Students Committee terms of reference

Name of Committee - RCN Students Committee

The RCN Students Committee represents the RCN members included in the student category of membership as defined under Standing Order 5.2.

The remit of the Committee is to provide a voice for the student members of the RCN and report through the three ex-officio members to RCN Council, the RCN Trade Union Committee and the RCN Professional Nursing Committee.

Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee is as follows:

- To advise and be consulted on the development of RCN policy relating to students who are on courses leading to initial registration
- To advise and be consulted on activity relating to students, including recruitment of new members into the RCN through the RCN boards.
- To liaise and communicate with students, by linking with RCN boards, and put forward their views, ideas and concerns
- To work in partnership with external stakeholders in line with the decisions of RCN Council and its committees where relevant to students
- To advise and be consulted on RCN strategy and planning where it pertains to students
- Through the three ex-officio members on the Committee, ensure that issues specific to students that may have UK-wide implications are raised with RCN Council, the RCN Trade Union Committee and the RCN Professional Nursing Committee
- To encourage, promote, facilitate and support the advancement of nursing in relation to students in line with RCN strategy and policy
- To ensure that students are embedded in the activities of the RCN at all levels: local, regional, national, and international

Membership of the Committee

Members of the Students Committee must be a member of the student constituency as defined under Standing Order 5.2 and within the Definitions of RCN Membership document.

There shall be no more than 18 members of the Committee constituted as follows:

- The student member of Council will be an ex-officio member of the Committee
- The student member of the Trade Union Committee will be an ex-officio member of the Committee
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- The student member of the Professional Nursing Committee will be an ex-officio member of the Committee
- two members to be elected by student members in each of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. These elections shall occur in order that one member from each country is elected each year.
- nine members elected by student members in England, one representing each of the English regions as constituted by Council on a rolling programme.

Those eligible for nomination to the RCN Students Committee, must be on an education programme leading to initial registration and must be at least six months from qualification at the commencement of their term of office.

Term of office

The terms of office of elected members of the RCN Students Committee shall be two years. Members are eligible for re-election for one further term of office provided they still meet the eligibility criteria.

The terms of office of ex-officio members of this Committee will follow the individual member's elected term of office.

Mid-term (casual) vacancies

A vacancy on the Committee caused by death, resignation or otherwise shall be filled in accordance with the RCN procedure for filling casual vacancies.

Chair and officers of the committee

The Students Committee will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from within the Committee according to the agreed election procedure.

Meetings and quorum

Meetings of the Committee shall take place a minimum of three times a year. The quorum for each meeting shall be five members of the committee.

Notices

Provisions under Standing Orders 26 to 30 apply to the sending of notices.
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Reporting to and from RCN Council and delegation

Council will provide a report to the Committee of each of its meetings. The report will outline actions for the Committee. The Committee will report back to Council via its Council member.

Delegated authority to the Committee will be via the agreed scheme of delegation.

Secretariat of the Committee

The Secretariat to the Committee shall be provided by the RCN Governance Department.

The Secretariat shall ensure that minutes are kept of the meetings and decisions of the Committee using the agreed templates for the purpose.

The Secretariat shall be responsible for implementing or causing to be implemented the decisions and policies of the Committee

Removal from the Committee

A Committee member may be removed before the end of their term of office on the grounds that such a member of the Committee has:

a) exceeded their powers in a way that is detrimental to the RCN
b) failed to discharge their duties
c) acted in breach of the RCN’s Dignity Charter
d) acted in a manner likely to bring the RCN into disrepute

The policies and processes laid down by RCN Council in relation to disciplinary and competence matters will be followed in such circumstances.

Agreed by RCN Council 24 April 2014
Reviewed and updates agreed by RCN Council 06 December 2017