

Minutes

The Public session of the 38th meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland established under the Pharmacy Act 2007, was held at 10.00am on Tuesday 26th June 2012 at 11-12 Hogan Place, Lower Grand Canal Street, Dublin 2

Present: Mr. P. Fahey (President), Mr. E. Hanly (Vice President), Ms. L. Clarke, Mr. J. Collins, Ms. M. Doherty, Dr. A. Frankish, Dr. J. Holohan, Mr. A. Horan, Ms. I. Kelleher, Ms. D. Larkin, Ms. M. Ní Longaín, Mr. F. Murphy, Prof. C. O'Boyle, Mr. F. O'Cuinneagáin, Mr. K. O'Hourihane, Ms. R. Purcell

PSI staff in attendance: Ms. C. McGoldrick (Acting Registrar), Ms. J. Aylward, Mr. J. Bryan, Ms. L. Crimin, Dr. L. Horgan, Mr. T. McGuinn, Ms. K. O'Flaherty, Mr. S. O'hAodha, Mr. T. Reilly and Dr. C. Stokes

1. Apologies

Mr. J. Brophy, Mr. J. Corr, Prof. K. McDonald, Prof. C. O'Driscoll and Mr. N. Stenson

2. Declaration of Interests

The President referred to item 2 in the Council Agenda and reminded the Council members present of their responsibilities in this regard.

Paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 to the Pharmacy Act 2007, deals with the necessary disclosure of certain interests by members of the Council and by members of its various committees. Those requirements are also reflected in the Code of Conduct adopted for Council members which also requires that they "be honest and open with regard to conflicts of interest (either real or perceived). Members must not use their position for personal gain in either business, political or social relationships. Therefore, a member who has, or may be perceived to have, such a personal interest in a particular matter under consideration should declare that interest, withdraw from all discussions relating to it and take no part in any vote on such matter."

A copy of paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 to the Act, relating to the disclosure of certain interests is therefore included and all members of the Committee are strongly advised to familiarise themselves with its contents.

3.1 Draft Minutes of Public Council meeting No. 37 held on 24th May 2012 (Sent: 19th June 2012)

The Minutes of meeting No. 37 held on Thursday 24th May 2012 were unanimously approved

Proposed and Seconded by:

1. Ms. L. Clarke 2. Ms. I. Kelleher

Action¹ : Registrar's Office

3.2 Registrar and Committee Report (Sent: 19th June 2012)

The Acting Registrar gave an overview of the activity carried out by the PSI Units since the last Council meeting on 24th May 2012. She highlighted the following:

- A meeting was held with the Minister and Secretary General and the CEOs of Commercial/Non Commercial State Agencies under the aegis of the Department of Health on 11th June

- A further meeting was held between the PSI and Mr. Paul Barron, Assistant Secretary, and the Chief Pharmacist at the Department of Health on 19th June. Staffing issues and the urgency of appointment of permanent Registrar were among the subjects discussed.
- The Acting Registrar thanked Det. Sgt. Ian McLaughlin and Det. Garda Paddy Cleary from the Central Bureau of Investigations of An Garda Síochána for their assistance with the 5 day investigation training programme recently carried out for staff in I&E Unit.
- PD&L Unit: work is on-going on the funding analysis of the 5 year MPharm programme. Intensive work continues by the PSI and the IOP Operations Manager on the Irish Institute of Pharmacy. MPharm conferring ceremony attended by Chair of PPD Ctee and Head of PD&L
- Dr. L. Horgan has been invited to make a presentation at the Deans Forum at the FIP 2012 Congress in Amsterdam.
- Three FTP Inquiries will take place in July. Reports will be provided to September Council meeting. Further Inquiries are scheduled for September.
- The Vice President, Chair of Chairpersons Committee and Chair of Conduct Committee attended training on regulation carried out by La Touche training on 23rd June 2012.
- PPD Unit: Premises and Equipment guidelines issued for public consultation 29 May
- PSI/ICCPE consultation skills training courses run 9th and 10th June
- Work continues on Hospital Pharmacy baseline study. Report expected in Autumn.
- FIP: Irish delegation confirmed. Irish Reception planned for 6th October.
- ICT: Public register will now show information on conditions attached to registration of pharmacists
- RQR: The PSI is hopeful of an early resolution to the three-year qualification rule issue. The Department of Health is working with the Attorney General's office and will keep the PSI updated.
- The Management Accounts for the First Quarter 2012 were considered and approved by the Administration and Finance Committee on 12th June 2012. The financial position is satisfactory.

