

MINUTES

A Meeting of The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland was held at 7:00 pm on Thursday 20th May 2010, in the Society House, 73 University Street, Belfast. BT7 1HL

Present

Mr M Nelson (Vice-President)
Mr P Kelly (Hon. Treasurer)
Mrs M Singleton
Prof D Woolfson
Mrs R Tasker
Ms A McCollum
Prof J McElnay
Dr L Byers
Mrs J Hughes
Prof P McCarron

In Attendance

Mr B Kerr (Registrar)
Mr M Neale (Head of Public Affairs)
Mrs J Greenfield (Professional Forum Manager)
Mrs N McGarrell (Clerical Officer)

Apologies

Ms A Bowen (President)
Mr R Anderson
Ms J Dougan
Prof G Linden
Dr G Fleming
Mr T Patterson (CEO)

Public Attending

1. Introduction and Welcome, Apologies.

The Vice-President welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Mrs Julie Greenfield, the new Professional Forum Manager to Council members. He then presented the apologies of those who were unable to attend the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Council Meeting of 15th April 2010

i. Matters of Accuracy

None.

ii. Adoption of Minutes

April's Council minutes were proposed by Prof. J McElnay, seconded by Ms A McCollum and agreed by Council.

iii. Matters Arising

The Vice-President updated Council on the action points arising from the April Council meeting.

Action point two has been superseded by correspondence received from Graeme Crawford, Education and Training Unit, DHSSPS regarding the NI Committee for Postgraduate Pharmaceutical Education and Training asking for re-nominations to the Committee.

Council members were asked to advise whether they wished Ms J Dougan and/or Dr K McClelland to be reappointed or if they wished to nominate replacement representatives. Both terms of offices are due to expire on 30 June 2010.

The Registrar updated Council on the background of this issue. Council then decided to re-nominate Ms J Dougan and to determine whether Mrs Lisa Smith, Pre-registration Facilitator would be content to be appointed to this Committee.

ACTION: The Registrar to seek the views of Mrs L Smith with regards to being nominated to the NICPLD Committee.

ACTION: If Mrs L Smith agrees to be nominated to the NICPLD Committee, Council will take a vote on this at the next meeting in June.

ACTION: Mrs N McGarrell to inform Graeme Crawford, DHSSPS of the outcome of Council's decision.

Mrs R Tasker wished to make Council aware that NICPLD still retain a Return to Practise module.

3. Tabling of Any Other Business

Mrs R Tasker noted that she needed a decision from Council on a Pre-registration application which has presented some difficulties.

4. Correspondence

The incoming correspondence log – 16.04.10 to 20.05.10 was included in Council packs for information.

(i) A letter had been received from Dr. Caroline Harper, HSC Health Agency to request a nomination of a representative from the Society to the Sexual Health Improvement Network.

A discussion ensued on this subject and Council decided that Mrs Valerie Addy could possibly be a representative.

ACTION: The Registrar to contact Mrs Valerie Addy to ascertain whether she would be willing to be involved on this group.

(ii) An email had been received from Ms Mary Newman, DH and Mr Harry Cayton, CHRE regarding quality mark for providers of injectable cosmetic treatments.

The Registrar updated Council on this subject and noted that this was for information only as no decision was required to be made by Council.

Ms A McCollum noted that it would be useful to pass this information on to the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA).

ACTION: The Registrar to contact RQIA to pass on this information.

(iii) An email had been received from Mr Thomas Foubister, LSE Health Co-ordinator, CHRE Observatory regarding an invitation for Society to join the CHRE International Observatory on the Regulation of Health Professionals.

Motion to Council: That Council agree to join the CHRE International Observatory on the Regulation of Health Professionals.

Council then discussed this issue. It was decided that more information with regards to the time commitment and who would be required to attend was needed before a decision could be made.

ACTION: The Registrar to investigate further and bring the information to Council before a decision can be made.

(iv) A letter was received from Cllr Alex Easton MLA regarding a complaint from a member of the public.

This was responded to by the Registrar.

(v) A letter was received from Dr Norman Morrow, DHSSPS regarding his response to the Chief Executive's letter of 27 April 2010.

The Registrar updated Council on the issue and a further letter received from Dr N Morrow yesterday was distributed to Council members for information.

