

Minutes

The Public session of the 35th meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland established under the Pharmacy Act 2007, was held at 9.30am on Wednesday 28th March 2012 at the D4 Berkeley Court Hotel, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

Present: Mr. P. Fahey (President), Mr. E. Hanly (Vice President), Mr. J. Collins, Mr. J. Corr, Ms. M. Doherty, Dr. A. Frankish, Dr. J. Holohan, Ms. I. Kelleher, Ms. D. Larkin, Ms. M. Ní Longáin, Mr. F. Murphy, Prof. C. O'Boyle, Prof. C. O'Driscoll, Mr. K. O'Hourihane, Ms. R. Purcell and Mr. N. Stenson.

PSI staff in attendance: Dr. A. McLoughlin (Registrar), Ms. J. Aylward, Mr. J. Bryan, Ms. L. Crimin, Ms. R. Cunniffe, Dr. L. Horgan, Ms. C. McGoldrick, Dr. C. Nestor, Ms. K. O'Flaherty, Mr. S. O'hAodha, Mr. T. Reilly, Dr. C. Stokes and Ms. E. Troy,

1. Apologies

Ms. L. Clarke, Mr. A. Horan, Prof. K. McDonald and Mr. F. O'Cuinneagáin

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. 32 and 34 (Sent: 21st March 2012)

The Minutes of meeting No. 33 held on 31st January 2012 were unanimously approved

Proposed and Seconded by:

1. Mr. E. Hanly
2. Ms. D. Larkin

Minutes of meeting No. 34 held on 27th February 2012 were unanimously approved.

Proposed and seconded by:

1. Mr. F. Murphy
2. Mr. E. Hanly

Action¹ : Registrar's Office

3.2 Registrar's Report (Sent: 21st March 2012)

The Registrar briefly outlined the key areas of work since the last update given at the meeting held on 31st January 2012. This included the following:

- Ms. K. O'Flaherty reported that following the recent meeting with Minister Shortall's office regarding benzodiazepines, a further meeting will be arranged in the coming weeks.
- The Registrar confirmed that the PSI had provided updated information on RPBs to the HSE in order to update the HSE Health Atlas.
- Dr. L Horgan reported that meetings had recently taken place with the RCSI and with the HSE and that progress was being made in establishing the Irish Institute of Pharmacy. The Registrar thanked the Irish Centre for Continuing Pharmaceutical Education and the representative bodies for supporting the establishment of the Institute. The Registrar confirmed that he will continue to keep Council fully briefed on progress in this area.
- The planned meeting with PSNI to discuss FIP 2013 was postponed, to be re-arranged; Council Select Committee for FIP met on 21st March 2012.
- Modernisation of the Professional Qualifications Directive – the PSI will meet with other Regulators in the Health and Social Care Regulatory area to collaborate on a submission in this area.
- Further Legal advice regarding the status of UK 4-year rule including possible remedial action that may be taken, has been received by the PSI and has been forwarded to the Department of Health for appropriate action.
- In the Inspection and Enforcement area, the Registrar confirmed that collaboration and information sharing is taking place with other bodies, including An Garda Síochána.
- Fitness to Practise and Legal Affairs: a meeting has been arranged with the representative body to share information to facilitate more structured interaction.

3.3 Annual Report and Financial Statements 2011 (Sent 21st March 2012)

The Registrar indicated that the PSI is in full and complete compliance with the Department of Finance requirements and that the report shows a high level of transparency regarding expenses and meetings. He confirmed that the layout of the Annual Report had been re-designed as a result of feedback from Council members. He stated that the Financial Statements for 2011 had been audited and certified by the PSI Auditors, Ann Brady McQuillan DFK. The Financial Statements had been reviewed by both the Administration and Finance and the Audit Committees. He thanked the Administration and Finance Committee and its Chairperson, Ms. R. Purcell, for their work. Ms. R. Purcell said the Committee had confidence in the information contained in the report, which demonstrated full disclosure. She thanked the Administration and Finance Unit. The Registrar commended the report and particularly thanked Dr. C. Stokes for her work in co-ordinating and compiling the report. The President also thanked Dr. C. Stokes for her work in producing complex information with such clarity. The Registrar advised that the Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2011 will be submitted to the Minister for Health by 31st March 2012 in line with Schedule 1 of the Pharmacy Act 2007.

