

MINUTES

A Meeting of The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland was held at 7:00 pm on Thursday 19th August 2010, in the Society House, 73 University Street, Belfast. BT7 1HL

Present

Ms A Bowen (President)
Mr M Nelson (Vice-President)
Ms A McCollum
Mr R Anderson
Prof D Woolfson
Mrs R Tasker
Prof J McElroy
Dr L Byers
Prof G Linden
Prof P McCarron

In Attendance

Mr T Patterson (Chief Executive)
Mr B Kerr (Registrar)
Mr M Neale (Head of Public Affairs)
Mrs N McGarrell (Clerical Officer)

Apologies

Mr P Kelly (Hon. Treasurer)
Ms J Dougan
Mrs M Singleton
Dr C Fitzpatrick
Mrs H Buchanan
Mrs J Hughes

Public Attending

Mrs L Smith (attending as a registrant)

1. Introduction and Welcome, Apologies.

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and welcomed Mrs Lisa Smith, who was attending the meeting as a registrant. The President then presented the apologies of those not attending the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Council Meeting of 17th June 2010

i. Matters of Accuracy

None.

ii. Adoption of Minutes

June's Council minutes were proposed by Mr R Anderson, seconded by Ms A McCollum and agreed by Council.

iii. Matters Arising

The President updated Council on the action points arising from the June Council meeting.

Action point two: The Registrar updated Council on the subject of nomination to the Sexual Health Improvement Network. The Registrar had spoken to Mr

Gordon Addy who had been nominated, along with Mrs Valerie Addy by PCC to sit on this Committee. Mr Addy had not responded.

Ms A McCollum suggested that Dr Martin Kerr had been involved in this area and that he may be interested in being nominated to this Committee.

The Registrar noted that he will speak to Dr Kerr to ascertain whether he would be interested in being nominated to this Committee and if not there were a number of possible choices for example Boots which could be explored.

ACTION: The Registrar to speak to Dr Martin Kerr to ascertain whether he would be interested in being nominated to the Committee. If not, the Registrar will explore other possible options.

Action point three: The Registrar noted that the information on Quality Mark for Providers of Injectable Cosmetic Treatments had been passed on to the RQIA for information. He informed Council that the Quality Mark Standards were not recognised by healthcare regulators and he had passed this information to the RQIA.

Action point four: The Registrar stated that this action point from the June Council meeting was resolved with Boots and had not involved the DHSSPS at any stage; therefore there was no need to inform them.

ACTION: Mrs N McGarrell to remove the above action point 4 from the June Council minutes.

3. Tabling of Any Other Business

Mr R Anderson noted that he would like to table an item of AOB directly after the staff reports.

4. Correspondence

The incoming correspondence logs – 18.06.10 to 08.07.10 and 09.07.10 to 19.08.10 (July and August logs) were included in Council packs for information.

(v) A letter had been received by the President from Mr William Alderson, Chair, Homeopathy: Medicine for the 21st Century regarding a homeopathy consultation complaint.

CONFIDENTIAL

The Chief Executive, Registrar, Head of Public Affairs, Mrs Lisa Smith and Mrs N McGarrell left the meeting in order that the matter could be addressed as confidential business.

CONFIDENTIAL END

PSNI staff returned to the Council meeting.

(iii) A letter had been received from Graeme Rosenberg, REF Manager, REF 2014, Research Excellence Framework regarding an invitation to nominate panel members for the Research Excellence Framework.

A discussion ensued on this subject. Prof J McElnay updated Council on the process of nominating panel members and sub-panel Chair applications. He stated that he and Prof Gorman, QUB had previously served on the panel. Prof Woolfson suggested that Council should supply the nomination of Prof J McElnay.

Council decided that if more than one nomination from the Society is required, Prof McElnay, Prof Woolfson and Prof Linden should be nominated as panel members.

The Head of Public Affairs noted that letters of support and endorsement would be available from subject associations and local organisations to demonstrate a member of Council's standing in the community if required.

The President asked Council members to forward details of any other nominations to the Head of Public Affairs. The President also asked Prof McElnay to speak to Prof S Gorman, QUB to ascertain whether he would be interested in being nominated to the Research Excellence Framework.

