

**GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL**

**Education Committee**

Confirmed Minutes of the 155th Meeting of the Education Committee held on  
12th February 2009.

<b>Present:</b>	Mr R Anderson	Mr D Pyle (Chair)
	Miss R Bailey	Dr A Sadiq
	Mrs J Brower	Professor M Salmon
	Mr K Cavaye	Professor A Tomlinson
	Dr G Harris	Miss J Underwood
	Dr P Kyle	Mr C Wass
	Mr K Lewis	
<b>Advisers:</b>	Mr R Carswell	Mrs R Shipley
	Dr A Jennings	Mr P Carroll
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Miss L Kennaugh	Mrs J D Taylor
	Miss J Glover	Miss H Robinson
	Miss K Parker	

**Apologies for Absence and Chairman's Announcements**

**5301.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies from Mr Rob Hogan.

**Declaration of Interests**

**5302.** 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**

**5303.** Members and Advisers were reminded that the proceedings of the Committee are Confidential under Standing Orders 6.23 to 6.26

**Minutes of the 154th meeting (02:10:08)**

**ED(08)3M**

**5304.** The Committee received the Minutes from the 154th Meeting of the Education Committee from the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008. Two amendments were made – Minute 5264,5268

Once amendments were made the Minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

## **Matters Arising**

### **(i) Low Vision Video**

**5305.** The A/ Director of Education informed the Committee, that since the last meeting of Committee the funding for the Low Vision Video had been approved by the Finance and Procedure Committee and the funds had been released to ABDO for the making of the DVD. It has since been made and viewed by the A/Director of Education and the Visitors on a recent visit to ABDO College.

### **(ii) Competencies**

**5306.** The A/Director of Education verbally updated the Committee on developments since the last meeting of the Committee. It was noted that the last meeting of the Competencies working group had been deferred so that consultation responses could be dealt with. It was hoped that the meeting would be rescheduled for April/ May so that they could continue with the Stage 1 Core Competency Review.

## **Staff Update**

**5307.** The A/Director of Education updated the Committee on the current staffing of the Education Department. It was noted for information that Hayley Robinson has returned to the Education Department from her Maternity Leave and is now working 3 days per week covering the EU and Non EEA application process and that Kelly Parker is the permanent full time PA to the Director of Education.

## **CET Update - Overview of latest developments**

**5308.** The Committee received a verbal update from the CET Manager to accompany the written report, highlighting the main points of interest in the current CET work plan. These included the CET communication plan, an update on CET and Independent Prescribing and the Annual Review for the Committee's information.

**5309.** The report was noted for information and the Committee were informed no action or decision making was required at this meeting.

## **Proposed Course Amendments**

### **Proposed changes to ARU Optometry and Dispensing Programmes**

**5310.** Professor Salmon declared a conflict of interest as this item was introduced and subsequently left the meeting for the duration of the discussion.

**5311.** The Committee were asked to consider a submission from John Siderov, Head of Department at Anglia Ruskin University regarding a move to temporary accommodation on the university campus following the demolition of the current facilities in Summer 2009. The optics provision will be housed in temporary accommodation for a period of 2 – 3 years whilst a new purpose-built facility is developed. In addition, the submission contained a request for an increase in student numbers on their Optometry programme from September 2009.

**5312.** The proposal was discussed at length and the Committee came to the conclusion that they had concerns and unanswered questions regarding the

accommodation and that further information was required before any positive decisions could be made by the Committee.

- 5313.** The main point of concern noted was that although the temporary facilities were going to be in place it would need to be established that they would be fit for purpose for the current cohort of students, before considering an increase in the student intake.
- 5314.** The Committee concluded that the A/Director of Education would write to ARU informing them of the Committee's decision and that the Committee require further evidence to allay concerns for current students before any possible future increase in student intake can be approved.
- 5315.** It was agreed that a small group of Visitors would visit ARU to inspect the temporary facilities and see the plans for the new accommodation

#### **Proposal for MOptom programme at City University.**

- 5316.** The Committee were introduced to the proposal from City University for a 4 year MOptom programme to start in 2009. The A/Director of Education reiterated verbally the highlights of the proposal.
- 5317.** Members of the Committee, after lengthy discussions, communicated their concerns over the proposal. The main areas of concern were that it was not clear who the scheme provider is and how is the programme to be funded.
- 5318.** It was suggested and agreed that the A/Director of Education write to City University and note the areas of concern raised. It is to be made clear that the proposal has not been agreed by the Education Committee at this stage and that until more information has been received and further discussions have been had by the Executive and representatives from City University have met with a panel of Education Committee visitors, no level of approval can be given.
- 5319.** The Chairman made it clear that this programme cannot start in 2009 and no approval is given at this stage.

