

GENERAL OSTEOPATHIC COUNCIL
Minutes of Part I of the 1st meeting of the Education and Registration
Standards Committee (this is also Part II of the 72nd statutory Education
Committee)

held at 09.30hrs on Tuesday 14 May 2013 at
The Society of Podiatrists and Chiropodists,
1 Fellmonger's Path, Tower Bridge Road, London, SE1 3LY

Unconfirmed

- Chair: Professor Colin Coulson-Thomas
- Present: Ms Geraldine Campbell
Dr Jorge Esteves
Dr Jane Fox
Professor Bernardette Griffin
Mr Robert McCoy
Mr Brian McKenna
Mr Liam Stapleton
Ms Alison J White
- In Attendance: Mr Tim Walker, Chief Executive and Registrar
Ms Fiona Browne, Head of Professional Standards
Mr Matthew Redford, Head of Finance and acting Head of
Registration
Mr Marcus Dye, Professional Standards Manager
Ms Gina Baidoo, Professional Standards Officer
Ms Barbara Edwards, QAA
- Observers: Mr Mark Eames (Lay Council Observer)

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

ITEM 1: APOLOGIES

1. No apologies were made

ITEM 2: MINUTES

2. The Minutes of the Education Committee of 25 February 2013 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed.

ITEM 3: MATTERS ARISING

3. There were no matters arising.

ITEM 4: CHAIR REPORT

4. The Chair provided an update on activities since he took up his post in April which included:
 - An induction meeting with key staff across the organisation on 3 April 2013 to receive a comprehensive briefing about the terms of reference of the new Committee, ongoing policy and project work and emerging thinking in key areas.
 - A meeting with Adrian Barnes, Chair of the Council of Osteopathic Educational Institutions on 3 April 2013 to discuss the GOsC / OEI meeting agenda for the meeting held on 7 May 2013.
 - Chairing the second meeting of the Guidance on Osteopathic Pre-registration education Working Group on 7 May 2013.
 - Chairing the meeting of the GOsC / OEI meeting on 7 May 2013.
5. The Chair also reported about forthcoming meetings including:
 - Attending a Professional Standards Authority Seminar on 17 May 2013 with Fiona Browne: Reforming professional regulation: an international perspective - Professor Ron Paterson in discussion with Harry Cayton.
 - Chairing a selection panel (with Jorge Esteves and another) to select the successful researchers to undertake the effectiveness of regulation research on 15 July 2013.
 - Meeting with Adrian Barnes, Chair of COEI on 9 July 2013 to discuss the next GOsC / OEI agenda and other matters of interest.
6. The Chair also reported about other meetings that he had participated in including a recent Learning Summit about regulation issues in Chicago. The Chair noted that regulation was often felt to be disproportionate and costly in the US and he felt that in his induction he had received a lot of messages about proportionality and value for money which was helpful.
7. There were no additional questions from the Committee.

Noted: The Committee noted the report of the Chair.

ITEM 5: TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE EDUCATION AND REGISTRATION STANDARDS COMMITTEE

8. The Head of Professional Standards welcomed everyone to the first Education and Registration Standards Committee and introduced the revised terms of reference.
9. The Committee discussed the frequency of meetings and whether three meetings a year was sufficient. It was felt, for example, that if a member missed a meeting, it could be eight months until the next one. The Head of Professional Standards confirmed that all committee members were most welcome to meet for an update on current matters at any time. It was also

noted that the Committee already had an electronic working policy in place which provided that items could be agreed by email unless a Committee member expressed a wish to have a full meeting discussion, in which case, the discussion would take place at the next meeting.

10. The Committee agreed that extra meetings could be scheduled if necessary if the work load required it.
11. The Committee noted that the term 'undergraduate' should be replaced with 'pre-registration'.

Noted: The Committee noted the terms of reference of the Education and Registration Standards Committee as amended.

ITEM 6: GUIDANCE ON OSTEOPATHIC PRE-REGISTRATION EDUCATION

12. The Head of Professional Standards introduced the item providing the Committee with feed back on the first meeting that took place on 7 May 2013. The Committee were advised that the meeting was positive and constructive and the first draft of the guidance had been well received which lots of useful and constructive comments.
13. The Head of Professional Standards also advised there would be another meeting in the autumn and the main topics for discussion will be revised draft guidance along with potential areas of consultation.
14. The Committee discussed the frequency of the meetings and were advised by the Head of Professional Standards that there would be one more meeting this year and a timetable would be issued once dates are finalised for 2014.
15. The Committee were keen to ensure that all OEIs were familiarised with the work of the GOPRE group ahead of a decision to launch the consultation.

