

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3 March 2009 at 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN

PUBLIC BUSINESS

Present

President	Mr S Churton
Vice-President	Mr M Astbury
Treasurer	Mr A Gush

Mr S Acres	Ms S Agha
Mr G Alexander	Professor N Barber
Mrs K Blair	Mrs C Brown
Mr D Carter	Dr B Curwain
Mrs D Drury	Dr C Duggan
Mr J Gentle	Mrs S Hikins
Mrs L Jacobs	Mrs S Kilby
Professor B Michell	Ms A Moore
Mr D Simpson	

In attendance

Mrs B Taylor, Chair of the English Pharmacy Board and Mrs S Melville, Chair of the Scottish Pharmacy Board

Mr J Holmes, Chief Executive & Registrar

- 09/24 Apologies for absence**
Mrs M Allan, Dr P Entwistle, Mr A Kershaw, Mr R Jobling, Mr J Jolley, Ms Y Liddell, Ms J Ramsey, Ms M Saunders, Mr D Thomson and Professor K Wilson
- 09/25 Declaration of interests**
The President reminded Council members that declarations of interest should be made by individual Council members at the beginning of the relevant item.
- 09/26 The Society's response to the Department of Health consultation on the draft Pharmacy Order 2009**
The President introduced papers 09.03/C/25A and 09.03/C/25B and invited the Chief Executive & Registrar to address the issues relating to the restricted title of 'pharmacist'.
- Mr Holmes advised that the Society had been contacted and letters to the pharmacy press written from some members of the profession who were concerned that the title of 'pharmacist' would be restricted to those on the practising register of the GPhC. These concerns had arisen from the Department

of Health consultation documents on the draft Pharmacy Order 2009 that detailed the role and functions of the GPhC. At the request of the President a paper had been considered by Council in committee session prepared by Dr John Rees and colleagues. Mr Holmes advised that he had been misquoted in this paper which had attributed a comment to him in the press on this issue when it had actually been an editorial comment.

After lengthy discussions on this subject, Council agreed that the following should inform the Society's submission to the draft Pharmacy Order 2009:

- The title 'pharmacist' should continue to be restricted to those suitably qualified and registered with the GPhC
- The broader definition of 'practising' proposed in the draft Order will encompass more members of the profession than at present, but not all will wish to be on the practising register
- The GPhC should therefore consider maintenance of a non-practising register
- The GPhC should also allow those members of the profession who do not wish to be on either practising or non-practising registers to call themselves 'retired' or 'former' pharmacists or pharmacy technicians
- The future introduction of revalidation may provide an opportunity for further review of this issue

Ms Seema Agha, Chair of the S60 response group on the Draft Pharmacy Order, introduced the regulatory response to the Order and advised that the working group had tried to produce a robust response from the perspective of a fair regulator. Ms Agha thanked Mrs Wendy Harris, Deputy Registrar, and regulatory staff for their work on the response.

Mrs Beth Taylor, on behalf of the national Pharmacy Boards, introduced the professional body response to the Order and advised that this dual response to a consultation was the start of the process for the future with a clear distinctive voice for the professional leadership body in evidence.

It was proposed that additional sections be included in the regulatory part of the response focussing on competency of EEA applicants in the English language and the need to set a maximum time limit for completion of the education and assessment leading to registration.

Council

agreed

- i. that the regulatory response and professional leadership response to the draft Pharmacy Order be submitted to the Department of Health subject to incorporation of the above principles regarding restricted title and any other amendments to be agreed by the President.

The President thanked Ms Agha and the National Pharmacy Board Chairs for their work on the response and made the following statement:

“The position agreed by Council today quite rightly places the issue of patient confidence in the profession, and their safety, at the core of our consideration. It also recognises, acknowledges and values the huge contribution to their health and wellbeing made by our members (particularly our more long-serving members).

It is right that we listen to those we represent and take account of those whose health we care for, and I believe that Council have given careful and appropriate consideration to those who have made their views known to us - in the context of what is manifestly right for patients.

Strong leadership is about making the right decisions. Sometimes, as in this case, the arguments are complex, and the decisions tough, but solutions can usually be found to most problems, and in my view what Council is proposing should be welcomed by our members, and will hopefully find favour with the Departments of Health.

Whether practising, non-practising, or retired from the profession, I think that all colleagues should feel they have a “home” in these proposals, which recognise them for their present or past service to the profession”.

09/27

Definition of a Pharmaceutical Scientist

The Vice-President introduced paper 09.03/C/26 and advised that the definition of ‘pharmaceutical scientist’ had been developed after discussions with a wide range of stakeholders, including a representative from the Industrial Pharmacists Group.

Council

agreed

- i. the following definition of a pharmaceutical scientist:
pharmaceutical scientist:- an individual working in the basic or applied sciences or the social sciences impinging on the discovery, development, delivery, quality, safety, efficacy, regulation or usage of medicines and medical devices and their educational development in all its many aspects
- ii. that the qualification requirement of a pharmaceutical scientist must be a bachelor degree (or equivalent) or higher; and
- ii. that the definition and qualification requirement as above be applied for the purpose of potential membership of the new Professional Leadership Body (PLB) and the Assembly of the PLB.

Mr Douglas Simpson recorded his abstention from the vote.

09/28

Any other business

Health Care and Associated Professions (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order

The Deputy Registrar advised that the Health Care and Associated Professions (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order should be laid before the Scottish and Westminster Parliaments by 11 March 2009 and it was anticipated that pharmacy technicians would start to be registered on a statutory basis in summer 2009.

OHPA Project Board

The Chief Executive & Registrar advised that a public and patient representative of the Society would have a place on the newly created Office of the Health Professions Adjudicator (OHPA) Project Board. Expressions of interest were invited from lay members of Council for this position. Full details on the work of the Board would be emailed to lay members with a deadline for receipt of interest by Friday 6 March 2009. Council agreed that if more than one expression of interest was received the President should decide which candidates to put forward as the Society's representative.

09/29 The contribution of pharmacy to making Britain a safer place to take medicines

The President introduced paper 09.03/C/27 which had been circulated and invited Professor Nick Barber, who had led the work on the scoping report, to update Council.

Professor Barber advised that the award had been launched with an expert panel chaired by Dr Keith Ridge and had a private meeting with Dr Liam Donaldson which had been received well. This award and ongoing scheme was an example of the professional body leading the profession and achieving a presence in the policy arena.

The President thanked Professor Barber for leading the project.

Council

noted the report.

09/30 Welcome to Mr Bob Bolick

The Chief Executive & Registrar welcomed Mr Bob Bolick, new managing director of RPS Publishing, to the meeting and advised that Mr Bolick would be taking over from Mr Charles Fry. Mr Bolick has had a number of positions at McGraw-Hill Education, Pearson Distance Learning Program, MIT Press and Simon & Shuster, and published the first wireless, hand-held edition of Harrison's Principles of Medicines.

Charles Fry

The Chief Executive & Registrar thanked Mr Charles Fry for his leadership of RPS Publishing since his appointment in 1996 and for his contribution to the huge advances that had been made in bringing the business into the 21st century through use of digital and commercial expertise.

Council applauded Mr Fry who was retiring.

The President thanked Council and closed the meeting.