



CONFIRMED

Minute of a meeting of Council held in the Small Lecture Theatre within College on **19 September 2006**.

Present:

Professor Sir G Teasdale
Dr B O Williams, Visitor
Mr J C Ferguson, Vice-President (Surgical)
Dr P V Knight, Honorary Secretary and Registrar
Dr C G Semple, Vice-President (Medical)
Mr M Bransby-Zachary
Mr J K Drury
Dr A Dunk
Mr A D Henry
Dr W M M Jenkins
Mrs A Lannigan
Dr L G McAlpine
Professor J McKillop
Mr M J McKirdy
Ms J Murray
Dr H Scott
Dr M M Steven
Professor R D Sturrock
Mr G T Sunderland

In Attendance:

Dr J A Miller
Mrs C M Capps

1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

The President welcomed Ms Juliet Murray to her first meeting of Council representing the Trainees Committee.

Apologies of absence were received from:

Mr I W R Anderson, Mr R W J G Johnson, Dr J Long, Mr J R McGregor, Dr E Morrison, Mr J A Murie, Dr K R Paterson, Dr W Reid, Dr Stevenson.

2. **Minute of the Meeting of Council on 3 July 2006**

This was accepted as an accurate record. (Professor McKillop had tendered his apologies for the previous meeting of Council),

3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

(a) Joint Meetings with Scottish Royal Colleges

President reported on a Joint Meeting with the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh on 5th September 2006.

A broad range of topics were discussed and it was agreed closer collaboration in areas of mutual benefit should be considered. In particular, joint marketing of educational events and reciprocal membership benefits.

Other areas covered during the meeting included:

- MMC – the implementation of specialist training
- MRCP – the status within medical training
- Post CCT education
- The Donaldson Report

The Joint Meeting with the RCSEd will take place on 5th October 2006. President sought confirmation of attendees from RCPSPG. Topics for discussion will include logbooks and the new surgical curriculum.

(b) Strategy

The updated “Forward Plan” was discussed and the final document had been produced and made available on the website. The full working document was presented to Council for agreement.

Professor McKillop opened the discussion and intimated that he had found the plan helpful and very well documented. He enquired as to appropriate deadlines whereby Council would be updated on progress. Dr Miller indicated regular progress reports against the key milestones would be presented to Council.

Council agreed the plan.

(c) United Examining Board

President provided a brief summary of the history of the United Examining Board and its inevitable demise. President sought Council's approval to withdraw from the Board. It was noted other Colleges had expressed similar views. It was also noted that there was a small financial liability which College would be expected to honour. The size of which was yet to be confirmed.

Following discussion it was agreed regrettably that the College would withdraw from this Board.

(d) Revised Structure

Dr Miller reported that four operating units, as discussed at Council in July, were now in place. Council heard that the HR Advisor was now in post and the Promotions and Marketing Advisor takes up position on 2nd October 2006.

On replying to a question, Dr Miller stated that a reconfiguration of secretarial services had been outlined by the Acting Head of Membership Services to the Management Board on 13.9.03 and had been agreed, however, if necessary, an additional review would be undertaken.

4. President's Report

4.1 MRCP

The President updated Council on recent discussions around the development of MRCP(UK) and proposed specialty exams within MRCP.

Recent discussions in relation to MRCP(UK) had revolved around the status

of the exam within the new MMC training scheme. The clarified position indicated that:

- (1) trainees must have passed MRCP part 1 in order to progress to ST3
- (2) MRCP must be completed prior to the award of CCT

It was however recognised that many trainees would wish to complete the MRCP process as early in their training as possible. There was a general view expressed that the acquisition of MRCP(UK) would provide them with a competitive edge in a process which did not regard the requirement as being essential for selection, however was unlikely to be ignored if demonstrated.

Dr Steven noted that there seemed to be at this stage very little mapping between the curricula and the examination. It was recognised that this was an essential part of the curricula and the new medical director for MRCP(UK) would take this issue forward.

With regard to specialist exams, President updated Council on a meeting that had taken place on 18th September with representatives from Cardiology, Geriatric Medicine, Dermatology and Neurology. These discussions were based around the development of a specialty based assessment and ways in which RCPs and specialty societies could collaborate in developing and implementing the scheme. The President indicated that this initial meeting had gone well and the Federation expected to receive a paper outlining the business plan for taking this issue forward.

4.2 National Panellists

President invited the Visitor to update Council on meetings he had attended.

Dr Williams reminded Council of the background to the formation of a group examining the role of national panellists as part of a wider review of the process of consultant appointments.

Dr Williams summarised the discussions by concluding a number of different positions being adopted by different groups. These ranged from no change to the current system through to there being no requirement for national panellists to be part of the consultant appointment process.

Dr Williams reported that the extremes of the spectrum were unlikely to be accepted and that it was more likely that the final outcome would accept the need for national panellists during the appointments process and the number and background to be agreed depending on the post under discussion.

