

RCN Students Committee Meeting

14th and 15th January 2011



RCN HQ, Room G05

NOTES

In attendance: Saffron Brown (SB), Claire Barber (CB – 14th only), Craig Dominique-Smith (CDS), Susan Doyle (SD), Joy Griffiths (JG – 15th only), Jayne Parker (JP), Michelle Watt (MW), Andrew Wyllie (AW), Stuart Young (SY), Louise Dorman (LD – Board Member for Northern Ireland)

Apologies: Lisa Oluyinka (LO), Alexis Mackenzie-Slight (AMS), Tamara Morgan (TM), Phil Schneider (PS), Joanne Sharkey (JS), Paul Young (PY),

Staff: Tegan Davies (TD) Notes, Gill Robertson (GR)

11/01 Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the committee to the meeting. Apologies were received as noted above. The Chair welcomed Louise Dorman, Board Member for Northern Ireland.

11/02 Declaration of Interests

None received.

11/03 The RCN response to the White Paper

Stuart Abrahams briefed the committee on the RCN's response to the government white paper '*Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS*'. The committee noted the key proposals contained in the white paper, the consultation with members, and the RCN's response. Stuart drew the committee's attention to the following current consultations: '*Vision for Social Care*', '*Healthy Lives, Healthy People*', and the '*Future of Education*' and urged the committee to respond. SY reported that the RCN's response to the white paper had been widely publicised. SY noted the value of the data gathered through the Frontline First campaign. GR reminded the committee to encourage members (and lecturers) to contribute to the education section of the Frontline First website.

In response to a question from SD, Stuart confirmed that the RCN was very aware of its members in the independent sector and that the RCN's response to the White Paper reflects this.

The committee discussed the confusion and uncertainty amongst some diploma students regarding their future prospects.

ACTION: GR to include reassurance/clarity for diploma students on the front page of the student zone, in time for March qualifiers.

11/04 RCN Students Committee Projects

The committee discussed and updated the action plan. See appendix 1.

11/05 Communications Update

Kim Bell updated the committee on the transfer from *The Answer* magazine to *RCN Students* (see appendix 2 for background). The committee approved the proposal to publish a hard copy magazine twice a year (to coincide with Congress and the August recruitment), supplemented by a monthly e-update. The e-zine would start in May.

In response to a question from JP, Kim confirmed that the colours and fonts used would meet accessibility criteria.

CB asked if regional updates would continue. Kim advised that, as the copy has to be written so far in advance, they were finding that the regional updates were often out of date by the time of publication.

Kim encouraged the committee to continue to contribute news items and article ideas.

Kim briefed the committee on the March edition.

ACTION: committee to bring ideas for the next edition/next e-zine to the March meeting.

CDS confirmed that he would be taking on the communications/Facebook role, as Consultant Editor of the student magazine. CDS asked that the committee as a whole takes responsibility for updating the Facebook page (either directly or by forwarding ideas/events/news to CDS). CDS advised that the Facebook pages had been a little slow over the Christmas period, but generally experienced a positive response.

ACTION: CDS to add his report following his trip to Washington to the Wiki.

ACTION: GR's briefing paper on the White Paper and link to the consultation to be added to Facebook.

CDS discussed how to engage SIOs. GR advised that the SIO was primarily a signposting role.

SY asked that the committee members contribute to the student area of the Discussion Zone.

11/06 Virtual Enquiry Service

Judy Atkinson and Ian Jacklin briefed the committee on the Virtual Enquiry Service offered by the Information, Research and Knowledge Management. The service includes the 'Chasing the Sun' consortium, which offers instant access to the advice of a librarian out of office hours (currently midnight to 11am Sunday to Friday).

The committee noted its value for student members, and offered the following suggestions for how to promote the service:

- through university librarians;
- an article in the student magazine;
- SIO wiki;
- the Student webpage
- posters;
- a demonstration at Congress;

ACTION: TD to add link to SIO wiki and webpage

11/07 Student Bus Report

GR gave a verbal report on the student bus project. GR confirmed that its tour had finished on 13 November 2010, had received over 12,000 visitors, and directly recruited over 600 members.

GR informed the committee that she would be looking into the possibility of hiring an open top bus for the London and Brighton Pride events. JP confirmed that the bus's visit to Brighton Pride received very positive feedback from the Brighton branch and that they would be very keen to take part again.

11/08 Congress Update

GR updated the committee on the Students' Day programme, including the seminar sessions.

ACTION: Committee to remind colleagues registering for Congress to also register their preferences for seminars.

The committee discussed the debating session and agreed on a call for topics. The committee agreed to choose 4 topics for debate at the next meeting, to be allocated 20 minutes of debating time each.

ACTION: TD to add call for topics to Student Congress webpage, closing date before next committee meeting.

ACTION: TD to find out whether the debate could be filmed.

TD confirmed that the voting rota must be submitted by 7th March.

ACTION: voting rota to be approved at next meeting.

TD confirmed that a letter promoting Students' Day would be sent to all universities, as in previous years.

ACTION: TD to send letter to universities.