The Annual Report and Financial Statements 2011 were unanimously approved.

Proposed and seconded:

1. Prof. C. O'Boyle 2. Ms. D. Larkin

Action² : Registrar's Office

3.4 Appointment of Presiding Officer and Alternate Presiding Officer (Sent 21st March 2012))

In relation to the procedure for the Election of Council President and Vice President and in accordance with Rule 17(4) of the PSI (Council) Rules 2008) which provides that, “at the last meeting of the Council held before the 22nd of May in each year, the Council shall appoint a presiding officer, and an alternate presiding officer who is available to act in the event that the presiding officer is not in a position to act and neither of whom shall be members of the Council”, the following were nominated to fill these roles:

Dr. Cheryl Stokes - Presiding Officer
Mr. Tom McGuinn - Alternate Presiding Officer

The above nominations were unanimously approved.

Action³ : Registrar’s Office

3.5 Eligibility criteria for tutor pharmacists and training placements (Sent: 21st March 2012)

Mr. N. Stenson reported that this document had been considered by the PD&L Committee at its meeting on 28th February 2012. The objective of the document is to clarify and set out clear eligibility criteria to apply for recognition as a tutor pharmacist or as a training establishment in the event of convictions and/or disciplinary sanctions. A new intake of interns will begin in July/August of this year and so there is a need for this document. Mr. Stenson indicated that each case will be managed individually and also indicated that an appeals process will be considered as part of the procedures to be established to give effect to these criteria.

Eligibility criteria for tutor pharmacists and training placements were unanimously approved.

Action⁴ : Professional Development and Learning Unit

3.6 Bachelor of Science (Pharmacy)/Bachelor of Pharmacy Accreditation Standards: Interim accreditation standards for the Bachelor of Science (Pharmacy)/Bachelor of Pharmacy Undergraduate Degree Programmes in Pharmacy (Sent: 21st March 2012)

Mr. N. Stenson indicated that three documents had been presented for Council’s consideration today – a report on the outcome of the consultation process; a ‘clean’ version of the document along and a ‘tracked changes’ version which was produced following the consultation.

The Interim Accreditation Standards have been developed to ensure that the undergraduate pharmacy degree programmes recognised and approved by the Council of the PSI meet the stated requirements, in the period before the integrated programme takes effect. Mr. N. Stenson explained that there is a need to have the documents approved today so that the Schools of Pharmacy can start to work with them in preparation for the accreditation visit later in 2012 or early 2013. Mr. N. Stenson outlined that the membership of the Expert Group which developed the draft standards included the following: Mr. Philip Green, Prof. Keith Wilson, Ms. Cicely Roche and Mr. Tom McGuinn.

The draft interim standards were subject to a public consultation process and were reviewed by the PD&L Committee on a number of occasions. Prof. C. O’Driscoll confirmed that comments from UCC were incorporated into the document before Council today.

The Interim accreditation standards for the Bachelor of Science (Pharmacy)/Bachelor of Pharmacy Undergraduate Degree Programmes in Pharmacy were unanimously approved.

Action⁵ : Professional Development and Learning Unit

3.7 Proposal to Council to increase representation on National Forum (Sent: 21st March 2012)

The National Forum for Pharmacy Education and Accreditation proposes that the representation on the Forum of Community Pharmacists should be increased from one member to two. It was explained that as Community

Pharmacists makes up to 85% of the profession, their presence on the National Forum should be increased to two to more adequately reflect that proportion. It was also explained that there is also a wide range of community pharmacy structures within the profession and an increase in membership as proposed would ensure that as many views as possible would be available to the Forum.

On this basis, Ms. Ann Teresa Morgan, who was the Alternate Community Pharmacist, is proposed as the second community pharmacist member of the Forum. There are two vacant positions for Alternate Community Pharmacists. The President confirmed that these appointments would be made in line with the procedure previously approved by Council.