ACTION: The Head of Public Affairs to obtain letters of support for the nominations from local organisations if required.
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5. Staff Reports

(i) Chief Executive's Report

White Paper Work

The next scheduled Confidence in Care meeting is 26 August 2010. The Society is on target to go to consultation with the Order in September and extensive work has been done with the Department to date on regulations to inform the wording for the Order. (Appendix one – a diagrammatic to illustrate the draft proposed process was included in Council packs for information). The Chief Executive noted that he will try and bring something to the September Council meeting for a final sign off on the draft.

Key Engagements

The Chief Executive updated Council on meetings he had attended since Council last met. In particular, the PCC meeting – 23 June, NISCC meeting – 29 June and CHRE Regulators Forum – 21 July 2010.

Priorities

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

CHRE

The Chief Executive updated Council in detail on the meeting with Mr Harry Cayton, CHRE. Topics of discussion included the abolition of the General Social Care Council (GSCC) which will see social workers in England ceasing to be registered with the GSCC and registered with the Health Professions Council (HPC) and the issue of separation of adjudication and prosecution for the Office of Healthcare Professional Adjudication.

CHRE will be given the power to impose a levy on RBs. They are looking at models and how best to apportion the levy across the nine regulatory bodies with the possibility of moving to a per capita fee. No levy will be made before April 2012 and everyone should have sufficient notice to ensure that it is recoverable from their registrants.

CHRE are also obtaining the power to oversee voluntary registers. This will be constructed in a Health Reform Bill.

The three projects CHRE will be taking forward in the coming year: (1) Working with CQC and other regulators to reduce the burden of information (2) developing a common quantitative dataset (3) developing a single portal for complaints and advice. The Society has agreed to participate in all three projects, subject to resource requirements.

Staff Matters

The Chief Executive verbally updated Council on staff matters. He apologised for the delay in appointing a temporary staff member to replace Dr McAree due to circumstances outside his control and reported that Michelle McCorry was now in post on a temporary basis to manage handover and provide a caretaker facility.

(ii) Head of Public Affairs's Report

Political Issues

The Head of Public Affairs updated Council on the changes in Regulations in England following the General Election. He referenced the changes to the General Social Care Council, the General Teaching Council and the Food Standards Agency where changes have been made exclusively to the English bodies without reference to the devolved bodies.

Media

This month has been reasonably quiet with regards to the regional press but Society events have been covered in the pharmacy press.

Professional Forum

A Professional Forum update prepared by the Professional Forum Manager containing a proposal for information and discussion at the September Council meeting was included in the packs for Council information.

The proposal being, that as the New Council will not be in place when it is anticipated the New professional Forum Board will be elected, Council is asked to consider forming the Professional Forum Board in shadow, thus allowing dual membership of the current Council and the shadow Board .

Such an arrangement would enable current Council members the opportunity to participate in the formation of the Professional Forum without having to decide between the Council membership and Board membership before the new Council was appointed.

Council were asked to consider the proposals and bring a decision to the September Council meeting.

ACTION: Council to consider the Professional Forum proposal at the September Council meeting.

Registration/Prize Giving Evening

The Head of Public Affairs updated Council on the proposal to hold a Registration/Prize Giving evening on the penultimate or final Wednesday in October 2010 subject to availability. This event would be a prize giving for both UU and QUB students and would include the presentation of registration certificates to newly register pharmacists.

The Head of Public Affairs noted that a meeting had been held with Prof Woolfson and Prof McCarron and it had been decided that the numbers for attendance would limit the function venue to hotel venues or such like. The possible cost of a finger buffet would be approximately £10 per head, plus the cost of room hire. As this event is co hosted by the Society and the two schools of pharmacy it has been agreed that the function will be jointly funded. The possibility of having a speaker has not been finalised, with the potential number of attendees and presentations, it has been suggested that a speaker may not be necessary.

The Head of Public Affairs stated that he would bring a proposal back to the September Council meeting.

ACTION: The Head of Public Affairs to bring a proposal for the Registration/Prize giving evening to the September Council meeting.

Fellows Dinner

The Head of Public Affairs asked for direction from Council and Council's help in gaining sponsorship for the Fellows dinner as in years past.

Three venues have been considered, each with a cost of approximately £500 for the evening. The three venues are; Belfast Castle, Malone House Barnett Domain and the Great Hall at Queens. The additional cost of meals at each venue, including wine would be approximately £45-50 per head.

There will be up to five recipients of 50 year certificates, one recipient of a Fellowship and approximately 100 to 110 invitees.

The event will be held in November 2010 with possible dates being 16, 18, 23 and 25 November.

