

7b

To consider

External Membership of the Three Boards

Issue

1. The principles and process to be applied to the appointment of external members to the Undergraduate Board, Postgraduate Board and Continued Practice Board.

Recommendation

2. To agree the process for bringing proposals about external membership of the Boards to Council for approval on 26 March 2009 (paragraphs 7-13).

Further information

3. If you require further information about this paper, please contact us by email: gmc@gmc-uk.org or tel. 0161 923 6602

Background

4. Council agreed on 27 January 2009 to establish three Boards: an Undergraduate Board, a Postgraduate Board, and a Continued Practice Board. The Boards will embed cross-functional working, addressing how our responsibilities impact upon doctors at each of the main stages of their career, offering advice to Council, particularly on the practicability of proposed policy, at an early stage, and assisting in the detailed implementation of policy decisions for their own target groups.
5. Each Board has eight Council members, plus the Chair of Council *ex officio*. Each Board also has external members. Council agreed that Council members will be in a majority, which implies a maximum of eight external members on each Board.
6. Members have been keen to move forward quickly on populating the Committees, Boards, and Reference Groups, and the process for the Council membership of these bodies was completed at the Council meeting on 27 January 2009. Chairs have now been elected for all three Boards.

Discussion

Principles

7. On 18 September 2008, Council agreed principles for the external appointments to the three Boards. These included an acknowledgement that the interest groups reflected by those Board members drawn from the Council, and the skills and experience they bring, will influence the balance to be met from outside the Council. It was also recognised that external appointees would need to command the confidence and support of our key interests, in view of the importance of the role of the Boards.
8. Building on this, we propose that we should follow the practice of inviting external organisations to nominate people to the Boards, on the basis of clarity on our part about the role expected. It will also be important to ensure that each Board has at least one member, Council or external, with direct experience of each of the four countries of the UK, and of each of our four key interest groups.
9. The external organisations represented on each Board should be chosen in the light of the Board's purpose (for example, it would be expected that the UGB and PGB would have proportionately more members directly associated with medical education, a number of them drawn from organisations included on the former Education Committee, than the CPB).
10. Boards should be free to invite observers to their meetings, either on a standing basis or in relation to specific items of business.

Process

11. The process of identifying organisations from which to draw external membership of the Boards will be challenging given the wide range of interests to be taken into account and the need to ensure that membership across all the Boards is as balanced as possible. It is, however, important to maintain momentum.

12. We therefore propose that the Chairs of the three Boards, individually and collectively, and working with the executive, should develop proposals for the external membership of the Boards. These would be circulated electronically to members for comments which would then be taken into account by the Board Chairs in finalising the proposals. We would also engage as appropriate with the external organisations involved.

13. Formal proposals about external membership of the Boards would then be brought to Council for approval on 26 March 2009.

Recommendation: To agree the process for bringing proposals about external membership of the Boards to Council for approval on 26 March 2009.

Resource implications

14. None directly from this paper.

Equality implications

15. None directly from this paper.