

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the 169th Meeting of Council held on 22 March 2007

Present: Mrs R Varley (in the Chair),
Ms M Alexander, Professor R S Anderson,
Miss R E Bailey, Mrs J S Brower, Professor R J Buckley,
Mr D A Cameron, Mr K Cavaye, Mr D Cartwright,
Mr R W Chappell, Miss K S Devlin Mr J Dunne,
Mr I Hamer, Dr G Harris, Dr P M Kyle, Mr K P Lewis,
Ms G Morgan, Mr D W Pyle, Mr N J Rumney,
Mr J Russell, Professor M Salmon,
Professor A Tomlinson, Miss J Underwood, Mr C Wass,
Ms S Wild

In Attendance: Mr P C Coe, Ms K Fielding, Mr P J Ireland, Mr J Levett
Mrs J D Taylor, Mrs C Withall.

Chairman's Opening Remarks

6431. The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the newly appointed lay Members and elected Members of Council. The Chairman also welcomed representatives of the optical bodies, the optical press and members of the public.

Apologies for Absence

6432. Apologies for absence were received from Dr S T D Roxburgh.

Declaration of Interests

6433. Members were reminded that they must declare to the meeting any matter in which they had any actual or perceived personal or professional conflict of interest that might influence their judgement.

Confidentiality

6434. The Chairman reminded Members that this was a meeting held in public and not covered by any requirement for confidentiality. The private session of Council to be held later was a private meeting and was covered by the rules on confidentiality

Election of Deputy Chairman of Council

6435. The Registrar announced the results of the nominations for the position of Deputy Chairman. Dr G Harris was nominated unopposed and duly elected Deputy Chairman of Council.

Election of Treasurer

6436. Ms M Black was nominated unopposed to the position of Treasurer and duly appointed.

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C(06)3M

6437. The Minutes were signed and approved as being a true and fair record of the meeting and would be published on the Council's website.

MATTERS ARISING

A. Matters Arising For Information

Committee Membership for 2007

6438. The membership of Committees for 2007 was duly noted and approved. There was one important correction which was that the Chairman of Council was not a member of the Audit Committee but may be invited to attend as required.

Changes to Standing Orders Finance and Procedure Committee vs Audit Committee

6439. RESOLVED:

that Standing Orders be amended such that none of the members of audit Committee may also be members of Finance and Procedure Committee.

It was noted that the Chairman or Deputy Chairman of any other committee could sit on Audit Committee but they could not Chair it.

B. Matters Arising for Discussion and Decision

Statement on Sale and Supply - Guidance from Professional Bodies

6440. RESOLVED:

that the guidance of the professional bodies on the fitting of contact lenses, the supply of contact lenses and the supply of zero powered contact lenses be accepted by Council.

6441. Guidance on the supply of spectacles remained under review by the professional bodies.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION

Discussion on the White Paper

6442. The legislative timetable indicated by Ministers had prompted early discussion by Council as to its future governance arrangements.

6443. It was agreed Council should establish a structure for addressing the four key strands of the White Paper recommendations – governance, revalidation, tackling concerns and registration.

6444. A Project Board and Work Streams were proposed and Members agreed to self-nominate themselves onto one or more of the Work Streams where they had a particular interest. It was agreed that the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Council would take into consideration each Members preferences and may adjust the membership of each Work Stream if necessary. They would nominate the chairperson for each Work Stream and these Members would also sit on the Project Board.

6445. After lengthy discussion on the future size of a more Board-like Council, it was

RESOLVED:

that the maximum number of Council Members would be thirteen.

Business Plan 2007/8

6446. It was agreed to revise the Business Plan to reflect the work required for the White Paper. A revised Business Plan would be presented to June Council but Members noted that the ongoing work of Council would need to continue alongside the new initiatives.

Budget 2007/8

6447. A revised and updated budget would also be presented at June Council which would include additional costs anticipated from the work on the White Paper.

Codes of Conduct Review and Students

6448. Standards Committee had conducted a review of the Code of Conduct for Individual Registrants and that for Business Registrants. It had also recommended there be a separate Code of Conduct for Student Registrants.

6449. It recommended no changes to the Code for Individuals and removal of the word 'good' to clause 9 of the Code for Business Registrants as advised by Companies Committee, to state:

.....a business registrant will take reasonable and proportionate steps toprotect patients if it has reason to believe that an individual registrant may not be fit to practise.

6450. Despite the recommendation to adopt a separate Student Code of Conduct, Members agreed to note the recommendation only at this stage while other cross-regulatory work was underway on this matter.

Suffix for Therapeutic Specialisms

6451. RESOLVED:

that the following suffix for inclusion in the Opticians Register be:

DipTp(AS) for Additional Supply

DipTp(SP) for Supplementary Prescribing

Change of Names

Qualifications

6452. RESOLVED:

that the name of the contact lens fitting qualification be renewed as 'Certificate in Contact Lens Practice' to better reflect what the qualification inferred.

Establishments

6453. RESOLVED:

that the name of two of Council's approved training establishments be changed and these were approved by Council as:

Anglia Polytechnic University be known as Anglia Ruskin University

University of Wales, Cardiff be known as the University of Cardiff.

GOC Performance Management Report 2006/7

6454. Council noted the progress against the Business Plan 2006/7 as at March 2007.

Student Forum

6455. It was agreed to initiate a forum for engagement with student registrants on optical legislation. A proposal would be brought back to June Council for approval.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Communications Strategy

6456. The Communications strategy for 2007/8 was presented to Council for information. Council agreed to include a discussion at its June seminar on how GOC communications should support Council's work on the White Paper. It would also explore the extent to which the GOC should engage with the public and establish the boundaries of its communications with stakeholders.

Confirmed Minutes of Council Meetings

6457. Council received and noted the confirmed Minutes of the following Committees:

Companies Committee	held 24 October 2006	CO(06)3M
Education Committee	held 28 September 2006	ED(06)3M
Finance & Procedure Committee	held 24 October 2006	FP(06)3M
Registration Committee	held 14 September 2006	REG(06)3M
Standards Committee	held 14 September 2006	SD(06)3M

Date and Time of Next Meeting

6458. The next Council meeting will be held on **Thursday 28 June 2007** at **10.30 a.m.**