

**GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL**

**Education Committee**

Unconfirmed Minutes of the 153rd Meeting of the Education Committee held on  
8<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

<b>Present:</b>	Professor R Anderson	Mr K Lewis
	Miss R Bailey	Mr D Pyle (Chair)
	Mrs J Brower	Dr Ahmed Sadiq
	Mr K Cavaye	Prof. M Salmon
	Dr G Harris	Professor A Tomlinson
	Mr R Hogan	Miss J Underwood
	Dr P Kyle	
<b>Advisers:</b>	Mr R Carswell	Mrs R Shipley
	Dr A Jennings	Mr P Carroll
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Miss L Kennaugh	Mrs J D Taylor
	Kelly Parker	
	Joanne Glover	

**Apologies for Absence and Chairman's Announcements**

- 5183.** Apologies were received for Charles Wass
- 5184.** The Chairman welcomed Joanne Glover, as the new CET Manager and Kelly Parker as Hayley Robinson's maternity replacement, as PA to Dian Taylor, Director of Education. The Chairman also noted that he was going to bring item 16 forward, in between Item 6 and 7, due to the important nature of the item. The Committee agreed with this proposal.

**Declaration of interests**

- 5185.** Members and Advisers were reminded that any interest in an issue for consideration by the Committee which could have, or may be perceived as having an influence on their judgement must be declared pursuant to standing orders 2.7 to 2.10

**Confidentiality**

- 5186.** Members and Advisers were reminded that the proceedings of the Committee are Confidential under Standing Orders 6.23 to 6.26

**Minutes of the 152<sup>nd</sup> Meeting (07:02:08)**

**ED(08)1M**

- 5187.** Minutes of the 152<sup>nd</sup> meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2008 were attached for Members' consideration.
- 5188.** The minutes were confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

**Matter arising.**

**5189.** All matters arising were covered in the main agenda.

**Reports from the Project Groups.**(i) Project ED01 – Movement of professionals across borders / Bologna

- 5190.** The Committee received the minutes of the meeting held on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008. Professor Salmon wanted recorded the Committee's thanks to BUCO for helping to review the Stage 1 Competencies, which went to March Council and have now been signed off.
- 5191.** The Committee was updated with recent events of the working group, which included ongoing project work surrounding a possible meeting with the Dublin Institute of Optometry, the Irish Board and Association of Optometrists Ireland to discuss the UK and Republic of Ireland's strategy for a possible joint initiative to establish a common European platform for Optometry.
- 5192.** It was noted that at the most recent meeting in January the group considered a request from Utrecht for GOC approval for their optometry programme. A visit has been arranged for October 2008.

(ii) Project ED02 Entry Standards, Dispensing Opticians (ESDO)

- 5193.** Professor Salmon (chairman) reported that the Working Group will have visited all the Training Establishments and Institutions except ABDO within the year and that the working aim had been achieved and good progress was being made.
- 5194.** The Committee was updated on the ongoing project work the group had undertaken, the main work being that the group is currently preparing the dispensing input into the programme for the Visitor Panel Training on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2008. Also that the Assistant Director of Education is currently developing a clear proforma for institutions to complete as part of the pre visit information pack and reviewing the correspondence sent to HEI's as part of this process.
- 5195.** The Chairman of the working group also noted his congratulations and thanks to the professionals on the panel for their help and expertise.

(iii) Project ED03 – Scheme for Registration (SfR)

- 5196.** Dr Peter Kyle (chairman) updated the committee on recent developments in the working group, including an upcoming review of the current SfR handbook.
- 5197.** The chairman also commented on the observations that he and Dr Jennings made on their visit to the OSCE examinations as part of the pilot of the scheme. It was noted that satisfactory progress was being made and that there would be a further trial in the Autumn.
- 5198.** The Working Group met with the College of Optometrists on the 7<sup>th</sup> May and a successful meeting was had, the notes for which will be before the September meeting of the Committee.

