

Confidential

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GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

Education Committee

Unconfirmed Minutes of the 154th Meeting of the Education Committee held
on
2nd October 2008.

Present:	Miss R Bailey	Mr K Lewis
	Mrs J Brower	Mr D Pyle (Chair)
	Mr K Cavaye	Dr Ahmed Sadiq
	Dr G Harris	Professor A Tomlinson
	Dr P Kyle	Miss J Underwood
Advisers:	Mr R Carswell	Mrs R Shipley
	Dr A Jennings	Mr P Carroll
In Attendance:	Miss L Kennaugh	Mrs J D Taylor
	Miss Kelly Parker	

Apologies for Absence and Chairman's Announcements

5247. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies from Roger Anderson, Rob Hogan, Professor Mike Salmon and Charles Wass.

Declaration of Interests

5248. Members and Advisers were reminded that any interest in an issue for consideration by the Committee which could have, or may be perceived as having an influence on their judgement must be declared pursuant to standing orders 2.7 to 2.10

Confidentiality

5249. Members and Advisers were reminded that the proceedings of the Committee are Confidential under Standing Orders 6.23 to 6.26

5250. The Committee received the Minutes from the 153rd Meeting of the Education Committee from the 8th May 2008. The Minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

PQE1

5251. The Acting Director of Education updated the Group on the recent developments on the PQE1. Places are available at GCU and Aston University, with other institutions considering whether to offer places next year. The cost is however likely to be that of the full student fee (approximately £10k) as no HFCE funding is available for a second degree. The Acting Director of Education confirmed she is now satisfied that sufficient places are available for those students who require them.

Guide to Handbooks

5252. The Chairman noted that at the last meeting it was agreed a Guide to Handbooks would be produced for approval at this meeting of the Education Committee. It has since been decided that circumstances have now overtaken this requirement and other approaches will be considered regarding handbook coordination.

Low Vision Video

5253. The Committee members received an update from the Acting Director of Education on the status of the Low Vision Video the Education Committee agreed to fund at its last meeting. It was not discussed at the last meeting of F&P so the Acting Director of Education has ensured it will be considered at the next meeting of the Finance and Procedure Committee in November.

Competencies

5254. The Committee received the Minutes from the most recent meeting of the Competencies Working Group and they were noted for information.

Education Department Staff Update.

5255. The Chairman then went on to main agenda items for discussion/ and or approval which began with an update from the Acting Director of Education on how the Education Department is now structured. It was noted that as Dian Taylor is now Acting Registrar, until the recruitment of the new Chief Executive, Linda Kennaugh is the Acting Director of Education and that the post of Assistant Director of Education has not been backfilled. It was also noted that Hayley Robinson would be back in the New Year on a part time

basis and that the role of PA would go out to advertisement in the next week for a permanent full time position.

5256. The Chairman invited the Acting Registrar to update the Committee on the overarching structure of the senior management team of the General Optical Council. The Registrar updated the Committee on the upcoming recruitment of the Chairman and Chief Executive and noted the recent changes to the overall responsibilities of senior management team following the departure of Alan Currie and the resignation of the Director of Corporate Resources Phil Ireland. It was noted that these two posts would not be a straight recruitment process and that in line with recent budget restraints and careful consideration of the Senior Management Team structure, the current senior management team would share the overflow of responsibilities.

Training Establishment and Visit Update.

5257. The Committee received a visit review from 2007/8 for their information. The report summarises the last visit to each of the approved education and training establishments, highlighting the conditions and recommendations.

5258. In summary, the Acting Director of Education highlighted that there had been a successful round of visits in the last year and the panel of visitors were happy as a whole.

5259. The ESDO team were now handing over the visits to dispensing courses to the full panel. However for the first visit there would be one ESDO team member on each visit to ensure a seamless handover in Spring of 2009.

5260. The Annual Monitoring Form for undergraduate optometry forms has been developed and will be piloted by Bradford in early 2009 before it will be fully distributed to all establishments in Autumn 2009.

5261. The Bradford Foundation Degree, the ABDO DLI /Canterbury Christ Church Foundation Degree and the potential BTECH at City and Islington College will all remain under the ESDO team for the foreseeable future.

5262. It was also raised that the ECOO Diploma was not in the report, but it was noted that ECOO is not a training institute and therefore is not visited.

5263. The Committee were referred to the report on GCU and it was recommended that they were given a 5 year approval, based on the recent visit. This was approved by the Committee and this will now go to November Council for final approval.