The committee discussed the resolution submitted by JP and accepted by the Agenda Committee.

ACTION: CB to ask South West board to second the resolution.

11/09 Student Budget

GR updated the committee on the student budget. GR confirmed that last year's budget was £69,692 (excluding Congress).

GR confirmed, in response to a question from JP, that the bus was in lieu of regional conferences/roadshows and that, whilst there were no confirmed plans, the team would be getting out to the regions again after April.

GR confirmed that, as freshers fairs happen at the same time, RCN attendance was managed by the regional offices.

SB asked the committee to contact GR if they would like to organise any regional activities before the end of March.

ACTION: committee to send ideas and costs to GR.

GR confirmed that the Regional Boards would have funding available for first-time attendees at Congress and encouraged the committee to contact their regional offices.

11/10 Education update

GR briefed the committee on the proposals contained in the *Liberating the NHS: Developing the Healthcare Workforce* white paper. GR welcomed comments from the committee, in order for their contributions to be finalised at the March meeting.

ACTION: GR to produce briefing paper and add it to web and wikis.

ACTION: committee to send comments to Gill.

GR informed the committee that Betty Kershaw, Education Adviser, is retiring on 28th January. Betty's role will not be filled immediately. Tanis Hand and Gill Robertson will be covering Betty's work in the interim.

Josie Irwin, Head of Employment Relations, and Gerry O'Dwyer, Senior Employment Relations Adviser, briefed the committee on the RCN's position on the Government proposal to freeze increments. The committee noted that the proposal was rejected by the RCN in a press release on 13 January 2011.

11/11 Feedback from recent events

Copies of reports are available on the wiki.

JG reported to the committee on the recent Congress planning meeting.

ACTION: committee to send any suggestions or points they would like JG to raise to her. JG will then feed back to the group.

SY drew the committee's attention to the reports from Katy Rowan and Rachel Armstrong who had been funded to attend the ECA Conference in October 2010.

SY reported that on his attendance at the Bursary Stakeholder meeting. SY informed the committee that an online bursary application form will enable applicants to track the progress of applications, but that current students were not yet being transferred on to this system.

JP asked whether this would tie in with DSA payments.

ACTION: GR to speak to NUS finance representative and feed back to the committee.

SY reported that a proposal for the Student Governance Group would be going to the next CET meeting.

ACTION: SY to report progress.

SY reported that Peter Carter and Sandra James had thanked the committee for the invite to the farewell bus party and were looking forward to seeing the student team again soon.

11/12 Regional Reports

Scotland:

MW reported that she and AW would be attending the Nursing Matters event on Scotland on 20th January, and the Activist conference in Edinburgh in March.

Yorkshire and Humber:

CDS advised that Adele Bird had recently met with Sue Bernhauser, Chair of Council of Deans, that he had attended a recruitment event on Monday 10th January. CDS reported that another recruitment event was scheduled for the following week in Sheffield.

GR reported that the Marketing Department were looking into creating a tailored package for 2nd and 3rd year students.

SD suggested that a 3rd year student should accompany RCN representatives at recruitment events. LD reported that they had done so at this year's events and trebled their recruitment figures.

JG suggest that the elective placement is a good time to target students for membership.

South East

JP reported that she had been invited to speak to the new intake in 3 weeks time. JP had attended several branch meetings and board meetings.

JP reported that the BSUH is changing to a Foundation Trust, so there were some fears about a lack of placement opportunities.

JP reported that there seemed to be a lot of job opportunities in the South East and the all NQNs she had spoken to had found positions.

JP reported that she is in discussions with the regional office regarding a networking event.

SY reported that he is organising a HCA event in Guernsey, by the end of March.

Wales

SD reported that there appeared to be a high attrition rate.

ACTION: Scottish guidance on recruitment and retention to be added to wiki.

Northern Ireland

LD reported that the draft budget was due to be released on Thursday.

LD reported that Joanne Sharkey was to speak at the Student Conference at Magee campus on 26th January.

Council Committees

SB reported that NPPC had passed the guidance on safe staffing levels.

ACTION: SB to put guidance on wiki.

SB informed that committee that she is to chair a task and finish group on violence towards women and girls.

SY reported from MRC that a consultation on membership restructure would be released shortly.

11/13 Council Report

SB and SY confirmed that they would report back to the committee after the meeting of Council next week.

11/14 Any other business

CDS gave a verbal update on his visit to Washington and confirmed that there would be an article in the student magazine.

The committee discussed the possibility of moving business meetings to all day Friday, with the committee travelling down on Thursday night. It was agreed that the Strategy Meetings should remain two days, but that the committee would consider alternative suggestions for the business meetings.

ACTION: TD to initiate a discussion on the wiki

JP asked if any committee members had links with Eastern European organisations.

ACTION: MW to look into contacts through her university.

GR noted that the committee would need to produce a 3 minute opening speech to their Congress resolution.

ACTION: JP to put an initial summary on the wiki for the rest of the committee to contribute to and finalise at the March meeting.

11/15 Date of the next business meeting

4th and 5th March 2011