

MINUTES

A Meeting of The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland was held at 7:00 pm on Thursday 16th September 2010, in the Society House, 73 University Street, Belfast. BT7 1HL

Present

Ms A Bowen (President)
Mr M Nelson (Vice-President)
Mrs M Singleton
Prof D Woolfson
Ms A McCollum
Dr L Byers
Mr R Anderson
Prof P McCarron
Mr R Anderson
Dr C Fitzpatrick

In Attendance

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

Apologies

Ms J Hughes
Prof G Linden
Prof J McElnay
Mrs R Tasker
Ms J Dougan

Public Attending

None

1. Introduction and Welcome, Apologies.

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and then presented the apologies.

2. Minutes of the Council Meeting of 19th August 2010

i. Matters of Accuracy

Ms A McCollum highlighted a matter of accuracy recorded in last month's Council minutes – "Mr. Martin Kerr" should be changed to "Dr. Martin Kerr".
Mrs N McGarrell will amend the minutes to reflect the changes.

Ms A McCollum requested that a general indication of the topic be stated for any confidential section of the minutes in the future.

Council agreed that they were satisfied with this recommendation.

ACTION: Mrs N McGarrell to amend the Council minutes to reflect the agreed changes.

ii. Adoption of Minutes

August's Council minutes were proposed by Ms A McCollum, seconded by the Vice-President and agreed by Council.

iii. Matters Arising

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

With reference to action point one; The Registrar noted that he had spoken to Dr Martin Kerr to ascertain whether he would be interested in being nominated to the Sexual Health Improvement Network. Dr Kerr was encouraged to accept the nomination and would be content to take on the role but will speak to Dr Louise Heron, Public Health Agency, for further clarification on the role next week.

Action point three; the Head of Public Affairs noted that he had completed a series of endorsements for Council members in support of applications for Panel Chairs.

He noted that if any Council members wished to nominate anyone for the positions on the Panel they would need to either inform him tonight or by the closing date of 7 October 2010.

A brief discussion ensued on the subject. Recommendations were received from Council members for Professor Sean Gorman, QUB, Professor David Woolfson, QUB and nominations for Professor Hugh McKenna and Professor James McElroy to be nominated as Panel Members in addition to their nominations as Panel Chairs.

The President asked Council members to return any other suggestions to Mrs Nicola McGarrell by the closing date of 7 October 2010.

Action point eight; The Registrar updated Ms McCollum on the forthcoming MHRA meeting. There are limited places for attendance but it would be possible for Ms McCollum to take part in the meeting through teleconferencing.

Ms McCollum noted that the meeting would still be of interest to her and she would like to take part in the meeting through a teleconference call. Ms McCollum will attend the Society offices to do so.

3. Tabling of Any Other Business

None.

4. Correspondence

The incoming correspondence log – 19.08.10 to 16.09.10 was included in Council packs for information.

(i) A letter had been received from Miriam McCarthy, DHSSPS regarding the Workshop on the Future Provision of Pharmacy.

The DHSSPS is organising a workshop to consider the strategic direction for the commissioning and delivery of HSC contracted pharmacy services which ensure high quality, safe and effective public health and medicines management within primary and secondary care. This workshop will take place on 13 October 2010 at Stormont Estate.

The DHSSPS have asked the Pharmaceutical Society NI to nominate five delegates to attend the workshop. The nominations being sought included a post-registration pharmacist, a pre-registration pharmacist, an independent pharmacist, a prescribing pharmacist and a representative from a multiple pharmacy.

A discussion ensued on this subject. Council nominated the following five delegates:

Mr Raymond Anderson – Independent pharmacist
Mr John Carson – Pre-registration pharmacist
Ms Andree McCollum – Post-registration pharmacist
Dr Lisa Byers – Prescribing pharmacist

Either Mrs Roberta Tasker or Mrs Helena Buchanan – Representative from a multiple pharmacy.

ACTION: Mrs N McGarrell to contact Mrs Roberta Tasker and Mrs Helena Buchanan to ascertain whether they would consider nomination to the DHSSPS workshop.

ACTION: Once all five delegates have been confirmed, Mrs N McGarrell to contact Mr Edward Murphy, DHSSPS to confirm all names and contact details put forward for nomination.

(ii) An email had been received from Betty Falconbridge, Commonwealth Pharmacists Association (CPA) regarding CPA website update.

Mr R Anderson updated Council on CPA membership and website development. A brief discussion evolved on the subject. Council decided that it would be valuable to have a link to the PSNI website on the CPA website. It will be the responsibility of the PSNI to maintain this page on the CPA website.

