



HEADS OF UNIVERSITY CENTRES OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

(HUCBMS)

2018

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 4 September, 2018 at University of Essex.

- 1. Introduction.** The President, Professor Kevan Gartland, chaired the meeting and thanked the University of Essex and, in particular, Dr Selwa Alsam, Beverley Wilkinson and other colleagues for hosting and organising HUCBMS 2018.
- 2.** Apologies were received from Jill Rodney, Andrew Usher, Merfyn Williams and Val Randall.
- 3.** It was noted that the minutes of the 2017 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 May. All meetings took place at IBMS, London.
 - b. The successful reception at the House of Lords on 1 May hosted by Lord Rana to mark 25 years of HUCBMS was noted.
 - c. The President reported on a positive meeting with the IBMS President and IBMS Chief Executive.

- d. The inclusion of a number of HUCBMS nominees as members of the REF Sub-Panel 3 (criteria setting and assessment) including Professor Yvonne Barnett as Sub-Panel Deputy Chair was noted with satisfaction.
- e. An update was given on TEF (pilot exercises and consultations) as well as continuing concerns regarding alignment anomalies relating to HECoS v JACS v UCAS codes based on advice received prior to the meeting from Professor Julie McLeod.
- f. Professor Gartland updated members on the review of maternity leave arrangements for research students. The outcomes would be circulated in due course following approval.
- g. Members were updated on Irish, Welsh, Scottish matters by Professor Jacqueline McCormack and Dr Linda Walsh.
- h. The implications of Brexit for future involvement in EU Framework and Structural Programmes including research capacity building and ERASMUS exchange programmes were outlined by Professor Gerry McKenna and noted with concern.
- i. The forthcoming HUBS/HUCBMS Joint Workshop on 'Teaching chemistry within bioscience and biomedical science courses' was noted. Dr Walsh is joint coordinator for the organisation of the workshop.

5. Equality and Diversity. Dr Sue Jones reported on Equality and Diversity issues. This is now a standing item on the HUCBMS Executive Committee agenda.

6. Representation on other Bodies. Members received verbal reports from HUCBMS representatives on other bodies:

- HUBS (Professor Hilary MacQueen)
- Royal Society of Biology Education Policy Advisory Committee (Professor McCormack). It was noted that Professor McCormack would be stepping down from this Committee following her appointment as Vice President at Sligo Institute of Technology. The Executive Committee will nominate a replacement.
- Stormont STEM All-Party Group (Professor McKenna)
- IBMS Education and Professional Standards Committee (Professor Randall)

- Foundation for Science and Technology (Professor McKenna).

7. National School of Healthcare Science and Council for Healthcare Science.

Dr Craig Donaldson reported that it has been proposed that the National School of Healthcare Science look at the practicalities of the end-point accreditation (EPA) and develop a number of scenarios for discussion. Also, the relationship between Level-4 and Level-6 apprenticeship schemes requires further discussion/development.

He also reported that members of the Council for Healthcare Science in Education have raised concerns that Healthcare Science was excluded from the financial support being provided through the Learning Support Fund <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/learning-support-fund>. Practitioner Training (Healthcare Science) programmes are closing due to lack of support for additional placement costs incurred by students.

8. External Examiners List. Professor McCormack updated members on the External Examiners List and encouraged them and their colleagues to participate.

9. IBMS Issues. Mr Alan Wainwright updated members on IBMS developments including accreditations and the healthy recruitment to various biomedical science programmes.

10. Finances. The Hon Treasurer, Dr Ian Locke, updated members on HUCBMS finances. The late and outstanding payments by some member institutions was noted. Generally the finances remain healthy.

11. Elections to Executive Committee. The Hon Executive Secretary, Professor McKenna, reported that he had received three valid nominations (for Dr Sue Jones, Professor Julie McLeod, and Professor Val Randall) by the stated closing date for election to the Executive Committee. All three were deemed elected for 3 years (2018-19 to 2020-21, inclusive). It was noted that the local conference organiser for HUCBMS 2019, Dr Claire Wynne, would be co-opted for the 2018-2019 academic year.

12. HUCBMS 2019. A warm invitation was extended to all HUCBMS members and their colleagues to attend the HUCBMS 2019 conference which will take place at Dublin Institute of Technology in September 2019. (DIT will become a technological university in early 2019).

(HUCBMS 2020 is scheduled to take place at York St John University and HUCBMS 2021 at Coventry University).

13. 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.