5264. The Committee also received an update on recent developments on the Manchester Optometry programmes which had occurred since the last meeting. It was noted that Professor Salmon, who had sent his apologies for today's meeting had, along with the Acting Director of Education, met with the new Dean of the Faculty of Life Sciences responsible for the Optometry Department of Manchester University. It was noted that previous issues and

concerns regarding resourcing and facilities had now been resolved and the University had fully co-operated with the GOC and it was therefore recommended that the course receive 5 years approval.

It was raised at this point that the staffing table submitted by Manchester University was unclear and it was requested that before submitting to Council the Acting Director of Education should verify the data to ensure this information is correct, before full approval is given.

5265. The Committee then received a report on Bradford University's programme. It was noted the last visit to the Progression Programme had been successful and that the course was well structured and tailored to the students. It was noted that high quality students had applied for the course.

The Committee supported the recommendation that the programme go to November Council for full approval to be passed to full Panel responsibility and for inclusion in the full visit to Bradford in 2009.

5266. The Education Committee members received an update on the recent developments regarding Ulster University. It was noted there had been concerns about the clinical experience element of the programme. A meeting was held with representatives from Ulster with the Chair of Education Committee and the Acting Director of Education. The meeting was positive, progress against the recommendations had been demonstrated and clarification about the areas of concern was given. Therefore it had been agreed that a one day visit with a panel of two would be conducted to the programme in March 2009.

It was noted by several members that an ophthalmologist would need to attend the next visit to ensure previous conditions had been met. The Acting Director of Education noted the request.

5267. The programme of visits for 2009/10 was received and noted by the Committee. The Committee gave their approval of the programme.

Independent Prescribing Course Proposals

5268. The Chairman highlighted all three Independent Course Proposals for the Committee to consider.

5269. It was noted that GCU, Manchester and Aston and City University had all submitted a statement of interest in starting courses for September 2009.

5270. The Chairman asked the Committee to consider for approval each proposal for referral to the Education Committee IP Panel for more detailed consideration and that the panel will meet with each potential provider to progress their course proposals.

5271. GCU had submitted a detailed proposal but sought a little clarification from the proposed panel. Approval to proceed was granted.

5272. Aston and Manchester Universities had submitted a joint proposal for the Committee to consider. It was noted that the proposal was too brief and that

they should meet with the Panel to take this further but more information would need to be supplied at this latter stage to meet the criteria of the committee, however they are satisfied that the proposal meets with the requirements of the handbook.

5273. City University had supplied only a statement of interest and no formal proposal or paperwork. The Committee agreed for the IP Panel to meet with City University, however with no information or documentation provided at this stage the committee was not yet able to approve the proposal for a September 2009 start date. The Panel was given delegated authority on behalf of the committee to progress the proposal with City University and report back to Education Committee in February 2009.

Reports from the Project Groups

5274. The Committee received Project Updates on all of the working groups.

5275. The Chairs of all the Project Groups presented a summary of work carried out by the working groups since the last meeting of the Education Committee.

5276. The Committee received an update on project ED01 Professionals Crossing Borders from the Acting Director of Education in the absence of Professor Salmon, Chairman of the working group. It was noted members of the group would be going to Utrecht in October to conduct an accreditation review and further visits to the ECOO diploma are planned for 2009, in addition to the visits made earlier this year. The working group is next to meet on the 11th February 2009 at 2pm.

5277. The Committee received an update on project ED02 Entry Standards, Dispensing Opticians. It was noted that apart from the three courses (Bradford Foundation Degree, ABDO DLI /Canterbury Christ Church Foundation Degree and the potential BTECH at City and Islington College) all other dispensing programmes will be passed on to the Visitor Panel and will receive full panel visits in 2009 to determine the appropriate period of approval. The ESDO Working Group will continue to meet when it convenes for future ESDO visits to progress any further work in respect of Dispensing Optics training provision and standards.

5278. The Committee received an update on project ED03 Scheme for Registration, from the chairman of the group Dr Peter Kyle. It was noted that the SFR Handbook had been reviewed and approved by July Council.

5279. The Working Group was satisfied with the recent OSCE trial and the progress the College was making on the pilot of the new scheme for registration, which looks to be implemented by 2010. The working group will continue to track it's progress. The working group are next to meet on the 11th February 2009 at 9.30am.