The Committee agreed the following recommendations:

- A. To note the progress of the Guidance about osteopathic pre-registration education working group.**
- B. To approve the revised Terms of Reference of the Guidance about osteopathic pre-registration working group.**

ITEM 9: REVIEW OF REGISTRATION APPEALS GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

16. The acting Head of Regulation joined the meeting and it was agreed to discuss agenda item 9 at this point.
17. The acting Head of Regulation explained that registration appeals guidance has been previously considered by Council who had decided to remit the issue to

the Education and Registration Standards Committee for further advice before considering it again.

18. The Education and Registration Standards Committee were asked to provide their views on the guidelines and procedures for registration appeals in the future.

Education and Registration Standards Committee Terms of Reference

19. The Committee agreed changes to be made to paragraph 14 the terms of reference, in order to reflect the amended legislation.

Appeals Committee

20. The Committee considered that there should be a separate appeals committee and that it was important for there to be a pool of people that can be called upon who all receive the appropriate training.

Quorum

21. The Committee discussed the idea of tailoring appeal committees dependent on the type of appeal using an Osteopath majority for appeals concerning practice and a lay member majority for appeals concerning character. Through further discussion the Committee wondered if the number of osteopaths and lay members were not kept consistent could this be grounds for appeal against the decision by the appellant.
22. The Committee considered that the appeals committee should be three members for each appeal. The Committee considered that the composition should be two osteopaths and one lay member in order to allow two different view points on osteopathic practice. The Committee felt that if the appeals committee consisted of two lay members it could be more difficult to rely on just one osteopathic option to inform the views of the panel.
23. The Committee also considered that there would be a quorum of three and not a membership of three allowing selection for a wider membership if required. The Committee highlighted the importance of refreshing the knowledge and training for all members at appropriate intervals.
24. The Committee discussed identifying people to chair the committee and the possibility of making the panel 5 members to allow for the case to continue if members were taken ill or any other external factors preventing the member from continuing.
25. The Committee considered that the Chair should be a lay person. Although it noted that not all lay members would wish to be chair and so potentially this would mean that some lay members would be excluded from being a member of the appeals panel.

26. The acting Head of Regulation thanked everyone for their thoughts and views and advised that the next step would be to take all the comments to Council to inform Council decisions on these matters.

Agreed: The Committee considered the matters outlined above about the Appeals Committee.

ITEM 7: EDUCATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

27. The Head of Professional Standards introduced the annual report to the Committee. Ms White would be added to the list of members of the Committee for the period 2012 – 2013.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the Annual Report of the Education Committee 2012 – 2013 subject to the amendments outlined.

ITEM 8: PERIOD OF ADAPTATION GUIDANCE

28. The Head of Professional Standards introduced this item and acknowledged the assistance of the HCPC Guidance in preparing the draft Guidance for consultation. It was noted that the Guidance would be the subject of a final legal check ahead of consultation.

29. The Committee discussion included the following:

The distinction between supervisors and OEIs. Was it necessary for a supervisor to be employed by an OEI? It was explained that it would not be appropriate to add such a stipulation as it could be regarded as contravening the legislative requirements.

- The Committee noted the choice given to applicants to undertake either a period of adaptation or an assessment of clinical performance.

Agreed: the Committee agreed to consult on Guidance about Periods of Adaptation.

ITEM 10: REGISTRATION POLICY ISSUES

30. The acting Head of Registration introduced the item and highlighted that there would be further guidance on temporary registration to be submitted in autumn 2013.

31. The Committee discussed whether someone needed to be registered with the GOsC in order to teach technique to which the Head of Professional Standards responded confirming that these issues had recently been discussed by the OEIs at their recent meeting. There appeared to be a consensus that teaching techniques should be overseen by registered osteopaths

Noted: the Committee noted future registration policy development needs.

ITEM 11: RECRUITMENT OF REGISTRATION ASSESSORS

32. The Head of Professional Standards introduced the item advising the Committee that recruitment of new registration assessors has been delayed due to an oversight in interview panel selection.
33. The Committee asked whether shortlisting had taken place. It was confirmed that it had taken place but the process would now start again.
34. The Committee asked if applicants would need to re-apply. It was confirmed that applicants need not reapply.

Noted: the Committee noted the update on the recruitment exercise to increase the pools of registration assessors and return to practice reviewers.

ITEM 12: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

35. No further items were raised.

ITEM 13: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

36. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 19 September 2013 at 14:00 with lunch with the Osteopathic Practice Committee at 13:00.