



HEADS OF UNIVERSITY CENTRES OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Minutes of meeting of the Executive Committee held on 15 February 2017 at IBMS, Coldbath Square, London.

Present: Dr Craig Donaldson, Professor Kevan Gartland (President and Chair), Dr Sue Jones, Dr Ian Locke (Hon Treasurer), Professor Hilary MacQueen, Professor Jacqueline McCormack, Professor Julie McLeod, Dr Claire Pike, Professor Valerie Randall, Dr Linda Walsh.

In Attendance: Mr Alan Wainwright, Ms Jill Rodney

Apologies: Professor Yvonne Barnett, Professor P Gerry McKenna (Hon Executive Secretary), Mr Merfyn Williams, Mr Andrew Usher.

1. The minutes of the Committee meetings held on 15 November 2016 were noted and approved with several minor typographical amendments.
2. The President welcomed the IBMS nomination of Andrew Usher who will be replacing Christine Murphy as the representative from the IBMS Education and Professional Standards Committee.
3. It was noted that in the absence of the Hon Secretary, Professor McCormack had kindly agreed to draft the minutes of the meeting.
4. There were no matters arising from minutes that were not arising elsewhere on the agenda.
5. Chair's Communications:

- Professor Sir Mark Walport has been appointed as Head of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).
 - Professor Mark Ferguson has been re-appointed as Director General of Science Foundation Ireland
 - The Department for Education has announced that Sir Michael Barber is the preferred candidate to become Chair of the Office for Students (OfS).
6. TEF Update: following the deadline for applications to year 2 of the TEF (26th January 2017) a total of 299 universities, colleges and alternative providers of HE have chosen to apply For full details see: <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/news/newsarchive/2017/Name,112796,en.html>. With regards to the Subject Level assessment, the Strawman A and B models were discussed. The consensus was that neither of the models is ideal. There was also concern regarding the proposed inclusion of Biomedical Sciences within Healthcare Sciences. There does appear to be a commitment to have pilots. Any views should be forwarded to the Chair and Honorary Secretary.
 7. REF Update: The Honorary Secretary will draft a response to the consultation. Professor McLeod reported that the VC at her University has undertaken a detailed analysis and modelling of potential REF outcomes and concluded that the outcomes would not indicate favouring of research intensive institutions but might favour institutions with pockets of excellence.
 8. Brexit Update: The Honorary Secretary is on a review group of the national academies (Royal Society, Brit. Academy, Royal Society of Edinburgh, Royal Irish Academy) plus HEFCE and Innovate UK. Technopolis is due to produce a report for the group by the end of March on the key issues for Research and Innovation which need to be included in the Brexit negotiations. He will keep HUCBMS informed.
 9. HECoS v. JACS codes – to discuss proposals: (see <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/innovation/hecos>). A new subject coding system - the Higher Education Classification of Subjects (HECoS) - has been developed to replace the JACS code system. HECoS has been developed independently from JACS and, therefore, there is no direct mapping available between the coding frames. HECoS will be implemented for the academic year starting in the autumn of 2019. For UCAS this means that the first collection of HECoS data will be aligned to the collection of 2019 entry undergraduate course details, ahead of the launch of their search service. Biomedical Sciences has its own Subject Term (100265: The integrative scientific study of biological issues related to the support of the diagnosis and treatment of disease), which the committee welcomed.
 10. Irish, Welsh, Scottish matters:
In Northern Ireland there currently is a process of Pathology Modernisation underway. The Northern Irish branch of the IBMS including a representative from Ulster University had previously attended a meeting with the senior staff involved with this process and the IBMS CEO visited hospital laboratories across Northern Ireland to discuss this project with Biomedical Scientists. Following this the IBMS submitted a response to the consultation process. Ulster University arranged a meeting of the all of the colleges on the island of Ireland that run IBMS accredited programmes. The colleges agreed to come together to hold a postgraduate student conference in June which will be hosted by IT Sligo. The colleges have requested that the Executive consider including some item(s) on the agenda that would be specifically relevant to colleges on the island of

Ireland. A significant issue facing these institutions at present is implementation of the Medical Sciences Board by CORU.

Scottish representatives reported that there are no major issues of concern in Scotland at present. They advised that they have not noted any diminished numbers of students wishing to study Biomedical Sciences despite the stopping of bursaries. They are integrating the new registration portfolios at present.