The President thanked the Acting Registrar and staff for the work undertaken since the last Council meeting.

3.3 Risk Review Group Report (Sent: 19th June 2012)

The President welcomed Prof. Peter Weedle, Chair of the Risk Review Group, to the meeting. Prof. Weedle indicated that the Risk Review Group was established as an independent review group to examine and report on the causes of the under-dosing of some patients with seasonal influenza vaccine by certain pharmacists during the 2011/2012 influenza season.

In his presentation, Prof. Weedle thanked the members of the Risk Review Group and praised them for their hard work. The members of the Group were: Mr. Raymond Anderson, Dr. Kevin Connolly, Dr Brenda Corcoran, Ms Mary Culliton, Ms Mary McConn, Mr. Stephen McMahon and Mr. Tom McGuinn. Prof. Weedle also thanked Dr. Cora Nestor from the PSI for her commitment and dedication in supporting the work of the Group, which met on seven occasions. He indicated that the final report contains eight recommendations. Prof. Weedle praised the PSI's response to the issue and their efforts to ensure that patient safety was paramount. He also pointed out that that the profession had responded very well in addressing the issues arising out of the incident.

He explained that the review was carried out in compliance with the assigned terms of reference and in an open and 'blame free' manner. While the group identified a number of factors that caused and contributed to the event, the focus of the report is on the learning and changes that are required as a result of this incident. In addition the group has advised on some associated issues that were identified during the review.

The President then asked Ms. C. McGoldrick to give an overview of the PSI's actions in the light of recommendations of the Report of the Risk Review Group. Ms. C. McGoldrick also thanked the group for their very valuable report which will be of considerable assistance to the PSI in preparing for the forthcoming influenza season.

She pointed out that the PSI's first objective is to ensure that pharmacists vaccinate safely and that a document had been circulated which summarised the Actions Arising for the 2012-2013 Seasonal Influenza Season, resulting from the Report of the Risk Review Group.

She explained that one of the key priorities is the establishment of a training programme for pharmacists who wish to take part in the vaccination programme. Ms McGoldrick indicated that the training requirements for this coming season differ for the two cohorts of pharmacists who will take part in the vaccination programme this year: 1) Refresher training and up-skilling for those pharmacists trained for the 2011-12 winter 'flu season; 2) a full programme for registered pharmacists with no previous seasonal influenza vaccination training. Parameters for this training will be established following the Council meeting in consultation with the key decision-makers in the Department of Health and the HSE.

The Acting Registrar also explained that an Accrediting Body is required and this will be addressed at Agenda item 3.5 (Mechanism to appoint an Accrediting Body for Vaccination Skills training).

In order to progress these outstanding issues Ms McGoldrick proposed that a working-group of Council members be established which would consist of the President, Vice President, Chair of the Chairpersons Committee and Chairs of Pharmacy Practice Development and the Professional Development and Learning Committees. An additional meeting of Council may be required to recognise the training body/bodies and to approve the course(s) of training. It was also noted that the PSI's guidance on the influenza service required to be updated. Ms McGoldrick explained that work was underway on identifying potential training providers.

Ms. K. O'Flaherty confirmed that the PPD Unit has begun work on revising the PSI's guidance to pharmacists on the provision of seasonal influenza vaccination services and will consult with the pharmacy working group established by the PSI in 2011 in order to establish the most effective ways to incorporate training into pharmacy practice. Pharmacists are to be reminded, in both guidance and training, to exercise their professional judgement at all times.

