



CONFIRMED

**Minute of a meeting of College Council held on
Wednesday 6th May 2009 4.10pm, within College**

Present

Professor B O Williams, President
Mr I W R Anderson, Honorary Treasurer and Visitor
Dr F Dunn, Vice President (Medical)
Mr D Galloway, Vice President (Surgical)
Professor M Lewis, Vice President (Dental)
Professor P V Knight, Registrar
Dr J Taylor, Honorary Secretary
Mr M Bransby-Zachary
Mr G Conn
Dr H Dobson
Dr A Dunk
Mr A D Henry
Professor S MacRury

Dr L McAlpine
Dr M McElroy
Mr J McGregor
Mr M J McKirdy
Dr R Madhok
Dr R Neilson
Professor K R Paterson
Mr J Steers
Dr E R Waclawski
Dr E Walker
Mr J D Watson
Dr A Zoma

In Attendance

Dr J A Miller
Mrs C M Capps

ACTION

1. Welcome

Dr Hilary Dobson was welcomed as a new member of Council.

Ms Valerie Hogg and Dr Brian Howieson were welcomed as observers.

2. Apologies

Professor J Connell; Mrs A Lannigan; Dr R McKee; Dr N Mamode; Dr E Morrison;
Professor C Suckling.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 30th March 2009

Subject to two minor typographical errors on pages 3 and 4, the minute was approved as an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

(4.1) Federation Finances

Professor Williams reminded Council of the previous discussions regarding Federation Finances.

Dr Miller provided Council with an update on the discussion with regard to agreeing a formula for the allocation of both surplus and liabilities across all the



Federation activities. It was noted that a further review of the model suggested by the RCPSG was now underway and it was hoped that this would provide a suitable model for all three Colleges to agree.

Professor Williams reported that Council will be kept informed of progress.

(4.2) Vale of Leven

Professor Williams summarised the key issues with regard to the provision of acute services within the Vale of Leven Hospital following a consultation with NHS GG&C.

President Williams reiterated the main areas of concern from a College perspective related to:

- (1) patient safety
- (2) quality of training
- (3) continuity of care

Professor Williams reported that since the last meeting of Council, correspondence had been received from Dr Alistair Dorward regarding the plans to alleviate the concerns highlighted by local physicians. In the main these related to improved working relationships between the Vale of Leven Hospital and the Royal Alexandra in Paisley, accompanied by additional acute consultant physician posts.

Whilst this development was welcome, concern remained with regard to the functioning of a new service and in particular the quality of training which may be offered to physician trainees. It was agreed that further information should be collated and Council kept informed of any developments.

(4.3) Regulations

Professor Williams invited Professor Knight to provide Council with an update on changes to the College Regulations and Byelaws.

Professor Knight reminded Council members of the background to the proposed changes to the Regulations and Byelaws. Professor Knight also reported that the Regulations had also been reviewed by the College legal advisors and it was hoped that these amended regulations would be available for circulation to Councillors in the near future.

Professor Knight advised Council that it was clear from the initial amended draft Regulations from the legal advisers that the changes required to reflect the creation of a Trustee body alongside Council were more complicated than first expected. It was also clear that there were a number of unintended consequences as a result of this proposed change. Professor Knight suggested that these required more detailed discussion at both Management Board and Council. It was also clear from the proposed changes that the role, remit and membership of other College Committees would have to be reviewed if this



change were to be implemented.

The matter was referred back to the Management Board for further consideration for an update to be provided at the next Council meeting.

Registrar

(4.4) Composition of Council

This agenda item was covered under agenda item (4.3).

(4.5) Surgical subspecialties – vascular surgery

Professor Williams indicated that the request from the Vascular Society seeking sub-specialty status for Vascular Surgery, had received the support of both the Surgical Forum and the Joint Meeting of the Surgical Colleges. This approval was endorsed by Council. Confirmation would be sent to Professor Peter Taylor, President of the Vascular Society.

