



## HEADS OF UNIVERSITY CENTRES OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

(HUCBMS)

2017

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 6 September, 2017 at Anglia Ruskin University.**

- 1. Introduction.** The President, Professor Kevan Gartland, chaired the meeting and thanked Anglia Ruskin University and, in particular, Dr Claire Pike and her colleagues for hosting and organising HUCBMS 2017.
- 2.** Apologies were received from Jill Rodney and Andrew Usher.
- 3.** It was noted that the minutes of the 2016 AGM had been approved by the Executive Committee and published on the HUCBMS webpages.
- 4. President's Report.** The following items were highlighted:
  - a. The Executive Committee had met 3 times during the year – November, February and June. All meetings took place at IBMS, London.
  - b. HUCBMS Executive Committee had made a full and robust submission to the REF Consultation Exercise and was pleased that a number of its recommendations had been supported in the outcomes of the review.
  - c. HUCBMS Executive Committee members had been actively involved in TEF pilot exercises and consultations.

- d. Irish, Welsh, and Scottish matters, including funding constraints, had been considered by the Executive Committee.
- e. The Executive Committee had considered the implications of Brexit for future involvement in EU Framework and Structural Programmes and participated in various initiatives with other learned societies and national academies.
- f. A successful joint HUBS/ IBMS/ HUCBMS Workshop on 'Teaching mathematics to scientists using non-digital games' had been held at the University of Sheffield on 30 June. The President commended this initiative and encouraged similar developments in the future.
- g. The Committee had been involved in discussions with DoH representatives relating to the proposed development of a healthcare science degree apprenticeship scheme.
- h. It was noted that there were alignment anomalies between HECoS v JACS v UCAS codes. This issue would be considered by the Executive Committee.
- i. The further development of HUCBMS Awards to support overseas engagement and collaboration was being considered and the Executive Committee would progress these during the 2017-18 academic year.
- j. It is planned to have a special event to celebrate 25 years of HUCBMS in the spring of 2018.

**5. Reports from External Bodies.** Reports were received from HUCBMS representatives on external bodies:

- HUBS (Professor Janey Henderson)
- Royal Society of Biology Education Policy Advisory Committee (Professor Jacqueline McCormack)
- Stormont STEM All-Party Group (Professor Gerry McKenna)
- Council for Healthcare Science in Education (CHSE) (Dr Craig Donaldson)
- Foundation for Science and Technology (Professor Gerry McKenna)
- RSB Group on Equality and Diversity (Dr Sue Jones)

**6. External Examiners Register.** Professor Jacqueline McCormack encouraged members to update entries on the HUCBMS Register of External Examiners and to encourage others to participate.

- 7. Report from IBMS.** Mr Alan Wainwright updated members on developments and priorities for IBMS including recent accreditations, amendments to accreditations procedures, and criteria for the award of FIBMS.
- 8. Finances.** The Hon Treasurer, Dr Ian Locke, updated members on HUCBMS finances. While these remain healthy it would be prudent to increase the annual membership fee from £195 to £225. This proposal was agreed unanimously.
- 9. Elections to Executive Committee.** The Hon Executive Secretary, Professor McKenna, reported that he had received three valid nominations (for Dr Claire Pike, Dr Linda Walsh and Professor Jacqueline McCormack) by the stated closing date for election to the Executive Committee. All three were deemed elected for 3 years (2017-18 to 2019-20, inclusive).  
It was noted that the local conference organiser for HUCBMS 2018, Dr Selwa Alsam, would be co-opted for the 2017-2018 academic year.
- 10. HUCBMS 2018.** A warm invitation was extended to all HUCBMS members and their colleagues to attend the HUCBMS 2018 conference which will take place at University of Essex on 4-5 September, 2018.  
(HUCBMS 2019 is scheduled to take place at Dublin Institute of Technology).
- 11.** Professor Gartland 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.