In response to a question on the implications of the revised guidance from National Immunisation Advisory Committee in the context of the new dose of 0.5ml for children, it was explained that the 'black line' mark, which for this country had become redundant, would most likely remain in use in EU countries where the 0.25ml children's dose of the vaccine concerned continued to be used and which involved the use in all of these countries of the harmonised SMPC.

Concern was raised about the short time-frame for rolling-out the training in time for this year's season. Dr. L. Horgan explained that knowledge-based self-directed learning prior to the live training event would be given greater weight, along with greater follow up and assurance procedures post training, similar to that carried out in the US and Canada.

Ms. K. O'Flaherty indicated, in answer to a query about the efficiency of distribution of vaccines, that this is controlled by the National Immunisation Office in the HSE. Vaccines have to date been distributed geographically to GPs and pharmacists and the intention is that a more accurate list of pharmacy requirements will be available this year and will be coordinated with GP distribution.

Ms. K. O'Flaherty indicated that the expectation is that the PSI will take ownership of certain of the steps to be taken in establishing an influenza vaccination service by pharmacists, but is not the formally designated lead-agency. It is expected that all relevant stakeholders will collaborate to ensure a safe and positive outcome for patients.

The President thanked everyone involved in the Report for their work and confirmed that the PSI will issue the report to the Minister for Health and publish it on the PSI website. Letters of thanks are to be issued to all members of the Risk Review Group and to the stakeholders who engaged in the process.

The Report of the Risk Review Group was unanimously endorsed.

Action² : Registrar's Office

3.4 Interim Accreditation Standards for Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Training Programmes for Pharmacists (Sent: 19th June 2012)

Dr. L. Horgan indicated that the Interim Accreditation Standards which are presented for Council's decision today, are to be used for the upcoming 2012-13 influenza vaccination season. The interim accreditation standards have been revised and updated to take account of the Guidance approved by Council at its meeting on 29th September

2011 and the recommendations of the Report of the Risk Review Group. In addition, the PSI's Core Competency Framework document was also incorporated. A public consultation on the generic interim accreditation standards for formal programmes of learning will take place in quarter three of this year.

Dr. Horgan pointed out that Council's approval is sought for these interim standards today and outlined that the document was presented in two parts: Part One is the revised Generic Interim Accreditation Standards for Formal Programmes of Learning for Pharmacy in Ireland and Part Two extends to Additional Accreditation Standards Specific to Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Training Programmes for Pharmacists.

The Generic Interim Accreditation Standards for Formal Programmes of Learning for Pharmacy in Ireland and the Additional Accreditation Standards Specific to Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Training Programmes for Pharmacists were unanimously approved.

Action³ : Professional Development and Learning Unit

3.5 Mechanism to Appoint an Accrediting Body for Vaccination Skills training 2012/2013 Winter Flu Season (Sent: 19th June 2012)

Dr. L. Horgan outlined that Council will be requested to approve the process that will allow for the appointment of an accrediting body for the purposes of reviewing, on behalf of Council of the PSI, a proposed programme(s) of education and training in seasonal influenza vaccination to be delivered as follows: (i) Refresher training and up-skilling for pharmacists trained for the 2011-12 winter 'flu season; and (ii) a full programme for registered pharmacists with no previous seasonal influenza vaccination training.

Dr. Horgan reiterated that the document before Council today sets out the basis for a mechanism for appointing an accrediting body for the 2012-13 season only.

In order to expedite the procedure within the timeframe available and to ensure a robust review and accreditation process be carried out, Council was asked to agree that a working group be established, as suggested by the Acting Registrar. The key priorities for this working group are: 1) approval of an appropriate accrediting body and 2) approval of the PSI guidance on provision of the seasonal influenza vaccine.

Dr. Horgan confirmed that inquiries will be made of the three schools of pharmacy to establish if they wish to be designated as an accrediting body, as they meet the criteria for the minimum standards required. In the absence of a body wishing to be designated, the PSI will carry out the functions of the accrediting body.

In addition and in parallel to these activities, a call for expressions of interest will be issued to the provider(s) in Ireland of training in seasonal influenza vaccination training for pharmacists. Priority will be given to the refresher/top up training for those pharmacists who took part in the programme in 2011/12.