5280. The Committee received an update on project ED04 the Education and Panel Visits/ Accreditation Review group. It was noted that the Annual Monitoring

form had been developed and would be piloted by Bradford University in 2009, after being signed off by BUCO. The Visitor Training Day in July took place and was a success. In addition the visit schedule for the next five years has now been developed and the Visitors have been scheduled for up coming visits. It is proposed this working group continue but with no scheduled meetings for the remainder of 2008/9.

5281. The Committee received an update on project ED05 Overseas Routes to UK Registration from its chairman Professor Alan Tomlinson.

It was noted the Overseas Panel are continuing to assess applications and are looking to amend the Overseas Handbook next year.

It was noted that no temporary application from EU applicants had been received to date.

5282. The committee received an update on project ED09 Independent Prescribing Handbook. It was noted the Handbook had been approved by July Council after consultation with stakeholders. The Handbook was launched in July and the working group has now progressed to inviting course providers to submit proposals for courses to start in 2009. A smaller panel has been formed to carry on the work and the working group has now been closed.

5283. The committee received an update on project ED10 Scheme for Student Registration. It was noted the working group had developed a set of principles outlining the requirements of student and teacher registration, which were now with the Legal team for review. These principles would be brought to this committee and Registration Committee for approval at their next meetings in February 2009.

5284. It was proposed Projects ED02 ESDO and ED09 Independent Prescribing Handbook Working Group were now stood down and that any future work be carried out by other means as appropriate.

5285. It was also noted that Project ED01 Professionals Crossing Borders would only meet around dates when the statutory meetings would be held for the remainder of this financial year.

Budget and Work Plan

5286. The Committee were presented with an update on the GOC Budget from the Director of Corporate Resources. The recent review of income and expenditure was presented to the Committee and recently identified savings across the whole of the GOC were presented to the Group.

5287. The Acting Director of Education presented to the Group a progress update against the budget and work plan for 2008/9.

It was noted meetings had been cancelled and where possible other savings had been made but not to the detriment of essential work to be carried out by the Education Committee.

5288. The Committee approved the work plan for now until March 2009.

- 5289.** It was proposed to the Group that in the interim the Chairs of the working groups meet to ensure the essential work of the Education Committee is carried out. The Education Committee members approved the setting up of the Education Steering Group, comprising of the Chairs of the Working Groups to facilitate progress any urgent work in between Education Committee meetings.
- 5290.** The Education Committee members noted their agreement to make savings where possible and to try to meet only on days of statutory committee meetings to save costs, but it was emphasised that this should not be to the detriment of work to be carried out in Education.
- 5291.** The Acting Director of Education went on to present the projected budget and suggested work plans for 2009/10.
- 5292.** The budgets and work plans were approved by the Education Committee Members and priority ratings for each work stream were agreed
- 5293.** The Chairman noted that the projected plans for 2009/10 were acceptable but that finance should not drive the Education agenda and that all necessary work would continue but that costs would be considered at all times.
- 5294.** It was noted that in future the recommendations arising from the CHRE Performance Review must be considered by the committee and its working groups.
- 5295.** It was raised by the Committee that there would not be a GOC officer at the ECOO Meeting in Istanbul later this year. It was noted by the Acting Registrar that Richard Carswell would be reporting back to the GOC and would be attending in his dual role as GOC representative and ECOO.

Non EEA Optometrists practising under supervision in the UK.

- 5296.** The Acting Director of Education highlighted to the Committee an issue which required the direction of the Committee. It has come to light that a non EEA optometrist who has been practising under supervision in the UK has failed the college non EEA exam but continues to practice supervised with no intention of re-sitting the exam.
- 5297.** It was noted that this case is under discussion by the executive with a view to establishing whether any change to the wording of the rules is required to close this loop hole and the Chairman noted that this is an issue to be handled by the Executive and not the Committee.

Committee Constitution and Membership.

- 5298.** The Chairman noted the inclusion of Agenda item 11 but acknowledged that this agenda item no longer needed discussion as the matter was being dealt with by the Acting Registrar and GOC Chairman. The Acting Registrar

updated the Committee on recent developments on the Committee Constitution and Membership and it was noted that the members would soon be asked which committees they would like to serve on.

Any Other Business

5299. It was noted that there were no Any Other Business items for discussion.

Date and time of the next meeting.

5300. The next meeting of the Education Committee is on the 12th February 2009 at 10.30am.