4.3 Delayed Review on Distinction Awards

The President reminded Council that a committee had been established to advise the Minister on distinction and merit awards. It was noted that the committee was being chaired by the Chief Medical Officer and comprised of a broad spectrum of senior personnel including Health Board Chairmen, Chief Executives, Medical Directors, HR Directors and Nursing Directors. Some concern had been raised over the composition of the group and this issue was being raised formally with the Minister.

President took the opportunity to remind Council Members that details of the application process for the current year would be available in the near future.

4.4 St Mungo Award

President announced that the closing date for this award was 29th September 2006. This award is co-ordinated by the Lord Provost's office. Past recipients have been Professor Gavin Arneil and Lord MacFarlane.

5. **Board Reports**

Management Board

(a) Legal Advisers

Dr Miller advised that the new legal advisors for College are *Burness and Co.*

Public Liaison Group

Dr Miller reported that he and the Visitor had met with Professor Suckling to discuss how the group may be re-developed. A paper had been produced for consideration by the group and we await response.

Non-Clinical Education

Council was informed of a proposal that College, in partnership with one of the city's universities, is aiming to develop a formal qualification in clinical leadership. Dr Miller and Mr Howieson have been asked to negotiate with individual Universities to obtain the most satisfactory collaboration.

Fundraising

Key activities have been identified by the Education and Professional Development Unit and fundraising activities will be developed and discussed fully with the Marketing and Promotions Advisor.

Finance

Dr Miller reported that the out-turn position for the 2005-2006 financial year was as previously stated. The Audit and Remuneration Committee had met to formally sign off the accounts. The group received reports from the Head of Finance and the Auditors. The reports included not only the summary of financial accounts but the management letter detailing key areas for attention.

The President reported that the Management Board had heard at the meeting that the financial position for the current financial year had improved significantly as a result of measures introduced by the management units.

(b) Clinical Policy Board

Dr Knight informed Council that the Clinical Policy Board had had discussed two main items:

1. Forward plan (which Council had received an update)
2. Development and relaunch of the College Website

(c) Education and Professional Development Board

Dr Semple informed Council that the EPDB was about to embark upon an electronic questionnaire in an attempt to ascertain fellows and members needs. Such a venture is being co-ordinated and analysed by an independent company.

Dr Semple reported on the outcome of a meeting with the CMO which

covered a number of areas of mutual interest. One such topic was the issues surrounding patient safety and how activities within College might be targeted towards this area.

It was recognised that future educational activities will be based around significant use of E-learning approaches and the Education and Professional Development Board was currently considering ways in which this could be best employed with College.

(d) Examinations & Assessment Board

Mr Ferguson reported on a meeting of the Examinations & Assessments Board on 15th August 2006. Council heard that Dr L McAlpine had been appointed Chair of the Board of Medical Examiners and Dr Alan Bridges had been appointed to the Examinations and Assessment Board.

It was noted that the Chair had taken action to approve a fee of £400 for the Diploma in Child Health Examination with an additional per capita charge of £75 which had been implemented to cover the cost of production of the MCQ and marking of the examination.

The Board had received a report from the medical and dental departments. Council heard that the idea of a booklet, designed for the patient involved in the clinical examinations was under discussion which would be good to take up with the other boards.

Mr Ferguson reported that an operational plan was in the process of being developed for the Examinations and Assessment Board outlining the workstreams required to meet the forward plan.

(e) Membership Services

The Membership Services Board met on 7th September 2006. Dr Knight outlined the topics discussed:

- (1) It was hoped to introduce a hierarchy of benefits to members. This included both educational and non-educational benefits.
- (2) The College representation on local bodies and charities was being reviewed and Dr Knight will report back to Council on the outcome.
- (3) The Membership Services Board had reviewed the most recent set of

membership data and a formal report would be developed and provided to Council.

- (4) There was discussion around a proposed amnesty for lapsed members.
- (5) It was noted that a further edition of the E-bulletin would be produced and an assessment of its effectiveness would be made thereafter.

(f) Dental Council

Dental Council met in August and Council learned that there was the proposal to form three sub groups:

1. Education
2. Examinations
3. Membership

The first Fellows and Members day will take place in October and it was hoped that this would attract a large number of people.

6. Intercollegiate Reports

(a.i) MRCS – recommendations

President reported on the recent discussions around the development of the MRCS examination. It was recognised that the examination must be fit for purpose in terms of its' ability to assess skills and knowledge for that level of training and at the same time fit with the PMETB principles of assessment. There had been a number of exchanges involving the specialty societies and there was some concern about examining specialist knowledge and skills so early in a trainee's career.

Concern had been raised by Patient Liaison Groups about the removal of communication skills as an examinable element. Council agreed that if communication skills were to be removed from the examination then these should be assessed elsewhere.

Council agreed that the revised format for the MRCS as outlined in the ICBSE paper should be accepted but with the specific view that communication skills are assessed elsewhere.