The Mechanism to Appoint an Accrediting Body for Vaccination Skills training 2012/2013 Winter Flu Season was unanimously approved.

Action⁴ : Professional Development and Learning Unit

3.6 Cost Analysis for 5 Year Integrated MPharm Programme (Presentation by Dr. Frank O'Donnell, PA Consulting).

The President reminded the meeting that at its Council meeting held on 6th December 2011, Council made a decision, in line with the recommendation contained in the PEARs Report, to commission a report into the costs of operating the new programme. The recommendation was reflected in the Service Plan for PD&L for 2012.

The President introduced Dr. Frank O'Donnell, Country Partner Ireland of PA Consulting, to present PA's findings of the analysis of the costs of delivering a five-year fully integrated programme in pharmacy. The President then asked Ms. Marian Shanley, Chair of the National Forum, to give a brief introduction. She indicated that the objective was not to identify the fee to be charged by the academic institutions but to establish the cost at an aggregate level to the three Schools of Pharmacy.

Dr. O'Donnell set out the background and context to the project and outlined the objectives:

- Analysis of the cost of delivering the existing programme for each of the three schools of pharmacy, including actual and predicted funding shortfalls
- Examination of the current pay and non-pay costs across the three schools and identification of any potential saving opportunities through cooperation / shared services
- Analysis of other comparable integrated degrees already in place nationally and internationally
- Assessment of the likely cost of providing the new integrated model over a 5 year period including establishment and on-going costs
- High level funding sources from the perspective of student funding and other government funding.

The conclusions of the presentation were:

- The current delivery models have significant variation in staffing, contact hours and overall costs and when compared internationally there would seem to be some opportunity for savings
- The likely costs for year 5 of the integrated 5 year MPharm degree suggest a fee level that would be broadly acceptable in comparable markets and in line with the career pathways available to registered pharmacists
- There is a clear basis for progressing the work of the National Forum, along with the three institutions, to develop the next level of design and to explore genuine options for cost sharing and efficiencies in the delivery of the programme

Ms. M. Shanley said that the key figure of between €5,000-6,000 could be considered to be a sustainable figure and should allow the work of the National Forum to proceed. Ms. Shanley believed that a fair and equitable cost to students could be set by the academic institutions that should not negatively impact on the institutions. Ms. Shanley also indicated that there will be a gradual roll-out of the programme over a 5 year period, overlapping with the NPIP, and that this will allow for a period of adjustment. She informed the Council that she had been assured by the schools of pharmacy that curriculum development would not hold up the process.

Ms. R. Purcell asked that additional stress-testing be carried out on the figures to establish the impact of the additional cost on students. Bearing this proviso in mind, the President asked for Council's approval of the findings to enable the National Forum to continue their work.

Council unanimously approved the Cost Analysis for the 5 Year Integrated MPharm Programme

Action⁵ : Professional Development and Learning Unit

3.7 TCQR applicants whose qualification can be considered a 'qualification appropriate for practice' and the approval of their impending application to register (Sent: 19th June 2012)

Mr. J. Collins provided the Council with details of the three Third Country applicants who had passed the Professional Registration Examination (PRE) held on 2nd May 2012. The PRE is the final stage in the "Recognition of a Third Country Qualification as a Qualification appropriate for practice in Ireland" process as required under Rule 18 of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (Registration) Rules 2008. He reported that five candidates had undertaken the examination.

It is proposed that each of these applicants be issued with the required Certificate confirming that they shall be regarded as having a qualification appropriate for practice in Ireland and will therefore be eligible to apply for registration as a pharmacist.

It is also proposed that, if any of the three applicants concerned submits an application for registration which is valid, complete and complies with the criteria for registration set down in Schedule 1 to the PSI (Registration) Rules 2008, and no issues are identified by the Registrar in its processing, that they be registered in the Register of Pharmacists.