President

5. Any Other Competent Business

With regard to the onset of the EWTR, Professor Sandra MacRury raised concerns regarding the effect this would have on medical trainees and further indicated that this would create increasing problems with trainees within the DGH. She also stated that her main concern was that the EWTR had changed the way trainees were being trained. Professor MacRury sought the advice from College.

Councillors shared Professor MacRury’s concerns regarding training issues, and echoed the importance of ensuring that junior doctors were trained properly. Mr Steers also reminded the meeting about the importance of service redesign and workforce planning.

President indicated that a statement had been released from the surgical fraternity. Attention was also drawn to a report prepared for the DoH, by Professor Bax, entitled “Survey of 48 hour week WTD Readiness”. President suggested that a copy of the Bax Report be circulated to Councillors, and thereafter comments be sent to the President. This was agreed as an appropriate way forward.

C Capps

President recommended that this matter should also be taken up with the Federation.

6. Items for Discussion

(6.1) Representative for Faculty of Public Health

Dr Adam Bryson was due to retire at the end of June. Dr Miller indicated that the Faculty of Public Health would be asked to nominate another representative.

(6.2) Potential College status for the Faculty of Public Health

President reminded Council about previous correspondence from Professor Alan Maryon-Davis outlining the intent of the Faculty of Public Health to seek College status in its own right.

It was agreed that RCPSG continued to support the FPH in its endeavour to



become a College in its own right.

(6.3) Royal Colleges in Scotland

Professor Williams confirmed that Council members had seen the text of a recent letter from the President from the RCPEdinburgh. Professor Williams indicated that the comments within the letter did not reflect his own recollection of what had been discussed and agreed. He had taken the opportunity to check his own understanding of the outcome with others present and was satisfied that his recollection was an accurate one.

Following extensive discussion it was agreed that the matter should not form the basis of more extensive negotiation, however, College should remain willing to discuss the matter in the appropriate settings.

(6.4) Trustee Update

This agenda item was covered under agenda item (4.3).

(6.5) Financial Update

- **Draft out-turn 08-09**
- **Draft budget 09-10**

Income

Mr Anderson directed Councillors to Document “C”, which identified the first cut outturn for the income and expenditure account for 2008-2009.

Council noted an income of £3,787,826 against a budget of £3,804,132.

Mr Anderson made the following points on particular items of income.

The examinations department had outperformed their budget. There were a number of contributory factors but the main contributor was an additional diet of an exam being undertaken in the year. Education income has increased by 23% in the year. Both Heads should be congratulated for this strong performance which was achieved with no additional resources.

Expenditure

Councillors noted an expenditure of £3,934,377 against a budget of £4,268,602. Mr Anderson made the following points on expenditure.

College staff were to be congratulated on the strong performance achieved especially given that staff costs were 6% under budget. This demonstrates a considerable increase in the overall productivity of the College. Staff were also to be commended for their continuing attention to cost containment.

Investment Income

Mr Anderson reported that there had been a sizeable increase in fixed income return which had offset the reduction in dividend income. This had primarily been



due to cash-holdings been held in high interest accounts. These were due to come to an end during the summer of 2009 and it was unlikely that preferential rates would be available. Accordingly income from this source would reduce.

Triennial Conference

In responding to a question, Mr Anderson advised that the triennial conference had been fully underwritten by an external sponsor.

Davies Foundation

Mr Anderson outlined various issues regarding the William and Elizabeth Davies Foundation Trust, and felt it important that Council be kept fully informed with regard to this fund. The recent downturn in the global financial markets had resulted in a 40% drop in the capital value of the fund resulting in the value of c. US\$7m. There was also some accrued income of c. US\$2.4m.

The Advisory Board had submitted proposals to the Foundation for funding in the forthcoming year which had been accepted. The Advisory Board had also agreed a new way of working which would be put to the Trustees of the Foundation for future consideration.

Draft Budget 09-10 **Subscriptions**

Mr Anderson directed Council members to the proposed budget for 2010 which would demonstrate an operational surplus excluding income from investments. Mr Anderson led a discussion regarding subscription rates and whether they should be increased in the forthcoming year. Following a debate it was agreed that subscription for 2009/10 should remain unchanged.

