Confirmed

Minutes of the Meeting of the
General Dental Council
held at 10:30am on Wednesday 26 July 2017
in Closed Session
at 37 Wimpole Street, London W1G 8DQ

Council Members present
William Moyes Chair
Terry Babbs
Catherine Brady
Geraldine Campbell
Rosemary Carter
Margaret Kellett
Alan MacDonald
Kirstie Moons
Lawrence Mudford
Jayendra Patel
Neil Stevenson

Executive in attendance:
Ian Brack Chief Executive and Registrar
Gurvinder Soomal Executive Director, Registration and Corporate Services
Jonathan Green Executive Director, Fitness to Practise (FTP)
Matthew Hill Executive Director, Strategy
Lisa-Marie Roca Principal Legal Adviser
Lisa Cunningham Head of Communications

Staff members in attendance:
Clare Mitchell Head of Governance
Sam Clements Risk Manager (Items 6 & 7)
Helen Elderfield Governance and Executive Support Manager

Invited Attendees:
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PART ONE – PRELIMINARY ITEMS

1. Opening remarks, apologies for absence and declarations of interest
   1.1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
   1.2. Apologies for absence were received from David Smith and Bobby Davis.
   1.3. Staff members declared an interest in items 12 and 13 on the agenda. Neil Stevenson reiterated his standing declaration of interest in relation to item 13. Bill Moyes and Ian Brack declared interests in item 14.
2. Minutes of meeting on 22 June 2017

Discussion

2.1. The draft minutes were considered and accepted as a true and accurate record of the discussions that took place on 22 June 2017.

3. Matters arising from the meeting on 22 June 2017 and rolling actions list

Discussion

3.1. The Council noted progress made with actions arising from previous meetings.

3.2. The Chair thanked those members who had responded to his request for committee nominations and advised that he would be emailing all members once this had been finalised.

4. Decisions Log

Discussion

4.1. The Council noted that the committees had not taken any decisions taken under delegated powers since the meeting on 22 June 2017, nor had any matters been decided by Chair’s Action.

PART TWO – ITEMS FOR DECISION AND DISCUSSION

Prior to the commencement of the scheduled agenda, the Chair referred to two AOB items:

- The Chair noted that following the recent recruitment campaign, offers had been made to and accepted by new Council members and that Terry Babbs, Cathie Brady and Margaret Kellett had been reappointed.

- Ian Brack informed the Council that it had come to light that the text in the version of the Annual Report and Accounts (ARA) published on the GDC’s website did not tally with the version that was approved by Council at the June meeting. The NAO, haysmacintyre and the Privy Council were all informed and the incorrect version was removed from the website.

- Ian apologised to the Council for this unacceptable oversight.

- The Council agreed the following statement:
  - “Following publication of our 2016 Annual Report and Accounts, staff spotted some typographical errors that had crept in during the final design stage. Obviously, this was unacceptable to us so the report was taken offline while we carried out a line-by-line check to ensure we had identified all errors and to allow them to be mended. The corrected report is now available online.”

5. Regulatory Reform – PSA Standards Consultation

Discussion

5.1. Matthew Hill explained to the Council that the PSA Standards consultation posed two sets of questions which were whether new areas should be added to the existing standards, and whether the overall approach to the Standards should be retained or moved towards a more principles based approach. It was noted that the deadline for response to the PSA was early September and that a draft would need to be circulated to the Council by email in mid-August.
6. Strategic Risk Register – June update

Discussion

6.1. Sam Clements joined the meeting and introduced the June update of the strategic risk register (SRR). He explained that given the short period of time since the previous version had been presented to Council there were no significant changes but three risks were recommended for dormancy.

7. Internal Audit Recommendation Implementation Tracker

Discussion

7.1. Sam Clements introduced the newly implemented internal audit tracker which had been approved by EMT and was brought to Council at the request of the Audit and Risk Committee. It was not anticipated that it would be regularly presented to Council.

8. Chair’s Strategy Group update

Discussion

8.1. Bill Moyes gave the Council an update on the matters discussed at the CSG meeting on 19 July.

9. Developing the GDC’s digital model – recording Council meetings

Discussion

9.1. Lisa Cunningham responded to the Council’s request to investigate how its proceedings could be made available to a wider audience by digital means.

10. Horizon Scan

Discussion

10.1. Lisa Cunningham began her report by advising that the Chief Inspector of hospitals, Professor Sir Mike Richards, had stepped down and was to be replaced by Professor Ted Baker. She highlighted the risk in NHS staffing levels, particularly in regard to nursing and midwifery, but advised that there was no similar trend identified in dentistry.

11. Finance Team Structure – overview of final arrangements

Discussion

11.1. Ian Brack introduced the item which sought to provide Council members with further detail to support the briefing previously provided.

12. Estates Strategy

Discussion

12.1. Gurvinder Soomal updated the Council on the work being undertaken to address the short and medium-term options for the GDC’s estates.
14. Chair and CEO Objectives

Discussion

14.1. Bill Moyes opened the discussion on his objectives by informing the Council that all issues surrounding the appointment of new Council members, and the re-appointment of returning Council members, had been resolved. An announcement was to be made in the media on Thursday 29 July 2017.

14.2. Council members confirmed that they were content with the progress made by the CEO and welcomed the ongoing dialogue regarding the achievement of his objectives.

Having declared an interest in the next agenda item, all staff members, with the exception of Ian Brack, Lisa-Marie Roca and Helen Elderfield, left the meeting. Neil Stevenson reiterated his standing declaration of interest pertaining to the GDC’s pension fund manager. These minutes record the discussions in the order they took place although the original agenda numbers are retained in this record.

13. GDC Pension Scheme

Discussion

13.1. Lisa-Marie Roca gave an update to the discussions that had taken place at the May Council meeting regarding the GDC’s pension scheme.

PART THREE – ITEMS FOR NOTING

No items were brought forward for noting.

PART FOUR – CONCLUSION OF BUSINESS

15. Any Other Business

15.1. Ian Brack sought the Council’s formal approval that the GDC should fund the proposed Council dinner in September as the sums involved would lie outwith policy and both he and the Director of Registration and Corporate Resources would be unable to approve that variation if they were attending. He advised as Accounting Officer that he considered such expenditure to be appropriate in the circumstances. The Council members agreed that they were content for the GDC to fund the dinner.

16. Review of the meeting

16.1. Council members agreed that the meeting had gone well. It was noted however that on occasion there had been a pre-meet for members before the formal meeting commenced and it was requested that it should be specified whether this was taking place for each meeting.

17. Close of the meeting

17.1. There being no further business the meeting was closed at 12:30 pm.

Date of next meeting: 27 September 2017

Name of Chair:
William Moyes