Council unanimously decided that the named individuals be considered as having a qualification appropriate for practice and that the appropriate cert may be issued to that effect. Council also decided that if any of the applicants were to make an application for registration as a pharmacist and that if no issues were identified, that they be registered in the Register of Pharmacist.

Action⁶: Registration and Qualification Recognition Unit

3.8 Revised Syllabus for the Equivalence Exam (Sent: 19th June 2012)

The Third Country Qualification Recognition (TCQR) Process is for people who have obtained a qualification as a pharmacist from a Non-EU/EEA country, regardless of their nationality. Access to the Register of Pharmacists by these persons is a two-step process; the first is that the pharmacist's qualification must be recognised as one which is "appropriate for practice" in accordance with Section 16 of the Act, the second is the registration of that person in accordance with Section 14 of the Act.

The TCQR process comprises four separate stages which the applicant must complete in order to have their qualification recognised as one which is "appropriate for practice". The equivalence examination forms part of Stage 2 of this process and comprises an examination and assessment which were designed to assess the standard of training, education, examination and qualification of applicants and to determine whether an applicant holds a qualification which is of a standard not lower than the standard of those necessary for practice in Ireland. The applicant must successfully complete Stage 2 of the process, the Equivalence Exam in order to be eligible to proceed to Stage 3 of the process, completion of an Adaptation period.

The original syllabus for the Third Country Qualification Route Equivalence Examination, which was approved by the Council of the PSI, has now been revised and was approved by the Professional Development and Learning Committee at its meeting on 28th May 2012.

The revised syllabus includes more detailed information about the structure of the Equivalence Exam and includes details on standard setting and quality assurance than the previous version. Some small amendments were made to the content of the syllabus itself to bring the language and terminology up to date and to include references to pharmacy legislation and the principles contained within the Code of Conduct for Pharmacists which were absent from the previous version.

The approval of the Council of the revised Syllabus for the Third Country Qualification Route Equivalence Examination is now sought. Once approved this syllabus will be valid from July 2012. The next sitting of the Equivalence Exam is on 28th August 2012. Ms. L. Crimin confirmed that students had been given two full months notice of the revised syllabus.

Revised Syllabus for the Equivalence Exam was unanimously approved by Council.

Action⁷: Registration and Qualification Recognition Unit

3.9 Methotrexate Guidelines (Sent: 19th June 2012)

Ms. M. Doherty explained that some amendments had been made to the Methotrexate Guidelines since they were last presented to Council at their meeting on 24th May 2012. The amendments are intended to highlight the key points made in the document. In addition, Ms. K. O'Flaherty confirmed that advice had been given by literacy groups on how to ensure that labelling is as clear as possible.

The draft guidance has been developed in consultation with Medication Safety Forum, HSE Medication Safety and other stakeholders including Dr Aisling O'Leary in RCSI and patient group Arthritis Ireland, all of whose input was very valuable. This revised PSI guidance is part of wider initiative for all relevant agencies to progress safety initiatives around this medicine.

The document was also presented to the Medication Safety Forum meeting held on 29th May.

The President praised the clear and concise nature of the document and the fact that it provides the pharmacist the opportunity to exercise their professional judgement at all times.

The Draft Guidance for Pharmacists on Safe Supply of Oral Methotrexate was unanimously approved.

Action⁸: Pharmacy Practice Development Unit

Prof. Ciaran O'Boyle left the meeting at this point.

3.10 Confidential: PSI Contract with Convention Centre Dublin (CCD) (Sent: 19th June 2012)

The President indicated that due to the commercial sensitivity of this document, it would be taken as the first item on the Agenda of the Private meeting which would start immediately after the Public meeting.

3.11 FIP Centennial Declaration (Sent: 22nd June 2012)

The President introduced the FIP Centennial Declaration entitled 'Improving Global Health by Closing Gaps in the Development, Distribution, and Responsible Use of Medicine' which had been circulated by email to Council members on 22nd June 2012. He explained that this declaration is to be signed by Member Organisations and presented to the Health Ministers' Summit to be held at the FIP 2012 Congress in Amsterdam in October 2012. The President requested Council's permission to sign on behalf of the PSI.