11. HUCBMS Travel Fellowships: Nothing to report at present
12. Apprenticeships update: Colleagues were advised from the information in a paper, provided by Dr Shelley Heard (HCS Trailblazer Apprenticeship Group Facilitator), that an apprenticeship standard is considered “ready for delivery” when the Department for Education [DfE] approves both the Standard and its defined and prescribed End-point Assessment (EPA), which is a formal and independent assessment at the end of the apprenticeship, to demonstrate that the apprentice has met the required standard. Both the Level 2 HCS Assistant Standard and EPA and the Level 4 HCS Associate Standard and EPA have been accepted by the DfE and are, therefore, deemed to be “ready for delivery”. The HCS Assistant Standard is also apparently ready for implementation since the underpinning Level 2 Diploma has been published. It appears that the Level 4 Diploma will be available in September 2017. The paper advises that the Level 6 HCS Degree Apprenticeship Standard is for Healthcare Science Practitioners (HCSPs), including Biomedical Scientists and states that the Standard is underpinned by approved/accredited BSc (Hons) degrees [Practitioner Training Programme (PTP)] and Biomedical Science degrees]. Dr Heard also encouraged employers to “begin working with their local universities (HEIs) to implement these degree apprenticeships from September 2017”. The document describes two possible models for the use of an integrated degree within the apprenticeship.

Colleagues discussed a number of concerns including questions over who would undertake and pay for the end point assessment; and regarding payment coming a year in arrears to the institution. Mr Wainwright advised the committee that they have had discussions with two universities so far regarding apprenticeships. The committee could see no advantage over what already exists. The IBMS agreed to share a slide pack from a meeting they recently attended regarding apprenticeships if it is made available to them. The Honorary Secretary will respond to Dr Heard in due course.

13. Joint Workshop (HUCBMS, HUBS, IBMS) on the ‘*Teaching of physical sciences and mathematics in bioscience programmes*’. Following receipt and consideration of a number of applications to host this workshop, the selection panel chose one from the University of Sheffield which was submitted by Rebecca Barnes and James Craven. The hands-on workshop is entitled Teaching maths to biologists using games and, facilitated by Andy Walsh (<http://innovativelibraries.org.uk/>), will examine how games and play can help us teach the more numerical parts of the bioscience curriculum. Participants will reflect on elements of game design and on how games could be integrated into their own practice, before having the chance to prototype an educational game of their own.
14. Report from meetings of IBMS Education and Professional Standards Committee: There has been another joint award with the RCP. There has been revision of the ISO Standards. Congress will be 24th-27th September in Birmingham and has been extended to 4 days.

15. Other IBMS matters: There has been a review of the specialist portfolios with updated content and guidance notes. The revised *Biomedical Scientist* has been launched. There is work ongoing examining the possibility of extending roles. It is possible that Biomedical Scientists may be able to move into roles which would involve some aspects of prescribing. There may be a pilot project involving Haematology and Microbiology. The Council elections are currently open and may be of interest to colleagues interested in contributing to the strategic direction of the IBMS.
16. RSB – to receive report from Education Policy Advisory Group: this group had not met since the last meeting.
17. HUBS - to receive report from HUBS Executive Committee: The winter meeting was small but there was a useful discussion with a focus on BREXIT, REF2021 and impact, Stern implementation and doctoral partnership. The spring meeting will be on 10-11th May in Leicester and will focus on digital teaching & learning, bioethics and apprenticeships. The Early Career Lecturer Forum is being established and has been advertised.
18. To receive report from meetings of Council for Healthcare Science Education: there was nothing new to report.
19. HUCBMS 2017 - to note arrangements for HUCBMS 2017 (registration, accommodation, social programme) at Anglia Ruskin University:
The operational details remain much as before. A supplier has been found for towels and toiletries. The delegate prices look like it will be of the order of £395 with an early bird price of £385. Punting has been confirmed for the first evening, subject to weather. Dr Donaldson agreed to send Dr Pike the contact details for those who attended the last meeting. Dr Pike will have the outline conference details uploaded to the website as soon as possible. There was also a discussion regarding the conference programme and colleagues agreed to contact prospective speakers for the various sessions.
20. Future HUCBMS conferences:
 - Essex 2018 – the Honorary Secretary will visit there shortly
 - Dublin Institute of Technology (2019) – this will be joint with GMIT and ITS
 - Coventry University (2020)
 - York (2021) – it was suggested possibly swapping around Coventry and York
21. Finances – to receive update: There is currently approx. £38K in the bank. This year's surplus was £630 whereas last year it was £7K. It was agreed to propose raising the annual contribution to £225. Dr Pike advised that she would be seeking additional sponsorship for the conference and the aspiration is to have a £2K profit to return after the conference. It was also agreed to change the payment method for contributions – that the default position would be to use bank transfer and if an institution would like to pay by cheque they will have to pay the bank fee for the lodgement of the cheque.
22. AOB: Equality Agenda – Dr Sue Jones reported on current national discussions and initiatives being undertaken by the RSB.
23. Date of the next meeting: the next meeting will be on 18th May 2017 at IBMS, Coldbath Square, London.