Ms. Shanley named the Forum members:

Mr. Eoghan Hanly, Vice-President of the Council of Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland
Mr. William Reddy, Health Service Executive
Ms. Mary Kerr, Deputy Chief Executive of Higher Education Authority
Mr. Pat MacGovern, formerly of the Irish Development Authority (IDA)
Prof. Paul Gallagher, Head of School of Pharmacy, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
Prof. Marek Radomski, Head of School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Trinity College Dublin
Prof. Caitriona O'Driscoll, Head of School of Pharmacy, University College Cork
Ms. Mairead Lyons, Head of Services, Irish Cancer Society
Mr. John Barry, Community Pharmacist
Ms. Anne Teresa Morgan, Community Pharmacist
Ms. Evelyn Deasy, Hospital Pharmacist
Ms. Maura Kinahan, Industry Pharmacist
Prof. Robert Sindelar, University of British Columbia
Mr. Terence Smeaton, Third Year Student Pharmacist

The Proposal to Council to increase representation on National Forum, as above, was unanimously approved.

Action⁶ : Professional Development and Learning Unit

3.8 Core Competency Framework (Sent: 21st March 2012)

Ms. M. Doherty explained that the Council had three documents in front of them today – the finalised Core Competency Framework for adoption; the ‘tracked changes’ version showing changes from the draft issued for consultation and a report on the main outcomes of the consultation process.

The adoption of a core competency framework for pharmacists was a key recommendation of both the PEARs project report and the review of CPD, and is an important aspect of the implementation of both these policy agendas.

The draft Core Competency Framework, following approval by the Pharmacy Practice Development Committee, had been opened for consultation and the nature of responses indicated a very positive engagement by the profession. Much of the feedback related to how the framework would apply to practitioners, specifically in the area of supporting CPD, and this feedback will be hugely useful in on-going policy development in this area. In addition, as can be seen from the ‘tracked changes’ document, the feedback and input from the profession was important in finalising the framework and many amendments were made based on points raised in submissions, making the consultation a particularly beneficial ‘listening’ exercise for the Council.

Council was informed that following some final quality assurance around the language in the framework and from a legal perspective, the framework would be prepared for publication and dissemination to the profession. The finalised framework will be the basis for development of educational standards for the five-year integrated Masters degree and the development of tools to assist pharmacists with CPD and practice development.

Ms Doherty, on behalf of the Pharmacy Practice Development Committee thanked and acknowledged the input and assistance of a range of people, especially all those who responded to the consultation, to the practitioners who participated in the expert workshop, occupational psychologist Michelle Canny HSE for her valuable input, FIP

Pharmacy Education Taskforce, and in particular to Dr. Cora Nestor in the PSI executive for her able management of this important project on behalf of Council.

The President thanked the PPD Committee and the PPD Unit for their work in preparing this document.

On behalf of the PPD Unit, Ms. K. O'Flaherty thanked Dr. L. Horgan for her guidance and expertise in the preparation of the document.

The President then congratulated Dr. Horgan on the recent conferral of her Doctorate in Education.

The Core Competency Framework document was unanimously approved.

Action⁷ : Pharmacy Practice Development Unit

3.9 Appointment to PSI Advisory Committees (Sent: 21st March 2012)

The President, Vice-President and Registrar of the PSI propose the appointment of Mr. Fachtna Murphy to the following Committees for a period of two years commencing 28th March 2012:

- Administration and Finance
- Inspection and Enforcement

The President and Registrar thanked Mr. F. Murphy for agreeing to join these committees. The Registrar announced that Dr. Jean Holohan would step down from the Administration and Finance Committee and thanked her for her work on this Committee.

The appointment of Mr. Fachtna Murphy to the Administration and to the Finance and Inspection and Enforcement Committees, for a period of two years commencing 28th March 2012, was unanimously approved.

