



HEADS OF UNIVERSITY CENTRES OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

(HUCBMS)

2015

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 8 September, 2015 at Heaton Mount, Executive Education Centre, Management Centre, University of Bradford.

- 1. Introduction.** The President, Professor Yvonne Barnett, thanked the University of Bradford and, in particular, Professor Val Randall and her colleagues, Julie Thornton and Anne Graham, for hosting and organising HUCBMS 2015.
- 2.** It was noted that the minutes of the 2014 AGM had been approved by the Executive Committee and published on the HUCBMS webpages.
- 3. President's Report.** The following items were highlighted:
 - a. The Executive Committee had met 3 times during the year – November (at IBMS), January (Bradford) and May (IBMS).
 - b. The most significant activity during the year had been the extensive review of the QAA Benchmark Statement for Biomedical Sciences. The statement now covers generic programmes in biomedical sciences, pharmacology, nutrition and medical/human physiology, as well as vocational IBMS-accredited programmes in biomedical science and healthcare science. The review group, chaired by Professor Barnett, had worked closely and in parallel with the review

group for Biosciences chaired by Professor David Coates of the University of Dundee. (The Hon Executive Secretary, Professor Gerry McKenna, had been a member of both review groups).

It was noted that the development of the revised biomedical sciences benchmark statement, integrating all of the relevant biomedical sciences, was a landmark achievement with potentially far reaching positive implications for the subject areas involved.

- c. The outcomes (scores and QR funding) of the Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014) had been generally satisfactory for HUCBMS member departments/schools. The importance of generating high quality publications for sustainability of REF performance was noted as was the probable increased emphasis on impact in future exercises.
 - d. The consultation by HEFCE on future quality assessment and the proposed introduction of a Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) were noted as developments of potentially major significance for the HE system in England, and either directly or consequentially for the other UK countries. The Executive would be monitoring and contributing to developments as they arise.
 - e. The introduction of a Doctoral Training Programme in Applied Biosciences for Health under the auspices of the University Alliance and involving 13 universities throughout England was noted. The aim is to promote increased cross-fertilization and sharing of best practice in doctoral training.
 - f. The Executive had contributed to the HEFCE Review of Quality Assessment, the HEFCE Review of Metrics in Research Assessment, and the 'Dowling Review of Business-University Research Interactions'.
 - g. Professor Jacqueline McCormack provided an update on the HUCBMS Register of Potential External Examiners which is published on the HUCBMS website (www.hucbms.org). Members were asked to encourage colleagues to put their names and details forward for inclusion on the list.
- 4. IBMS.** Mr Alan Wainwright, Executive Head of Education at IBMS updated members on relevant developments at IBMS. He indicated that

IBMS is seeking to expand its international outreach, including developing closer linkages with relevant European and international organizations. He also updated members on the review of the British Journal of Biomedical Science.

- 5. Reports from HUCBMS Representatives on External Bodies.** Verbal reports were received from HUCBMS representatives on external bodies:
 - a. Council for Healthcare Science in HE (Dr Craig Donaldson)
 - b. IBMS Educational and Professional Standards Committee (Mr Wainwright)
 - c. HUBS Executive Committee (Professor Hilary MacQueen)
 - d. Foundation for Science and Technology (Professor McKenna)
 - e. Royal Society of Biology (RSB) Education Policy Advisory Committee (Professors McKenna and McCormack)
- 6. Treasurer's Report.** The Hon Treasurer, Dr Ian Locke, presented a financial update to members. The overall financial position remains healthy with no increase in membership fee being necessary for 2015-16.
- 7. Elections to Executive Committee.** The Hon Executive Secretary, Professor McKenna, reported that he had received three valid nominations (for Professor Julie McLeod, Dr Sue Jones and Professor Val Randall) by the stated closing date for election to the Executive Committee. As there were three vacancies, all three were deemed elected for 3 years (2015-16 to 2018-19, inclusive).
- 8. HUCBMS 2016.** Dr Donaldson extended a warm invitation to all HUCBMS members and their colleagues to attend the HUCBMS 2016 conference which will take place at the University of Plymouth on 6-8 September, 2016.
(HUCBMS 2017 is scheduled to take place at the Anglia Ruskin University).
- 9. Thanks.** The President thanked the Executive Committee members for their work on behalf of HUCBMS and its members throughout the year. There being no other business, the meeting was declared closed.