#### **Update on ECOO**

- 5320.** The Committee received a written report from Adviser to Education Committee Richard Carswell, updating the Committee on current ECOO developments.
- 5321.** It was noted in summary of the written report that the ECOO Diploma and CET were making gradual progress, however there was nothing significant to report and that the ECOO Academy was in the process of being established and that there would be an ECOO meeting in May 2009 where updates would be received on any significant developments.

#### **Training Establishment and Visit Update**

##### **Visit Reports**

##### **(i) Cardiff University's BSc (Hons) in Optometry**

- 5322.** The A/Director of Education gave a short verbal update on the visit to Cardiff University in November 2008 and the Committee had received the Visit Report in advance of the meeting. The Panel recommended to the Committee that they receive the full five years approval with the next visit to be held in 2013, subject to the submission of satisfactory annual monitoring forms.

**5323.** The Committee supported the recommendation of the Visitor's Panel that 5 years approval be granted.

**(ii) Updated Visit Programme for 2009/10**

**5324.** The Committee received for information an updated version of the Visit Programme, with confirmed dates for all the visits to Optometry and Dispensing programmes for 2009/10.

**(iii) Update on Independent Prescribing Courses and Assessment**

**5325.** The members of the Committee received a brief update on the Independent Prescribing Course Providers and the progress made since the last meeting in October 2008.

**5326.** It was noted that the Independent Prescribing Review Panel had met with the three potential course providers and were happy with the documentation provided by all and could therefore start recruiting for intake in April 2009.

**5327** The Committee were informed that Glasgow Caledonian University and City University were due to start providing the top-up courses in April 2009 and that Manchester University/ Aston University were a little further behind in progressing their course.

**5328** The A/Director of Education informed the Committee that the College of Optometrist's Common Final Assessment (CFA) was being developed and ready to start in September 2009, with information to be available on their website from March 2009.

**Report from the Project Groups**

**5329.** The Committee received written updates on each of the working groups.

**5330.** Each of the Chairs from the five active working groups updated the Committee on any developments since the last meeting in October 2008.

**5331.** The Professionals Crossing Borders EDO1 project group have been working with the Hogeschool Utrecht to complete the accreditation of their optometry programme. A further visit is planned for 2009. The working group are looking to prepare a policy on overseas accreditation in the next financial year.

**5332.** The ESDO Working Group ED02 have been conducting visits to institutions offering new dispensing courses and will continue to do this in the next year.

**5333.** The Scheme for Registration working group ED03 to continue to meet with the College of Optometrists every 2-3 months. The group is monitoring the development of the Independent Prescribing Final Assessment and implementation of the changes to the Optometry Scheme for Registration.

**5334.** The Visit/ Accreditation Process working group has finalised the Annual Monitoring Form which is going to be piloted on a visit to Bradford University on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March. The Annual Monitoring Form will be rolled out to all Educational Institutions in Autumn if the Bradford Pilot is a success.

**5335.** The Overseas Qualifications Working Group has not met since the last Education Committee meeting but continues to monitor EU and non EEA applications to the GOC Register. The next meeting will be in May 2009.

**Budget and Work plan**

**5336.** The Committee received the amended budgets and work plans which have been updated since the last meeting of the Education Committee in October 2008. The A/Director of Education highlighted for the Committee's information cost savings that had been made by the Education Department and reported that there had been no amendments made to the work plans for 2009/10.

#### **Education Committee Legacy Document**

**5337.** The A/Director presented to the Committee the draft Legacy document, which was explained to the Committee as a vehicle to introduce the new Council to the work of the Education Committee and to inform them of the direction of future work.

**5338.** The purpose of the document was discussed in depth and in summary the Committee agreed that it would need to include information on Visitors and their role in the Accreditation process but more importantly to emphasise the need for continuity in the work that Education carries out. It was also agreed that if the General Optical Council wanted to be the world leader in Optometry the Council would need to work hard towards achieving this goal.

#### **GOC Consultation Framework**

**5339.** The Committee received a copy of the draft GOC Consultation framework, as received in all the GOC Committee meetings in this cycle, for their review and comment. The Committee recorded their approval of the document and no amends or comments were noted.

#### **AOB**

**5340.** Congratulations to Richard Carswell on recently being awarded his Doctorate.

**5341.** The Chairman closed the meeting by recording his thanks to the members for their contribution in their time as Education Committee Members.

**5342.** The Committee concluded the meeting by offering their thanks to the Chairman, and the previous serving Chairs, the Acting Registrar, the Chair and the A/Director of Education for their services to Education Committee over the past years.

#### **Date and Time of Next meeting.**

**5343.** 11am, Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009 at Harley Street.