upcoming 2010 General Election.

The Chief Executive advised Council that DHSSPS had agreed in principle to pay all future premises fees to the Society, subject to approval of the DFP as required by the legislation. The Department had also agreed in principle to fund the first recruitment of new Council members (circa £15k in our budget)

The Chief Executive noted that he would like Council to acknowledge the work of the staff team which had put the Society in the present favourable position with the Department. He thanked, in particular, the Registrar and the Head of Public Affairs for all of their work.

The Chief Executive updated Council on the draft transitional arrangements for the new Council (attached as appendix two in Council packs). Many changes were negotiated to this document at the Society's request, although there is no prospect of reaching agreement at this stage on seven transferees. This may be further sought at consultation stage.

Motion to Council:

Council is asked to agree that they support the draft Order, subject to changes outlined at Appendix one being implemented and with the draft regulations on Constitution/transitional, reserving the right to lobby for seven transferees at consultation.

Council were in full agreement.

Key Engagements

The Chief Executive updated Council on meetings he had attended since Council last met, in particular the CHRE performance review on 2 March 2010.

Priorities

An updated spreadsheet of priorities was included in Council information packs.

Prof. D Woolfson highlighted the issue of NI Schools of Pharmacy needing greater involvement with the GB universities in terms of Working Groups for Education.

The Chief Executive will write to Mr. Duncan Rudkin, Chief Executive and Registrar of the GDC to highlight this issue.

ACTION: The Chief Executive to write to Mr. Duncan Rudkin to highlight this issue.

Professional Forum

The Head of Public Affairs will provide an update during his report.

Revalidation

Work will shortly commence on the development of a research proposal for tender for phase two of the project. This will be awarded during the current financial year (by June 2010)

PSI

Committee Chairs have provided the Chief Executive with schedules of Committee meetings. These dates have been forwarded to the PSI.

On behalf of Council, the President thanked all staff who had input in the White Paper work.

(ii) Head of Public Affairs's Report

Assembly Issues

The Head of Public Affairs updated Council on the Sinn Fein Party conference on 6 March 2010. Discussions were held with the party's health spokesperson Michelle O'Neill and with other MLA's.

Media

Media training was carried out on 23 March 2010. The President and four members of staff were trained in both radio and television presentation techniques.

Northern Ireland Local Government Association

The NILGA conference was held on 18/19 February 2010 in the Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle.

Professional Forum Manager

The Head of Public Affairs updated Council on applications for this post. The interview panel selected a candidate and the Society is currently in discussions with this individual regarding terms and conditions.

Meetings

The Head of Public Affairs updated Council on meetings he had attended since Council last met.

(ii) Registrar's Report

The Registrar provided a verbal update to Council.

Audit Report CHRE

The CHRE Audit report was published in March 2010. The Registrar stated that if any Council members would like a copy now, to let him know and then a link to the report would be sent to all Council members by email upon formal publication.

High Court Appeal for S Twibill

The Registrar updated Council on this issue. The result of the appeal will be given on Friday 26 March 2010.

Medicine Supply Problems Attributed to Parallel Exports Whitehall London

The Registrar attended a Whitehall summit on the review of wholesaler dealer licences in London on 2 March 2010. This was a very useful meeting to be involved with from a NI perspective due to many live issues at the moment.

Free Prescriptions

From 1 April 2010 the abolition of prescription charges in NI will come into effect.

EEA Prescriptions

Another Statutory instrument on EEA prescriptions may be published imminently.

Statutory Committee

A Statutory Committee will be constituted to meet on 12 April 2010.

Questions

A discussion surrounding the issue of medicines supply problems ensued. Questions were asked on the issue of patient details being provided to drug companies and whether it was appropriate for the Society to issue a statement on medicines supply problems.

The Registrar updated Council on the issue of data protection whereby patient details should not be given out to drug companies under any circumstances. The Society had previously issued a statement on the export of medicines and further research will be completed on medicines supply problems and then the Society will be able to address the issue and then guidance.

7. Committees – Vice-President

i. PSNI

The Vice-President noted that all Council members should have been notified of Committee membership and advised Council that they were able to attend any Committee meetings they were interested in even if they were not a member of that certain Committee.