(a.ii) Senate

Council heard of the proposed changes to Senate in light of an independent review undertaken by Dr Andrew Cubie. The President reminded Council that the review was following some concerns raised in particular from the lay members but as a result of general dissatisfaction with meetings, which were often repetitive. The proposal saw the development of three committees:

1. Joint Committee in Professional Practice (JCPP)
2. Joint Committee of Examinations and Assessment (JCEA)
3. Joint Committee for Training and Continual Professional Development (JCTCPD)

The President reported that whilst there was general agreement amongst the Colleges and the FSSA around these three groups, there was a lack of consensus on how the inter-relationship between the three groups should be constructed. In particular there remained a concern from the Royal College of Surgeons in England over the potential loss of executive authority.

Following discussion, Council agreed that the three bodies as suggested within the review should be taken forward and final agreement sought at the meeting of Senate in October.

(b) Academy

Members of Council noted Document (F) – the Minute of the Academy of the Royal Colleges and Faculties of Scotland.

One of the key areas of discussion surrounded the implementation of MMC and in particular concerns of trainees. It was noted College had arranged an evening for Trainees in order that further information could be provided and any miss-information clarified.

Representing trainees, Ms Murray stated that trainees look to the College for advice and information, as there was considerable concern and confusion as to the current state of play. It was recognised that part of the reason for the lack of information from College to trainees was due to the changing position and statements from both MMC(UK) and MMC(Scotland).

7. Items for Discussion

(a) Donaldson Report

In introducing the draft response to the Donaldson Report, Dr Knight indicated that views had been sought from a number of different groups within College as well as interested external parties.

Council Members took the opportunity to discuss the key issues within the Donaldson and Foster Reports. Council members were also requested to submit any further comments they wish to see in the College response to Dr Knight.

(b) Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine

Dr Knight indicated that College had been approached by the Faculty on a number of key issues and he was in the process of discussing these with Dr Paterson, the Faculty representative on Council.

(c) Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine

Council heard that this Faculty had grown out of the intercollegiate exam and that the Faculty was planning to change its' Constitution. As a result relationships would change between the various Royal Colleges. However the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine expressed a wish to maintain an affiliation with the other Colleges and Faculties, with no financial or legal liability being incurred by the affiliated Colleges/Faculties. An Advisory Committee is being established and representation is welcomed from the other institutions.

It was agreed that Council should be represented on the Council of the Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine.

(d) Annual Report

The structure and outline to the Annual Report was described and it was noted that this would be available for the Annual General Meeting.

(e) Communication Structure

Dr Knight confirmed that the Geriatric Medicine, Ophthalmology and Child Health Advisory Committees reported to Council through the Examinations and Assessment Board. The Trainees Committee reported to the Education and Professional Development Board. However trainees also had representation on all other Boards.

(f) Trainee Representative on Council

President sought feedback from Ms Juliet Murray regarding thoughts and ideas on various matters within College that he hoped would encourage trainee collaboration in the future. Dr Semple asked if the IT department could set up a web-based chatroom which he thought may encourage trainees, however Ms Murray stated that both ASiT and BOTA have such a facility and only a small number of people use this facility.

8. **Items for Noting**

President circulated a letter from the Faculty of Sports Medicine. Council was informed that this subject would be highlighted in The President's Newsletter.

9. **Items for Approval**

The President proposed Dr Andrew Cubie for an Honorary Fellowship of the College for work undertaken on behalf of Senate, which was ratified by Council.

Surgical Forum ad eundem

Mr Iain D Anderson
Professor Oscar Traynor
Professor Shu You Pen
Professor William Wood
Dr George Fielding.

Mr John Ferguson proposed Mr Denis Wilkins for Fellowship and this was seconded by Mr John Drury. Full details will be given at November Council.

Admissions in Absentia

Fellow qua Physician

Abdullah Alkali **Abba**, MB BS 01/06/1979 Ahmad Bello

41821

Member qua Surgeon

George **Eralil**, MB BS 01/09/2001 Bangalore

37701

Khizer Mansoor , MB BS 30/12/1995 Punjab	42357
Eu Kiang Sharon Yeo , MB BS 16/04/2003 N U Singapore	41828

Member of the Faculty of Dental Surgery

Mohammed Al Kharusi , BDS 01/07/2002 Glasgow	34323
Latfiya S M Al-Harhi , BDS 22/06/2000 Cork	36651
Hythum Mohamed Elgyli , BDS 01/09/1992 Cairo	34310
Gregory Philip Gerrard , BDS 28/06/2004 Sheffield	41953

Member of the Faculty of Travel Medicine

Hilary Jane Simons , RGN 01/07/1978	42822
William Chi Wai Wong , MB ChB 01/07/1993 U of Edinburgh	42718

Member

Manam Sarath Kosala De Silva , MB BS 01/04/1984 Sri Lanka	44373
Lorna Jane Hill , MB BCh 01/07/2002 Glasgow	44350
Fiona Helen Macdonald , MB ChB 09/07/1999 Glasgow	30779
Alistair James McVean , MB ChB 01/07/2000 Glasgow	40421
Fionnuala Mary Roisin Pollock , MRCP(UK) 01/04/2005	44332

10. Any Other Competent Business

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Council is Tuesday 14th November 2006, at 4.10pm, in the College Hall.