ACTION: The Head of Public Affairs to contact Betty Falconbridge to arrange a PSNI page on the CPA website.

5. Staff Reports

(i) Chief Executive's Report

White Paper Work

The Chief Executive advised Council that we are expected to go to consultation on the main Order by the end of October 2010. The Department were advised that Council would need to see the draft Order if agreement was required to the content before consultation. The department were appraised of Council meeting date in October.

The Registrar has spoken to Gail Anderson, DHSSPS on the subject of technician registration legislation. Requirements for creating a voluntary register are currently being explored.

Key Engagements

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

Meeting with Helen Gordon – New CEO of RPS

The Chief Executive met with Helen Gordon, the newly appointed Chief Executive of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society on 2 September 2010.

This was a very productive meeting. A further meeting will be scheduled for November 2010.

Meeting with Janet Flint

The Chief Executive updated Council on his meeting with Janet Flint, RPSGB on 3 September 2010 regarding technician registration.

The Chief Executive noted that if we were to have a reciprocal agreement, we would need to mirror the RPSGB's qualifications requirement. If proceeding to register technicians we should consider reviewing their list of some 23 qualifications with a view to approving them for a future voluntary register and to look at availability in the future of the listed qualifications locally.

Motion: Council were asked to confirm that they wished to commit to technician registration and to also confirm that they wished the Pharmaceutical Society NI to further develop a plan similar to that followed by the RPSGB.

The issue of cost was discussed, a previous motion in 2005 having supported registration on the basis of cost neutrality. It was agreed that technician

registration was a public safety matter and would be important when considering future supervision regulations. Council agreed that technician registration did not have to be cost neutral

Council then agreed the motion and would like a plan to be drawn up by the Chief Executive and brought back to Council for review.

ACTION: The Chief Executive to draw up a development plan for technician registration similar to that of the RPSGB and bring back to Council for review.

Chief Executives Steering Group

The Chief Executive updated Council on the CESG meeting held on 8 September 2010. The main points discussed:

- GMC continuing to pursue language and competency testing.
- GMC leading on ISA relationship.
- Review of Arms Length Bodies.
- Non-medical revalidation.

Gateway Review

The Chief Executive provided a verbal update of the Gateway Review which was sponsored by the Department and provided information on how the Confidence in Care meetings were progressing.

The final report will be confidential and only available to the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Nursing Officer.

Priorities

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

Future Meeting Dates

Following the Special General Meeting on 9 September 2010, Council now has the authority to set meeting dates rather than the previous restrictions of eleven meetings per annum on specified dates as long as there are no less than four per annum.

The Chief Executive stated that it would be prudent to retain the October meeting as this is used to introduce any new members of Council and to set out the election procedures for officers and the November meeting as this is used for the elections themselves. He invited Council to consider not meeting in December as this is usually poorly attended and instead set a suitable date in January 2011.

Some Council members had concerns regarding the progress of work for Council and suggested that this decision should be postponed until the October Council meeting when the forthcoming work schedule may be better identified.

ACTION: Council to decide and confirm future meeting dates for the remainder of 2010 and the beginning of 2011 at the October Council meeting.

AGM

Council were reminded that the Annual General Meeting will take place on 30 September 2010.

No election will be required this year as we have received three applications for Council membership, which is less than the available vacancies.

Revalidation

The initial Revalidation report is expected towards the end of October 2010. By extension the final report may now arrive around January 2011. The delay has been caused by delays in being able to contact interviewees and obtaining research approval for NHS interviewees. The Chief Executive advised that we will need the additional information regarding Return to Practise risks to inform proposed regulations in the near future.

Discretionary holiday at Christmas

Council were asked to approve a discretionary day's leave for staff members at Christmas – New Year's Eve, 31 December 2010.

Council members discussed the option and agreed the date of closure as 31 December 2010.

(ii) Head of Public Affairs's Report

Political Issues

The Head of Public Affairs updated Council on changes of personnel on the Health Committee.

Questions continue to be asked at the Assembly regarding specific issues concerning drugs. Clearly certain MLA's are being lobbied by patients.

Media

In relation to the recent disciplinary hearing, the Belfast Telegraph sent a reporter to the Statutory Committee on 2 September 2010 and the Irish News sought information on the outcome of the proceedings.

The Combined Ulster Medical Review and Ulster Chemist Review will now only appear once a quarter.

Professional Forum

The Head of Public Affairs provided a verbal report on the Professional Forum. The Professional Forum Steering Group are due to meet again on 23 September

2010. The election process for the Professional Forum Board should begin week commencing 11 October 2010 with all votes due back by 2 December.