Mr R Anderson highlighted the issue of academic representatives – Prof. D Woolfson and Prof. P McCarron's representation on the Committees and noted that their expertise and input would be valued on the Education Committee.

Prof. Woolfson stated that he would be willing to change Committee membership if needed. The Vice-President noted that the Committee membership would then be amended to reflect the changes and reminded all that all Council members were able to attend any Committee meeting.

ii. PGEU

The President noted that one nomination for the position of PSNI PGEU representative – Mr Raymond Anderson – had been received. This nomination had been proposed by Ms. J Dougan and seconded by the Honorary Treasurer and had met all of the required competencies for the role.

A secret ballot was then taken. The Registrar was asked to count the ballots and inform Council of the decision.

The result of the ballot was in favour of electing Mr. R Anderson as PGEU representative for the PSNI. Council congratulated Mr. Anderson on his nomination.

The President took this opportunity on behalf of the Society to present Mr. Anderson with a past President medal. Mr. R Anderson thanked Council.

8. Report from Committee Meetings:

(i) Education Committee

Mrs R Tasker updated Council on the main points of the last Education Committee meeting. (Report was included in packs for details). Mrs. Tasker asked the two academic representatives present at the Council meeting – Prof. J McElnay and Prof. D Woolfson to absent themselves for the discussion.

Motion to Council on Accreditation of the QUB Independent Prescribing Re-Accreditation – December 2009

The recommendation to Council is that QUB's Independent Prescribing course be reaccredited for a further three years.

This motion was proposed by Mrs. R Tasker, seconded by the Honorary Treasurer and agreed by Council.

Prof. J McElnay Prof. D Woolfson returned to the Council hall.

The minutes of the Education Committee were proposed by Mrs. R Tasker, seconded by Mr. R Anderson and agreed by Council.

Mrs. R Tasker then updated Council on her attendance as an observer at the PSI's Professional Development and Learning Committee.

(ii) Finance and House

The Honorary Treasurer updated Council on the main points of the last Finance and House Committee meeting. (Report was included in packs for details).

The minutes of the Finance and House Committee were proposed by the Honorary Treasurer, seconded by Prof. J McElnay and agreed by Council.

(iii) Legislation, Standards and Practice Committee meeting

The Vice-President updated Council on the main points of the last Legislation, Standards and Practice Committee meeting with particular reference to the item on homeopathy.

The Vice-President sought Council's view on whether the draft guidance and consultation (included in packs for details) should be sent as separate consultation documents to the professional and public sectors of the community and also whether the wording of the document was suitable.

A discussion then ensued on the consultation paper. Prof. D Woolfson stated that the term "homeopathic medicines" should be changed to "homeopathic products" to avoid any confusion.

Mrs. M Singleton presented a copy of the draft consultation paper to Mrs. N McGarrell with some minor amendments and spelling changes. The consultation paper will be modified to reflect these changes. It will then go out to the Patient Group Forum before going out to Pharmacists for consultation.

ACTION: The Policy Advisor to amend the draft consultation document before being sent to the Patient Group Forum.

The Vice-President updated Council on the issue of Collection and Delivery Services. The Legislation, Standards and Practice Committee decided to set up a sub-group to feedback to the Patient Group Forum and a draft consultation document will be prepared for the April Council meeting.

ACTION: Draft consultation document to be brought to the April Council meeting.

Dr. C Fitzpatrick then asked for the Collection and Delivery Services consultation document to be distributed to local GP's for information. The Vice-President noted that this would be arranged.

ACTION; Collection and Delivery Services consultation document to be distributed to local GP's for information.

The minutes of the Legislation, Standards and Practice Committee were proposed by the Honorary Treasurer, seconded by the President and agreed by Council.

9. Recent and Coming Events

All events were detailed in the circulated agenda.

10. Any Other Business

The President reminded Council that appraisals will be due shortly.

The President noted that Dr. K McClelland was retiring from Council forthwith and thanked Dr. McClelland on behalf of Council for all of her hard work over the years and for the wealth of knowledge and expertise she had brought to Council.

Dr. K McClelland thanked Council.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 15 April 2010.

CONFIDENTIAL

The Chief Executive, Registrar and Clerical Officer left the meeting at 9.40pm in order that a confidential staff related matter could be discussed.

The Council meeting concluded at 9.40pm