A discussion evolved on the subject and the Registrar noted that no action was required to be made at the Council meeting.

(vi) A letter was received from Ms Emer Morelli, DHSSPS re the National Appeal Panel reappointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen.

For information purposes only.

5. Staff Reports

(i) Director's Report

The Registrar presented the Chief Executive's report in his absence.

Recruitment to Scrutiny Committee

The Society is in the process of trying to recruit two pharmacist members to the Scrutiny Committee.

The Registrar asked Council members to try and encourage other pharmacists they know to be interested in the positions to apply.

Revalidation

Manchester University successfully obtained the commission to complete research for the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland and will develop the next part of the project.

The Chief Executive and the Post-registration Facilitator will meet with the University representatives on 3 June 2010.

Key Engagements

The Registrar updated Council on meetings the Chief Executive had attended since Council last met.

Priorities

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

(ii) Head of Public Affairs Report

Political Issues

Pharmacy was called out in the Conservative and Unionist Manifesto broadly supporting the greater use of pharmacies in Northern Ireland as health care on the high street.

There has been an increase in the questions being asked on generic prescribing in the Assembly recently.

Media

The public consultation of the Society's Homeopathy Guidance has generated some press interest from the BBC, Irish News and the Belfast Telegraph. The Registrar was interviewed by the BBC on this issue on Monday 17 May 2010. It has also been picked up widely on the internet.

The Society now actively informs the media about impending Statutory Committees.

Professional Forum Manager

Mrs Julie Greenfield started employment on 4 May 2010.

Meetings

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

(ii) Registrar's Report

Statutory Committee 12 April 2010

The outcome of this case is detailed on the PSNI website.

Statutory Committee 13 May 2010

The Registrar updated Council on the outcome of a Statutory Committee case which took place on 13 May 2010. The applicant has been informed of the outcome.

Scrutiny Committee 19 May 2010

The Scrutiny Committee met on 19 May 2010 and considered two cases.

One case is to be referred to the Statutory Committee.

Mystery Shopper Audit CHRE

The Registrar noted that CHRE mystery shopper audit was a useful exercise to be involved in. The Society scored highly and the Registration Assistant, Miss Tracy Donnelly received most of the complaint calls and actioned these extremely well. CHRE plan to repeat this exercise for a longer time with all the regulators finance permitting

6. Report from Committee Meetings:

(i) Education Committee

The last meeting of the Education Committee was held on 12 May 2010. The minutes of the meeting will be brought to the June Council meeting.

Mrs R Tasker updated Council on the Professional Learning and Development Committee which she had attended at the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland on 19 May 2010.

Mrs R Tasker then updated Council on the issue of a Pre-registration application which has presented some difficulties. She stated that she needed a decision from Council during the course of the meeting.

The Registrar provided some background information on the subject and Council then discussed this issue at length.

It was noted that the Society's current guidance would need to be changed to standards after consultation to provide a greater clarity and direction in the future.

It was decided by Council that the Society should take legal guidance on this issue.

ACTION: The Registrar to seek legal advice on the situation and then follow the legal advice.

(ii) Finance and House

The last meeting of the Finance and House Committee was held on 14 April. The May Committee meeting had been cancelled.

The Finance and House agenda detailing the April payments was included in the packs for information.

The Honorary Treasurer stated that he proposed Council to accept the finances as detailed.

This was proposed by the Vice-president, seconded by Prof. J McElroy and agreed by Council.

(iii) Legislation, Standards and Practice Committee meeting

Ms A McCollum provided a verbal update of the last Legislation, Standards and Practice Committee meeting which was held on 14th April 2010 at the April Council meeting.

The minutes of the last Legislation, Standards and Practice Committee meeting were included in Council packs for information.

The minutes were proposed by Ms A McCollum, seconded by Mr M Nelson and agreed by Council.

7. Report from the Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting and the Inaugural Civil Society Debate

The Vice-President noted that Mr R Anderson had attended the Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting and the Inaugural Civil Society Debate on behalf of the CPA.

The papers from the meetings were included in the Council packs for information

8. Recent and Coming Events

| All events were detailed in the circulated agenda.

9. Any Other Business

The Vice-President noted that potential dates for the July Council meeting will be emailed to Council by the office to ascertain suitability for Council members.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 17 June 2010.

The Council meeting concluded at 9.00pm