

GENERAL OSTEOPATHIC COUNCIL
Minutes of Part I of the 71st meeting of the Education Committee which
took place on Tuesday 27 February 2013 at
The General Osteopathic Council,
176 Tower Bridge Road, London SE1 3BE

Unconfirmed

Chair: Professor Ian Hughes

Present: Dr Jorge Esteves
 Dr Jane Fox
 Professor Bernadette Griffin
 Mr Robert McCoy
 Mr Brian McKenna
 Mr Liam Stapleton
 Ms Alison White

In Attendance: Ms Fiona Browne, Head of Professional Standards
 Mr Marcus Dye, Professional Standards Manager
 Ms Gina Baidoo, Professional Standards Officer
 Ms Monika Obara, Professional Standards Assistant
 Ms Marcia Scott, Council and Executive Officer
 Ms Barbara Edwards, QAA

Observer: Professor Colin Coulson-Thomas (Council Member designate)
 Ms Geraldine Campbell (Education and Registration Standards
 Committee Member designate)

PART I (*items which will be reported to the Public Session of Council at its next meeting*)

ITEM 1: APOLOGIES

1. Apologies were received from Tim Walker, Chief Executive and Registrar, and Julie Stone. Ms Stone had provided comments for several items to be discussed and these were read out by the Chair at the appropriate times.

ITEM 2: MINUTES

2. The Minutes of the Education Committee of 27 November 2012 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed.

ITEM 3: MATTERS ARISING

3. There were no matters arising.

ITEM 4: CHAIR AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DEPARTMENT ACTION AND REPORT

4. The Chair had nothing further to add to the report.
5. The Head of Professional Standards Manager highlighted the recently published report from the Francis Inquiry emphasising the barriers to professionals taking action to support patient safety and the impact the report will have across the wider health sector.
6. It was reported to the Committee there had been discussions about the Francis Inquiry at the Professional Standards Authority Symposium (21-22 February) attended by the Chair of Council and the Chief Executive. Due to the large number of recommendations contained in the report, the meeting drew no concrete conclusions during discussions but it was noted that the Health Regulators were already taking action to work more effectively together. It was planned that further discussion on the recommendations of the Francis Report would take place at the meeting of Council in June.
7. The Head of Professional Standards also highlighted the Departments operational activities, in particular the CPD Audits, which were on target.
8. The Chair read out comments from Julie Stones congratulating the Head of Professional Standards on her appointment as Chair to the UKIPG-CPD Forum and welcoming the interesting discussion on professional reflection.
9. In considering the discussion from the CPD forum (30 January), themed 'Reflection – What is it that we are looking for', the Committee noted that osteopaths reflect regularly in their practice, but that the challenge often arose in terms of recording their reflections appropriately. It was suggested that advice from other regulators and professional bodies on their approaches might be helpful as well as
10. The Committee asked about the international stakeholder engagement. The Head of Professional Standards confirmed that there were links to other networks internationally both in terms of osteopathy and also health regulators and professional organisations.
11. Following the recent announcement on language testing to make it a requirement for all Doctors to be able to speak English, the Committee were advised there were no implications for the GOSc as the requirement related to employment within NHS.
12. The final sentence on page 3, paragraph 10, should read:
'The structure of the meeting has changed slightly in that regulatory updates are now provided in advance so that the meeting itself can focus on more in depth discussion.'

Noted: the Committee noted the report.

ITEM 5: WORKPLAN UPDATE

13. The Head of Professional Standards presented the update and advised the Committee that the majority of projects in the work plan were on target. She thanked the team for all their hard work in helping to ensure delivery of the Department's objectives.

Noted: the Committee noted the progress of projects overseen the Education Committee.

ITEM 6: CONTINUING FITNESS TO PRACTISE

14. The Head of Professional Standards introduced the item updating the Committee on the progress of the revalidation pilot evaluation and impact assessment publication and the CPD discussion document analysis.
15. The Committee was advised that the final KPMG Evaluation Report and the Impact Assessment had been published on the GOsC Website. The reports would also be highlighted in the GOsC e-bulletin and The Osteopath magazine and highlighted to stakeholders.
16. There were a number of benefits from the scheme for both osteopaths and patients and the GOsC would like to develop and build on the benefits.
17. There were also a number of issues identified with participants and others describing the scheme as costly, burdensome, and complex.
18. The Head of Professional Standards gave a presentation showing some of the key findings from the CPD Discussion Document Analysis ahead of consideration of the full report by Council on 20 March 2013. The Committee requested further context about the numbers involved and the Head of Professional Standards agreed to seek clarification of this as part of the finalising of the full report to Council.
19. The Committee agreed that the Pilot had moved the CPD discussions forward. Although the Pilot had been described as burdensome and disproportionate it was also a valuable learning exercise. It was also felt that the lack of documented reflection and analysis noted in some of the portfolios was not indicative of a lack of reflection taking place, but more likely challenges in the ability or desire to record such reflections appropriately.
20. There were concerns raised about the process as it appeared to demonstrate that only a small proportion of participants were capable of conducting an accurate self-assessment. However, it was recognised that there was a lack of clarity around the instructions, for example, in terms of how many pieces of evidence needed to be conducted and how many of the revalidation criteria

needed to be demonstrated. It was suggested that, if possible, further clarification be obtained from KPMG about this.

21. It was suggested that reflection formed an important part of student learning.

Noted: the Committee noted the continuing fitness to practice update.

ITEM 7: STUDENT FITNESS TO PRACTICE

22. The Head of Professional Standards introduced the item and updated the Committee on the progress of the project to date. The Committee were advised that the findings from the data analysis relating to undergraduates was would be made available at a future meeting.
23. The Professional Standards Manager updated the Committee on the post-registration work being conducted with Susanne Roff to develop a range of scenarios designed to assist with the implementation of the Osteopathic Practice Standards. A number of e-learning programmes had been developed based on scenarios involving both standards and fitness to practise expertise. The Professional Standards Manager advised that poster abstracts based on the work and submitted to Association for the Study of Medical Education and Association for the Study of Medical Education Europe Conferences 2013, were available to members on request.

Noted: the Committee noted the progress of the Professionalism in Osteopathy Research Project Pilot and the emerging evaluation framework.

ITEM 8: Preparedness to Practise Research Report

24. The Head of Professional Standards presented the item gave a short presentation to remind the Committee about the different themes and overview findings of Professor Della Freeth's report.
25. The Committee welcomed the report and were especially pleased with the collaboration taking themes forward where the research findings could have some impact in other areas of development work.
26. It was agreed there was a role for the OEIs to be more constructive in assisting students, for example at Leeds Metropolitan University where students can return to use facilities, network, and receive advice at the beginning of their career.
27. The Community agreed there were a growing number of areas for osteopathic community to share and support ideas such as Facebook and Twitter. It was also highlighted that journals like IJOM were available although there was some concern over e-access for those who work independently.

28. The Committee were advised that there would be an opportunity to discuss issues relating to osteopathic communities at the next Regional Network Group meeting, 15 March 2013, and this was also an area under discussion with the Development of the Profession group.

Noted: the Committee noted the preliminary analysis of the dissemination and implications of the preparedness to practise research.

ITEM 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

29. It was noted that this meeting of the Education Committee would be the last chaired by Professor Ian Hughes before he stepped down at the end of March as his term of office as a Council member came to an end. The Committee expressed their thanks to Ian noting his commitment to the role of Chair, the immense progress made in the Committee over the course of the last four years and also the high regard with which he was held by stakeholders – particularly the Osteopathic Educational Institutions.

ITEM 10: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

30. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 May 2013.