Action⁸ : Registrar's Office

3.13 Motion: Delegation of Council in relation to its functions under Section 56(3) of the Pharmacy Act 2007 (sent: 28th March 2012)

Ms. C. McGoldrick explained that this Motion before Council today would allow delegation of Council's function under Section 56(3) (a) and (b) of the Pharmacy Act to the Registrar. These sub-sections provide that:

“For the purposes of Section 56(3) to delegate to the Registrar, where the Registrar knows who the employer of a pharmacist is, the task of notifying the employer of a pharmacist

- (a) where the Court or the Council has taken any action specified in section 56(1), or
- (b) where it has come to the Council's attention that corresponding action of the kind referred to in section 56(2) has been taken in relation to the pharmacist.”

The Delegation of Council in relation to its function under Section 56(3) of the Pharmacy Act 2007 was unanimously approved

Proposed and seconded:

1. Ms. R. Purcell
2. Ms. M. Ní Longáin

Action⁹ : Fitness to Practice and Legal Affairs Unit

3.10 Nomination of PD&L Committee member as observer of the PSNI Education Committee

Mr. N. Stenson reminded Council that the PSI Advisory Committees have had a reciprocal arrangement with the PSNI to nominate an Observer to attend its Committee meetings. As Ms. Ita Kelleher had indicated her wish to

step down from her role as PD&L Committee observer on the PSNI Education Committee, the process to appoint her successor is in train. Pending the appointment of a new PD&L Committee nominee, Mr. Stenson indicated that he would attend the next meeting at the PSNI on behalf of the PD&L Committee.

3.11 Quarterly report of the Chair of the National Forum for Pharmacy Education & Accreditation (Sent: 21st March 2012)

Ms. M. Shanley explained that her report focused on the four distinct areas that were required to be addressed concurrently in order to advance the introduction of a five year fully integrated degree. These were: 1) Funding; 2) Curriculum Development; 3) Office of Experiential Learning; and 4) Interim Programme.

In the area of funding, Ms. Shanley indicated that a proposal had been issued for a funding analysis and it was hoped to have a response by end May.

Following a meeting of the Curriculum Development and Assessment sub-forum, Ms. Shanley indicated that it was agreed that the framework for the five year integrated programme that appeared to best meet the needs of all the stakeholders was a 4/6 month block in fourth year and an eight month block in fifth year and that this model will be submitted for Council's approval once the funding analysis is complete. Ms. Shanley also confirmed that the PSI is facilitating the National Forum in holding a one day seminar/workshop with experts in the area of integrated curriculum development at the end of April.

In relation to the Office of Experiential Learning, Ms. Shanley confirmed that the National Forum will be concentrating on the development, governance, structure and funding of this office over the next three months.

Ms Shanley confirmed that a meeting with TCD had been held to discuss interim arrangements for the Interim programme. As Council are aware, RCSI is delivering an interim intern year on behalf of the PSI until the end of the 2012/2013 academic year. The arrangements following that date will be a matter for consideration by Council of the PSI.

Ms. Shanley also indicated that a number of other matters were being progressed by the Forum, one of which was imminent engagement with tutor pharmacists. The National Forum will also begin engagement with hospital, regulatory and industry settings to begin the process of establishing placements that will offer the best possible experience for the student.

In response to a question regarding the transition to the fully integrated programme from the current 4+1 arrangement, Ms. Shanley indicated that it may be useful to engage with the nursing profession to identify the issues encountered in the roll-out of the nursing degree and lessons that may be applicable for the pharmacy degree.

The President thanked Ms. Shanley for her report.

3.12 PSI presentation to the IMB Consultative Panel on the Legal Classification of Medicines (Sent: 21st March 2012)

Dr. C. Nestor explained that she is the PSI nominee on the IMB Consultative Panel on the Legal Classification of Medicines and was invited to give an overview of the presentation she had recently given to the Panel. This presentation provides an overview of the PSI's policy position and relevant developments in pharmacy in the context of the implementation of the Pharmacy Act 2007.

Ms. R. Purcell said, speaking as the IMB director co-ordinating the work of the Panel, that it was very helpful to have PSI representation on the Panel. She confirmed that all views will inform the IMB's work on this.

Dr. C. Nestor and the PPD Unit were congratulated on their work in this area and on the presentation. It was recommended that the presentation be uploaded to the PSI website.

The meeting ended at 11.10