

To approve

Minutes of the Meeting on 27 January 2009¹

Present

Professor Sir Graeme Catto, Chair

Sir Rodney Brooke
Professor Jane Dacre
Dr Sam Everington
Ms Sally Hawkins
Dr John Jenkins
Archy Kirkwood
Ms Ros Levenson
Dr Malcolm Lewis
Mr Robin MacLeod
Professor Rajan Madhok
Dr Johann Malawana
Dr Joan Martin

Mrs Suzanne McCarthy
Professor Jim McKillop
Professor Trudie Roberts
Mrs Ann Robinson
Mrs Enid Rowlands
Professor Peter Rubin
Dr Mairi Scott
Professor Iqbal Singh
Professor Terence Stephenson
Mr Stephen Whittle
Dr Hamish Wilson

Finlay Scott
Chief Executive and Registrar

¹ These Minutes should be read in conjunction with the Council papers for this meeting, which are available on our website at <http://www.gmc-uk.org/>. A transcript is also available on our website.

Chair's Business

1. The Chair welcomed members to the first meeting of the reconstituted Council.
2. Apologies for absence were noted from Ms Weyman, and the Chief Medical Officers for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.
3. The Chair congratulated Dr Jenkins and the Chief Executive on the award of their CBEs in the New Year's Honours List.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 December 2008

4. Council:
 - a. Approved the minutes of the meeting on 2 December 2008 as a true record, subject to the addition of the word 'generally' after 'evaluation of pilots' in paragraph 10, and they were signed by the Chair.
 - b. Noted that it would receive the information on risk management and reporting arrangements, as indicated in paragraph 30, following consideration by the Audit and Risk Committee.
 - c. Agreed to retain the current style of Council minutes, and that the style would be revisited during the planned review of Standing Orders later in 2009.

Chief Executive's Report

5. Council:
 - a. Considered the Chief Executive's review of 2008, setting out the main achievements and outcomes for the year, mapped against the key aims in the 2008 Business Plan.
 - b. Noted the supplementary information tabled on fitness to practise statistics.
6. During the discussion, the Chief Executive responded to a number of members' questions. He welcomed members' feedback on the information contained in the report, and invited any further suggestions for enhancing the information presented to the Council.

Revalidation: Draft Project Initiation Document

7. Council received a report outlining progress on the establishment of the UK Revalidation Programme Board and the revalidation work programme.

8. Council:
 - a. Agreed the draft terms of reference for the UK Revalidation Programme Board, subject to a number of redrafting proposals made during discussion. Members noted that an updated version would be circulated to members after the meeting.
 - b. Agreed the draft Project Initiation Document.
9. During the discussion, members noted the importance of effective communications and engagement with key interest groups across the four UK countries as plans develop.
10. Members noted that progress on the development of the project plan, evaluation criteria and timetable would continue to be reported to Council, including an update following the UK Revalidation Programme Board meeting on 10 February 2009.

Revalidation and the Development of the List of Registered Medical Practitioners

11. Council considered how to continue to enhance the value of the List of Registered Medical Practitioners, in the light of opportunities arising from the merger of PMETB with the GMC, and the introduction of licensing and revalidation.
12. Council:
 - a. Reaffirmed that the List of Registered Medical Practitioners should carry a wider range of information if that is of benefit to key interests, particularly patients and the public, and the NHS and other healthcare providers.
 - b. Invited the Registration Reference Group to recommend how best to enhance the value of the List of Registered Medical Practitioners, given the introduction of revalidation and the merger of PMETB with the GMC.

Specialist Register and Recertification

13. Council considered the development of the specialist register in the context of recertification as a component of revalidation.
14. Council:
 - a. Agreed to address the fitness for purpose of the specialist register in the light of the 2006-2007 review and the development of recertification.

- b. Invited the Registration Reference Group to review the fitness for purpose of the specialist register in the light of the 2007 report and the development of recertification.

Regulation in a European and International Context

15. Council received a report outlining a summary of the proposed European and International Action Plan for 2009, and proposals for developing the GMC's strategy for the medium to long term.

16. Council:

- a. Endorsed the Action Plan for 2009.
- b. Agreed to establish a working group of members and staff to review the GMC's medium and long term European and international strategy. Members noted that an invitation seeking expressions of interest would be circulated after the meeting.

17. During the discussion it was agreed that consideration should be given to how the GMC might engage with other organisations with similar interests during the initial review, with a view to the group developing proposals for how the GMC might build on this going forward.

Business Planning and Budget 2009: Monitoring

18. Council considered the arrangements for monitoring performance against the 2009 Business Plan.

19. Council:

- a. Agreed that the Chief Executive's reports should be mapped against key aims in the 2009 Business Plan and provide summary information on income and expenditure and on performance against service targets.
- b. Agreed that a detailed report of income and expenditure, with analysis of significant variances against budget be a standing item on Resources Committee agendas.

20. Members noted that a review of the longer term strategic direction would start in mid 2009.

Membership of Committees, Boards and Reference Groups

21. Council considered the governance model, together with the proposed membership of its various components as set out in Annex B, which was tabled.

22. Council:
- a. Endorsed the proposed governance model.
 - b. Agreed the proposed membership of the Committees, Boards, Reference Groups, and other groups.
 - c. Noted that discussion was ongoing with PMETB in relation to the possibility of creating a new co-ordinating mechanism in place of the Joint Oversight Group.
 - d. Noted that further work would be undertaken to complete the process of filling the outstanding lay member vacancies on the GMC and AMRC Working Group, and on the UK Revalidation Programme Board.
23. During the discussion, members agreed that the governance model should be reviewed in the light of experience, at which point the membership of individual committees etc might also be reviewed.

Arrangements for Election of Chair of the Council

24. Council considered the arrangements for election of Chair of the Council consequential upon its reconstitution.
25. Council:
- a. Confirmed the arrangements for the nominations process as set out in Standing Orders.
 - b. Agreed to suspend the relevant provisions in Standing Orders governing the ballot and to substitute provision for a postal ballot.
 - c. Approved the proposed role description for Chair of the Council.
26. Council noted that, in the event of a ballot being held, candidates would be invited to address members and to answer questions. The Chief Executive undertook to consider further how to enable a record of candidates' presentations and of questions and answers; and to investigate the practicability of electronic voting.
27. During the discussion, members noted that the Remuneration Committee would be invited to consider identifying priorities for the Chair. They would need to be consistent with the Council's expectations of the role, and to reflect changes as the role develops. Council would however retain overall responsibility for the role description.

28. Members agreed to return to the question of whether there should be a Deputy Chair, in informal session, before the next meeting on 25 February 2009.

Improving Engagement

29. Council considered proposals for enhancing understanding of the views, perceptions and experiences of patients and the public, and doctors, as part of the GMC's wider engagement work with key interests.

30. Council agreed to establish a Reference Community comprising around 25 members of the public and around 25 doctors.

31. During the discussion, members noted that the Reference Community was only part of the GMC's engagement strategy. Members emphasised the importance of having an engagement strategy which was sufficiently flexible to take account of a range of different ways for engagement and of working methods.

Merger of PMETB with the GMC: Overview and Progress Report

32. Council received a report on work undertaken to prepare for the merger of PMETB with the GMC, including joint plans, priorities and current risks.

33. Council noted progress and future priorities relating to the merger of PMETB with the GMC, including the legislative timetable and the issue of co-location.