(iii) Project ED 04- 06 Education and Panel Visits and Training

- 5199.** The committee was updated on the progress of the visit programme. The Assistant director of Education commented on how the majority of visits had been completed already for this year and that there was a visit to ABDO DLI on the 21<sup>st</sup> May and visit to Cardiff later in the year.
- 5200.** A discussion was held on the turnaround of the reports and the delay in getting recent reports to the institutions. The Assistant Director of Education acknowledged the delay, but noted that it was the tail end of a difficult period and that from now on there would be a speedier process and much quicker turnaround.
- 5201.** The committee was informed of the ongoing project work the two projects, now combined as one. Dr Jennings and the Assistant Director of Education are working to develop a suitable annual monitoring proforma to be completed by HEI's to aid the development to a quinquennial visit cycle. The Assistant Director of Education is also looking into the current visit programme so to develop a projected visit programme for the next five years.
- 5202.** It was noted that preparations are underway for the Visitor Development Day scheduled for the 9<sup>th</sup> July and a final planning meeting would be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> June.

(iv) Project ED 05 Overseas Qualifications

- 5203.** The sub committee met in May 2007 last year and since the last meeting the most significant development to note is that in February 2008 the group submitted the College of Optometrists proposed portfolio for use in the Revised Scheme for UK Registration of Non-EEA Optometrists to the Education Committee for approval. Approval was given for the portfolio and the Scheme is progressing to the pilot stage.

(v) Project ED 08 Visit / Accreditation Review Process

- 5204.** It was noted that due to the overlap in projects ED04,06 and 08 that in future these projects will be merged.
- 5205.** The Assistant Director of Education noted that the aim with the new annual monitoring form would be to simplify the current proforma and make the process less onerous for the institutions. It was noted that if there any areas of concern, as brought up by annual monitoring form these can be addressed in an interim visit, following appropriate consultation.

(vi) Project ED 09 Optometry Independent Prescribing Handbook

- 5206.** The Committee received an oral update on the current actions of the IP handbook working group. The handbook is currently out for consultation, after protracted discussions and any legal issues have been vetted and considered.
- 5207.** The working group will consider any feedback received from consultation.
- 5208.** It was noted that the Handbook would go to July Council to be signed off and that it would be launched at a seminar to be held in July
- 5209.** It was noted that at the moment potential providers of the course are Manchester and Aston Universities. The working group are aware that if the GOC delays these courses will not be able to start until Easter and therefore the aim is to get the handbook signed off as soon as possible.

(vii) Project ED10 Scheme for Student Registration (SsR)

- 5210.** The Committee received an oral update on the working group's current actions. It was noted that the Director and Assistant Director of Education have prepared a key set of principles regarding student and teacher registration as agreed by the working group, which are currently out for consultation.
- 5211.** Once feedback has been reported to the working group in September, the agreed set of principles will go to November Council to be signed off.
- 5212.** There was discussion around the registration on a non- EEA student and a UK registered student and how the GOC will need differentiate between the non EEA student and the UK registered student on the register, so that there is no confusion over the status of the students.

**Constitution of Education Committee**

- 5213.** The chairman at this point moved item 16 forward to discuss as a matter of importance.
- 5214.** There was a lengthy discussion around the future of the Education Committee and what was to happen once the new council was in place.
- 5215.** It was noted that the current Education Committee would remain in the interim period until the new council was fully functional.
- 5216.** Committee members expressed their opinions on what the future of the Education Committee should be and how the new Council might consider their recommendations.
- 5217.** There was a discussion around the possible size of the Education Committee and if a smaller group of members would be as effective as the current Committee.
- 5218.** It was also noted that the new council may award more power and responsibility to the Committees and therefore would a smaller group be as productive?
- 5219.** It was also commented on that the personal specification of the new committee members should be considered and several members expressed an interest in the opportunity for key skills audit and expertise to be considered in the make up of the potential new Education Committee, once the new council is in place.
- 5220.** The Committee agreed that there be a clause in the Committee Constitution Order that states the number of members in the Education Committee should be a minimum of 9 but to have the ability to expand.
- 5221.** There was a protracted discussion on the constitution of the Education Committee but the Chairman's final recommendation with the support of the Committee was that the Education Committee continues as it is until the new council is in a position to make further decisions and that the Education Committee agreed that the rest of the decisions are to left for the new Council to consider.

## Optometry PQE1 Scheme

5222. The Committee received an oral report from the Chairman and the Assistant Director of Education on the current position of the Optometry PQE1 Scheme. It was noted that it will be the last opportunity for students who have not received a 2:2 or above, to retake the PQE1 exam in October 2008. There has been considerable concern from students about what their options will be if they do not pass the October exam. The Assistant Director of Education has spoken to and written to all the approved HEIs to request confirmation of their position after October 2008 and if they would be offering the PRP progression scheme to students. It was confirmed that Bradford would be offering the scheme to their own students Manchester, ARU and Cardiff would not be offering the scheme and that Glasgow, City and Aston would be offering the scheme to all students subject to availability of places.
5223. **RESOLVED:** that [a] the Assistant Director of Education would monitor the situation and if the situation appears to be inadequate determine whether further action from the GOC is required.