The signing of the FIP Centennial Declaration was unanimously agreed.

3.12 Terms of Office of Audit Committee members (Sent: 19th June 2012)

Ms. C. McGoldrick confirmed that the Terms of Office of Audit Committee members Ms Eugenie Canavan and Mr. Dermot Magan come to an end on 28th September 2012.

It was recommended that Ms. Canavan and Mr. Magan be re-appointed for a period of three years, ending 28th September 2015.

Ms. M. Ní Longaín recommended these appointments to Council.

Terms of Office of Audit Committee members Ms Eugenie Canavan and Mr. Dermot McGann were unanimously approved.

Action⁹: Registrar's Office

3.13 Draft Communications Strategy (Sent: 19th June 2012)

The President commended the document and said that it incorporated much of the feedback from the informal meeting of Council held on 5th December 2011. He requested that Council members email any comments on the document to Ms. K. O'Flaherty and that these would be taken into consideration in the final document.

3.14 Reports of the External Examiners for the PRE (Sent: 19th June 2012)

The reports of the External Examiners were taken as read.

Action¹⁰: Professional Development and Learning Unit

3.15 Appointment of Examiners for PRE: 2012/2013 (Sent: 19th June 2012)

Dr. L. Horgan requested Council to note that the PD&L Committee had, at its meeting held on 29 May last, approved the following appointments for the October 2012 and May 2013 sittings of the PRE:

External Examiners

- Prof. David Croke, FRCPath (proposed by the RCSI), Director of Quality Enhancement, RCSI
- Dr. Anne-Marie Healy, MPSI, Director of Teaching & Learning (Undergraduate), School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, Trinity College Dublin
- Prof. Caitriona O'Driscoll, MPSI, Head of School of Pharmacy, UCC (Council Member)

- Prof. Peter Weedle, MPSI, community pharmacist and retail pharmacy business owner/adjunct Professor of Clinical Pharmacy Practice at the School of Pharmacy, UCC

Appeals Examiners

- Ms. Leonie Clarke, MPSI (Council member)

Council noted the appointments of the External Examiners for PRE 2012/2013.

Action¹¹: Professional Development and Learning Unit

3.16 Letter from Secretary General, Department of Health to Chairpersons of Non-Commercial State Agencies (Sent: 19th June 2012)

Ms. C. McGoldrick confirmed that a letter had been received from the Secretary General of the Department of Health dated 8th June 2012 requesting full disclosure of salaries and conditions pertaining to CEOs, Chairpersons, Non-Executive Directors and Executive Directors of agencies under the aegis of the Department of Health. The letter requested that details of travel, subsistence and other payments should also be disclosed.

Ms. C. McGoldrick confirmed that a reply had issued to the Secretary General of the Department of Health in response to his letter which indicated that the requested information is already included in the PSI's Annual Report.

Action¹²: Registrar's Office/Administration and Finance Unit

3.17 Report from the Audit Committee (Sent: 19th June 2012)

Ms. M. Ní Longaín reported that the Audit Committee had reviewed the PSI's high level risks from the Risk Register and is satisfied that appropriate controls are in place and that the risk management policy and guidelines are being adhered to. The Committee was informed that an internal competition process had taken place for the position of Acting Registrar and that Council had approved the appointment of Ms. Ciara McGoldrick. The Committee was also informed that the PSI had written to the Department of Health to seek approval to recruit a permanent Registrar. The Committee suggested adding a strategic risk to the Risk Register in relation to the delay that may be incurred waiting for approval from the Department of Health to recruit a permanent Registrar.

The Audit Committee is currently carrying out the annual review of its Charter and is reviewing the Good Faith Reporting Policy to ensure that it takes into consideration the Protected Disclosure in the Public Interest Bill 2012, which is currently going through the Houses of the Oireachtas.

