

**CONFIRMED**

**THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL**

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MINUTES of the 51st meeting of the Health Professions Council held at **3:00pm on Tuesday 10 February 2009** at Park House, 184 Kennington Park Road, London, SE11 4BU.

**Present:**

Dr A van der Gaag (President)  
Mr P Acres  
Professor K Bryan  
Mrs M Clark-Glass  
Mr R Clegg  
Ms H Davis  
Mr J Donaghy  
Mr P Douglas  
Mrs S Drayton  
Ms C Farrell  
Professor C Lloyd  
Professor J Lucas

Miss M MacKellar  
Mr W Munro  
Mr K Ross  
Mr J Seneviratne  
Ms J Sheridan  
Professor G Smith  
Mrs B Stuart  
Miss E Thornton  
Professor A Turner  
Mr N Willis  
Mr S Wordsworth

**In attendance:**

Mr J Bracken, Bircham Dyson Bell  
Ms A Creighton, Director of Education  
Mr M Guthrie, Head of Policy and Standards  
Miss L Hart, Secretary to Council  
Ms K Johnson, Director of Fitness to Practise  
Mr S Leicester, Director of Finance  
Mr S Rayner, Secretary to Committees  
Mr G Ross-Sampson, Director of Operations  
Mr M J Seale, Chief Executive and Registrar

### **Item 1.09/01 President's welcome and introduction**

- 1.1 The President paid tribute to the HPC's past President, Professor Norma Brook who sadly passed away on 31 December 2008.
- 1.2 The President welcomed all members and members of the public to the meeting.
- 1.3 The President welcomed the new Secretary to Council, Louise Hart.

### **Item 2.09/02 Apologies for absence**

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Miss Pam Sabine (alternate Mrs Jacqueline Sheridan attending) and Professor Diane Waller.

### **Item 3.09/03 Approval of agenda**

- 3.1 The Council approved the agenda, subject to receiving a tabled paper on the Constitution order consultation under item 6.

### **Item 4.09/04 Declarations of members' interests**

- 4.1 There were no declarations.

### **Item 5.09/05 Appointment of Secretary to Council (Report ref:- HPC01/09)**

- 5.1 The Council received a paper from the Chief Executive seeking approval to the appointment of Louise Hart as Secretary to Council.

- 5.2 The Council agreed the following:-

That the Council consents to the appointment by the Registrar of Louise Hart as the Secretary of the Council and that Louise Hart shall assume responsibilities of the Secretary with immediate effect.

### **Item 6.09/06 Constitution Order consultation (Report tabled)**

- 6.1 The Council received a tabled paper from the Chief Executive concerning the draft Constitutional Rules for the Education and Training Committee 2009 and Practice Committee 2009.

- 6.2 The Council agreed to a 5 minute adjournment in order to consider the tabled paper.
- 6.3 Mr Bracken introduced the report and explained that the HPC would be consulting in the usual way on the Rules relating to the Practice Committees prior to them being laid before the Privy Council. However, the Education and Training Committee rules were slightly different in that the Department for Health would be looking to increase the independence of regulators by removing the need for the exercise of their rule making powers to always be subject to Privy Council and Parliamentary oversight and, therefore, these rules were in the gift of the Council.
- 6.5 The Council sought clarification on some of the wording within the draft rules.
- 6.6 The Council noted that the consultation document relating to the Practice Committees would be circulated to all Council members for comment and then approved by the President for publication. It was anticipated that the consultation would run for approximately 6 weeks, with a report being submitted to Council in May.
- 6.7 The Council agreed that the final approval for the consultation paper relating to the Practice Committees Rules would rest with the President under Standing Order 26.

**Action: MG (by 20 May 2009)**

**Item 7.09/07 HPC Strategy Ratification (Report ref:- HPC 02/09)**

- 7.1 The Council received a paper from the President for discussion/approval.
- 7.2 The President outlined the main themes that had emerged during discussion at the morning's workshops. These included:-
- The need to separate objective one into two objectives, the first relating to governance and the second to operational processes;
  - The need to re-instate the objective relating to the enhancement of public protection;
  - The requirement to look at objective number four relating to the evidence base of regulation;
  - The expansion of the objective relating to England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales; and
  - The need to be more influential in terms of the policy agenda on regulation reforms, including an emphasis on lobbying upwards.
- 7.3 The President thanked all Council members for their useful contribution during the course of the morning's workshops.

- 7.4 The Council agreed that the draft Strategic Intent for 2009-2014 should be amended to incorporate some of the suggestions made during the Strategy workshop held that morning, with the final document being presented to Council for approval in March.

**Action: President (by 26 March 2009)**

**Item 8.09/08 Extending Professional Regulation (Report ref:- HPC 03/09)**

- 8.1 The Council received a paper from the Chief Executive for discussion/approval.
- 8.2 The Council noted that the suggested amendments made during the course of discussion at the morning's workshop would be incorporated into the final version of the discussion paper which would then be submitted to Council for approval.
- 8.3 The Chief Executive thanked Council members for their contribution at the Strategy workshop held that morning.
- 8.4 The Council agreed that the discussion paper should be amended in accordance with the views expressed at the Strategy workshop held that morning and then submitted to Council for final approval.

**Action: MJS (ongoing)**

**Item 9.09/09 Continuing Professional Development Standards Consultation (Report ref:- HPC 04/09)**

- 9.1 The Council received a paper for discussion/approval from the Head of Policy and Standards.
- 9.2 The Council noted that agreement had been given in December 2008 to consult on a minor amendment to standard 5 of the Standards for Continuing Professional Development and this paper was seeking approval to the detail of the consultation paper.
- 9.3 The Council noted that the Chairman of the Education and Training Committee had approved the consultation document using Chairman's action.
- 9.3 The Council noted that, subject to approval of the paper, the consultation would run from 11 February 2009 until 11 May 2009, with a report on the findings being presented to Council in May.
- 9.4 The Council agreed the document for consultation.

**Action: MG (ongoing to 11 May 2009)**

**Item 10.09/10 Modernising Scientific Careers consultation (Report ref:- HPC 05/09)**

- 10.1 The Council received a paper for discussion/approval from the Head of Policy and Standards.
- 10.2 The Council noted that the consultation response built on the position statement agreed by Council in September 2008 and that the HPC had only commented on those issues salient to regulation.
- 10.3 The Council agreed the consultation response for submission to the UK Departments of Health.

**Action: MG (by 6 March 2009)**

**Item 11.09/11 Fees Rules 2009 (Report tabled)**

- 11.1 The Council received a paper for discussion/approval from the Director of Finance.
- 11.2 The President noted that this paper had been circulated electronically to all Council members on 5<sup>th</sup> February.
- 11.3 The Council noted that the only amendments made to the fees agreed at December Council was in the preamble and the figures remained the same.
- 11.4 The Council agreed the amended Fee Rules Changes.

**Action: All (by 1 April 2009)**

**Item 12.09/12 Any other business**

- 12.1 There was no other business.

**Item 13.09/13 Date and time of next meeting**

- 2.1 The next meeting of the Council will be held at 10.30am on Thursday 26 March 2009.

President: .....

Date: .....