7. Board Reports

For information and discussion of exceptional issues only

(7.1) Education and Professional Development Board ***Unconfirmed Minute of E&PD Board, 21.4.09*** Noted.

Dr Dunn directed Councillors to AOCB from the EPDB minute, and highlighted the problems that had arisen with overrunning of some speakers at various symposia. Dr Dunn advised that the EPD Unit intended to pilot a system (over a couple of symposia) which gives the speaker a warning when approaching the end of their allotted time.

(7.2) Examinations and Assessment Board

The next meeting of the EAB will be held on 16 June 2009.

Mr Galloway reported the presence of two new examinations:

- 1) Member of the Faculty of Travel Medicine (first diet early 2010)
- 2) FRCS(Ophthalmology) (first diet November 2009). This examination is not



intended for those in a UK training programme.

(7.3) Membership Services Board

Minutes of the MSB meeting held on 27 April 2009 will be presented at the July meeting of Council.

Dr Taylor advised that a market research survey was currently being undertaken with members and fellows. The aim of the research is to identify Fellows' and Members' levels of satisfaction with current benefits and services and to help establish priorities for improvement and development.

(7.4) Dental Faculty

A minute from the meeting of Dental Council held on 30 April 2009 will be presented at July Council.

In responding to a question from the President, Professor Lewis advised that currently College Regulations and Bye-laws Regulations, pertaining to the Dental Faculty, were being reviewed by a member of Dental Council. From the Regulations it was noted that fellows and members of the Dental Faculty were ineligible to become the President or Office Bearer of College, and that only the Vice-President (Dental) was allowed to sit on College Council. Professor Lewis would keep Council informed.

(7.5) Faculty of Travel Medicine

Unconfirmed Minute of meeting of Faculty of Travel Medicine, 23.2.09

Noted.

(7.6) Management Board

Summary and Unit presentations from "Away Day", 24.2.09

Noted.

Dr Miller advised that Council will receive a copy of the forward plan over the next few months.

Unconfirmed Minute from meeting of MB held on 30 April 2009

Noted.

Dr Miller updated Council on the following issues:

Treasurer's Post

Professor Knight reminded Council that it had previously been agreed that Mr Anderson would continue to hold the post of honorary treasurer and visitor until the appointment of an interim treasurer could be arranged. Mr Anderson has since expressed his wish to retain this post until November; therefore there would be no casual vacancy to be filled at the moment. In responding to questions, Professor Knight advised that legal advice had been taken and to change Regulations/Bye-laws, an EGM would need to be called.



Web-site

The new web-site would be operational at the end of May.

Medical Visualisation Project

Dr Miller advised that progress is being made with the MVP and that a number of it's objectives are being reviewed. Council will be kept informed of progress.

Trainees Packages

Dr Miller outlined work that is currently being undertaken to develop a package for surgical trainees in relation to surgical subscription rates being linked to College subscriptions. Council will be kept informed of progress on this matter.

Skills Business Plan

Dr Miller highlighted work that is being undertaken with the EPD Board regarding the provision of skill based courses within College.

Dr Miller also outlined that the Golden Jubilee Hospital in Clydebank is currently developing a Skills Centre, and there is the opportunity for involvement by College. The Examinations and Assessment Unit and the Education and Professional Development Unit are currently working on this venture.

Admission Ceremonies

Dr Miller advised that in 2010 there would be two admissions ceremonies.

(7.7) Academy of Medical Royal Colleges

Council noted that Dame Carol Black would be demitting office as President of the AoMRC. President reported that there is an on-going election, and he took the opportunity to clarify who could vote, and who was eligible to be nominated for President.

(7.8) Audit and Remuneration Committee

Unconfirmed Minute of ARC, 1.4.09

Unconfirmed Minute of ARC, 8.4.09

Restricted Business

8. Dates of Future Meetings

Thursday 30 July 2009

Friday 11 September 2009

Monday 2 November 2009