## New Course Proposals

5224. The committee was informed that there had been no formal proposal from CANDI for the BTEC National Diploma and that there would be an update at the next Education Committee.
5225. The Committee received an oral update on the proposal of the Christchurch University Foundation Degree. The chairman noted that in principle the GOC welcomed the new development however there were areas of concern and a need to seek clarification before the GOC can continue to give approval to ABDO to proceed with recruitment to the new programme.
5226. There was a lengthy discussion on what aspects needed to be considered for the proposal to go ahead. The committee would like to see how the university was going to deliver the course and how the student workload would pan out over the suggested length of the course. There were concerns that as it was proposed to be a part time degree how the full time curriculum would equate to workload for the students who would also be working in full time employment.
5227. It was also noted that there was concern on the credits awarded for this course of study and if an honours classification could be awarded.
5228. The committee had a discussion around how involved the GOC needed to get and that maybe the way forward would be to forward the request to an expanded ESDO group and visit should be arranged.
5229. The Committee agreed that the way forward would be to send a letter to the the ABDO and the university and to note the GOC's concerns and suggest a meeting to discuss further movements.
5230. The Committee noted they were in support of this initiative but did have concerns that would need addressing.
5231. **RESOLVED:** that [a] a letter be sent to ABDO DLI outlining the GOC's concerns and [b] a meeting be arranged at the earliest opportunity to discuss the issues of concern.

## **Handbooks.**

### Review of Ophthalmic Dispensing Handbook.

- 5232.** The committee agreed that the Ophthalmic dispensing handbook was ready to go to July Council to be signed off.
- 5233.** It was noted that the Competencies were in the process of being reviewed.

### Review of Optometry Independent Prescribing Handbook.

- 5234.** The committee were informed that the Independent prescribing handbook was currently out for consultation until the end of May and that there would be an update at the next Education Committee meeting.

### Review of Scheme for Registration Handbook.

- 5235.** The committee received an update from the Chairman on the Scheme for Registration handbook. The handbook has been recently revised, simplified and consulted upon. The handbook will now be taken to Council in July 2008 for final approval.
- 5236.** It was raised in the February Education Committee that there would a guide to all handbooks.
- 5237.** **RESOLVED:** that [a] a **Guide to Handbooks will be developed during the quieter summer period.**

## **Training Establishments/ Visits**

### ESDO Visit Reports.

- 5238.** The Chairman of the ESDO working group provided an oral report to the committee. It was noted that the Bradford and ARU visit reports were with the institutions for accuracy checking and that the second part of the visit to CANDI was to take place in June.

### Panel Visits.

- 5239.** A discussion was held earlier in the meeting and it was noted that reports for Manchester University, GCU and ARU were currently with the institutions for accuracy for checking.

### Update on Ulster Visit Report.

- 5240.** The committee had a brief update on the Ulster visit report and it was noted that concerns had been raised and that a meeting was going to take place to discuss these concerns further and that there would be a report at the October Education Committee on the resolution of the discussions.

## **Joint working group with Standards**

### Competencies

- 5241.** The committee received the minutes and a paper from the Joint Working Group with Standards. It was noted that the review of competencies was ongoing and

that detailed work was now starting on this process and that there would be further reports when the Education Committee would meet again in October.

**For information.**

CHRE Performance Review.

- 5242.** The committee received an extract from the GOC's CHRE Performance Review to note the Education Department's submission and grading. The Director of Education noted new standards were in place and that the committee should keep these standards in mind so that next year the GOC can achieve better results and meet the standards without any extra effort.

**Any Other Business.**

- 5243.** The chairman raised an issue on behalf of ABDO, as they were seeking the support of the Education committee for funding of a virtual patient video to aid the assessment of low vision patients, which all establishments are in support of.
- 5244.** The committee expressed their support and agreed to recommend to the Finance and Procedure Committee the funding of the initiative.
- 5245.** **RESOLVED:** that [a] the matter be referred to F&P Committee with a recommendation for funding to be given from the education reserve fund to the support the development of the Low Vision video.

**Date of the next Education Committee**

- 5246.** The next meeting of the Committee will take place at 10.30am 2 October 2008.