With regard to the PSI's property, the Audit Committee were updated on progress to date and informed that the second stage of the tender process was underway and that the completed design had been issued to the eight contractors who were randomly selected as part of the procurement process and that the closing date for receipt of tenders was 14th of June 2012. Ms. C. McGoldrick confirmed that tenders were received and are currently being evaluated. Ms McGoldrick also confirmed that meetings with tenants in PSI/Wilson House are also in train.

The Audit Committee were provided with a verbal update on the management accounts up to 31st of March 2012, in advance of circulation of the accounts to the Administration and Finance Committee for review at their meeting held on 12th June 2012. The Committee was informed that the PSI was ahead of target at this stage.

Mr. A. Horan requested that a copy of the Risk Register be placed on the Agenda for the next Council meeting which is to be held on 19th September 2012.

Action¹³: Registrar's Office

3.18 'National Forum for Pharmacy Education & Accreditation: quarterly report of the Forum Chairperson' (Sent: 19th June 2012)

Ms. M. Shanley presented her report on developments since her last report to Council on 24th March 2012.

Her report focussed on the following key areas: 1) Funding, 2) Curriculum Development, 3) Office of Experiential Learning; 4) Interim Programme and 5) Stakeholder Engagement.

Ms. Shanley confirmed that the Office of Experiential Learning will be run by a National Co-ordinator. A draft Job Description has been drawn up and work is progressing on this issue.

Ms. Shanley also indicated that the decision on how the Interim Programme will be managed is dependent on the outcome of the funding analysis.

Ms. Shanley also reported on meetings held with tutor pharmacists in Galway at the IPU annual conference, which had been very positive. There was broad support for a dedicated support system for tutors and recognition to be given, for example, in the area of CPD.

Ms. Shanley also confirmed that Ms. Ciara McGoldrick had met with the National Forum and assured them of the PSI's continuing support following the departure of Dr. Ambrose McLoughlin.

In answer to a question about the overall cost to students of undertaking pharmacy education, Ms. Shanley indicated that it was difficult to predict the level of fees which would be required in the future for higher education or professional programmes.

It remains Council's intention that 2013 would be retained as the desired start date for the first cohort undertaking the five year integrated programme.

Action¹⁴: Professional Development and Learning Unit

3.19 Irish Institute of Pharmacy: update on implementation (Sent: 19th June 2012)

Dr. L. Horgan indicated that her report is made in line with the commitment to Council to provide a quarterly report on the progress of the Irish Institute of Pharmacy.

Dr. Horgan confirmed that a high level of activity is underway on the IIoP and she outlined the following information to Council:

- Following the submission to the HSE of the PSI/RCSI strategic intent for the IIoP in early March 2012, at the HSE's request, the HSE is giving serious consideration to the business case submitted by the PSI in December 2011 to the extent that the HSE is drafting a service-level agreement to discuss with the RCSI
- RCSI and the PSI are working intensively to develop processes and matters progressed include a 'commissioning and accreditation process' (first draft reviewed by PD&L Committee at its 29 May 2012 meeting), the IIoP's corporate governance framework, data sharing agreement. Documentation cannot proceed to approval due to the 'condition precedent' clause present in the PSI/RCSI contract which requires a minimum level of third party funding.
- Applications to register the domain names 'instituteofpharmacy.ie' and 'pharmacyinstitute.ie' have been submitted on behalf of the PSI by the RCSI to HEAnet in May 2012
- In a letter dated 13 June 2012, RCSI has given PSI a deadline of 28 September 2012 at which point it will review its position regarding its involvement in the IIoP.
- Letter has been issued to the CEO of the HSE by the PSI Acting Registrar (with copy to the Chairman of the HSE and to the HSE's National Director for Integrated Services) appending the 13.06.2012 letter from Cathal Kelly.

- The Acting Registrar has arranged a meeting with the HSE on 6th July at which it is hoped to resolve these issues.

The President reassured Council that matters are in hand to progress the establishment of the IIoP.

Action¹⁵: Professional Development and Learning Unit

4 Council Members' Time

The President thanked Ms. J. Aylward, Secretary to Council, for her work over the past four years. Ms Aylward had announced her intention to resign from the PSI in the coming weeks.

The meeting concluded at 1.00pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____