A letter has been received this week nominating Mr Adrian Glass as a PCC representative on the Board.

Motion: Council were formally asked to adopt the proposal that the Professional Forum Board will exist in shadow form up to the point at which the “new Council” is appointed. During the shadow period, members of this Council will be permitted to serve on the shadow Professional Forum Board concurrently.

The Head of the Public Affairs noted that as there will be an election for the new Forum Board, Council may seek to limit the number of Council members allowed to sit on this Forum Board. He suggested that the Forum steering Group should look at this issue in detail.

Ms. McCollum suggested that a paper which outlined ways an election could be conducted would be useful for the Professional Forum Steering Group.

<p>ACTION: The Head of Public Affairs will bring a paper outlining ways in which an election could be conducted to the Professional Forum Steering Group on the 23 September.</p>

The Head of Public Affairs then asked Council for some direction on the numbers of Council members which should be allowed to serve on the Forum Board.

A discussion ensued on the subject and it was suggested that there should be no more than four Council members allowed to serve on the Forum Board, with a possibility of restricting this to 3 Council members.

The motion proposed by Mr R Anderson, seconded by Ms A McCollum and agreed by Council.

Registration/Prize Giving Evening

The Head of Public Affairs updated Council on the registration and prize giving evening which will be held on 20 October in the Europa Hotel, Belfast.

The invitations have been printed and invitations for the two University Schools of Pharmacy will be sent to QUB and UU.

Fellows Dinner

The Head of Public Affairs updated Council on the Fellows Dinner which will take place on 25 November 2010 in Malone House, Belfast.

The guest list will be finalised shortly.

Information Evening and Special General Meeting

The Head of Public Affairs updated Council on the Information evening and SGM.

The attendance at the evening was a success. The SGM was quorate and the byelaws were passed with one amendment being proposed from the floor.

There appears to be a requirement for a series of information evenings. These could take the form of invited guests being asked to address a specific topic.

The Head of Public Affairs then left the meeting.

(iii) Registrar's Report

Registration

Removal of those pharmacists who were still unpaid took place on 1 September 2010. Notification of removal was placed on the PSNI website and circulated to DHSSPS, HSCB and registrants.

The Registrar detailed the statistics on annual loss – removal or withdrawal from the register over a number of years in his report.

Fitness to Practise

The Registrar noted that there had been considerable fitness to practise activity recently due to a Statutory Committee case and four Scrutiny Committee cases.

Pseudoephedrine Guidance

There has been evidence of recent activity in purchases. The DHSSPS have requested that we email all pharmacists on the register requiring increased vigilance with these product sales.

Pharmacy Support Staff

The Registrar updated Council on the changing qualifications for pharmacy support staff. There is a potential impact for employers and training providers.

A discussion ensued on the subject.

ACTION: The Registrar to bring more clarification on the changing qualifications for pharmacy support staff back to the October Council meeting.

6. Report from Committee Meetings:

(i) Education Committee

The President updated Council on the main points of the Education Committee meeting which was held on 28 July 2010.

The minutes of the July and August Committee meetings were included in Council packs for information.

Ms. McCollum highlighted a matter of accuracy in both sets of Education minutes – Dr to be inserted before Brendan Gilmore (July minutes) and – Dr to be inserted and Mr to be removed before Brendan Gilmore (August minutes).

ACTION: Mrs N McGarrell to inform Mrs K McKenna of the above changes required to the Education Committee minutes.

The minutes of the July meeting were proposed by the President, seconded by Mr R Anderson and agreed by Council.

The minutes of the August meeting were unable to be passed as the President was the only attendee from the Committee meeting present at Council.

ACTION: The minutes of the August Education Committee meeting to be brought back to the October Council meeting.

(ii) Finance and House Committee

The Vice-President provided a verbal update of the last Finance and House Committee meetings which were held on 16 August and 13 September 2010.

The minutes of the Finance and House Committee meetings were included in Council packs for information.

The August minutes of the meeting were proposed by the Vice-President, seconded by the President and agreed by Council.

The September minutes of the meeting were proposed by the Vice-President, seconded by the President and agreed by Council.

(iii) Legislation, Standards and Practice Committee

Ms A McCollum updated Council on the main points of the last Legislation, Standards and Practice Committee meeting which was held on 4 August 2010.

The minutes were included in Council packs for information.

The minutes were proposed by Ms A McCollum, seconded by Mrs M Singleton and agreed by Council.

7. Recent and Coming Events

All events were detailed in the circulated agenda.

8. Any Other Business

None.

9. Date of Next Meeting
Thursday 21 October 2010.

The Council meeting concluded at 8.57pm