On the broader issue of proposals for new Fellows for the incoming year, the President asked Council members if they wished to nominate a Fellow do so by beginning of November in time for consideration at the December meeting

Special General Meeting (SGM)

The Head of Public Affairs updated Council on the scheduled date for the SGM – 9 September and encouraged Council to attend. The SGM will be combined with an information evening on the need for personal indemnity and an update on the Professional Forum.

Thus far, there are sixteen registrants signed up to attend and the quorum for an SGM is thirty.

(iii) Registrar's Report

Registration

The Registrar updated Council on annual registration. 2088 pharmacists are currently on the register and 44 pharmacists have still to complete annual registration.

Motion to Council:

This Council directs the Registrar to remove the names of those pharmacists who have not paid fees from the register of pharmaceutical chemists as detailed in the pharmacy Northern Ireland Order 1976. This removal to take place two months after statutory notification was made on 1st July 2010.

This motion was proposed by Mr R Anderson, seconded by the Vice-President and agreed by Council.

Statutory Committee

A Statutory Committee was listed for 28 May 2010. This case was adjourned to 2 September 2010.

Scrutiny Committee

Three cases have been reviewed in August 2010. One case resulted in no further action and two cases have been referred to the Statutory Committee.

Pseudoephedrine Guidance MHRA Update

The MHRA had published a report on pseudoephedrine and the restriction on its sales through pharmacy. The Society had fed in to the report and was referenced. The greater issue to be considered was that pseudoephedrine guidance and all other standards and guidance issued by the Society including, the 2009 Code of Ethics, should be systematically reviewed.

Ms A McCollum agreed and stated that the Legislation, Standards and Practice Committee would like conduct these reviews

Council Retirement by Rotation

Prof J McElroy and Ms A McCollum had both indicated that they wished to self nominate themselves for Council. One new nomination has also been received for the Council election.

EU Commission Meeting – Brussels

The Registrar updated Council on the meeting on 8 July 2010 and noted that there was an opportunity to influence the minimum requirements for a pharmacy qualification as listed in Annex V of the Directive 2005/36/EC. He asked for any commentary that Prof Woolfson and Prof McCarron might have on this issue. The registrar is to forward correspondence to both Professors.

PSI Dublin

The Registrar updated Council on his attendance at the Registration Committee meeting on 26 June 2010 and noted that interaction with the PSI has greatly improved and it has been very useful to attend the registration Committee meetings.

Registration of Technicians

A large body of work needs to be undertaken associated with the registration of technicians by the Society. The Registrar noted that the Society needed to consider the progression of this work both at a strategic and operations level. A lengthy discussion then ensued on the subject.

The Chief Executive noted that there was an immediate opportunity for an amendment to the Order permitting the creation of a voluntary register with regulations to follow. Council agreed with this proposal and asked that work be advanced on the content of the regulations. The Chief Executive suggested meeting with GPhC to agree how much could be drawn down from their information as a first step and Council agreed with this also

ACTION: Further information/papers to be brought back to Council on the registration of technicians following a meeting with GPhC

Questions

Prof P McCarron asked a question regarding the non payment of registration fees and any trends therein. The Chief Executive then asked the Registrar to look at any trends around non-payment of fees and advise a future Council meeting.

ACTION: The Registrar to look at the trend of non-payment of registration fees.

MHRA Meeting

The Registrar updated Council on the details of an MHRA UK medicines legislation consolidation and review consultation meeting which he had been invited to on Monday 27 September 2010. He noted that he would like to attend and bring the information back to Council.

The President stated that it was essential that the Registrar attended the meeting. Ms A McCollum noted that as the Chair of the Legislation, Standards and Practice Committee meeting she would also like to attend. The Registrar will speak to MHRA and ascertain whether that would be possible.

ACTION: The Registrar to speak to MHRA to ascertain whether it would be possible for Ms A McCollum to also attend the above meeting.

6. Any Other Business

CONFIDENTIAL

All PSNI staff members, registrants and Council Members with a possible conflict of interest left the meeting at 9pm in order that a confidential discussion could transpire.

CONFIDENTIAL END

PSNI staff returned to the Council meeting at 10pm.

7. Approval of Report and Financial Statements - Year End 31 May 2010

The Chief Executive noted that the financial accounts needed to be approved at the Council meeting in order to be published in the Annual report.

The report and financial statements were distributed to Council members and the Chief Executive updated Council on the accounts.

The financial accounts were proposed by Prof J McElnay, seconded by Ms A McCollum and agreed by Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 10.25pm.