

**Meeting Friday 14th February 2020**

**DeVere West One, Portland Place, London**

MINUTES

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

Welcome from the Interim Chair, Professor Catriona Morrison.

Apologies for absence from members unable to attend.

1. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

No actions

1. **Matters Arising**

No actions

1. **Issues of Concern to Heads**

**Workload Models –** concern was expressed about the use of workload models and who governs them. Some have an institutional model while others have local models which actually do very little other than being a prescriptive record. Discussion centred on what was included in the models (e.g. training days), their transparency (e.g. around 50% were open models with some being closed concerning staff with special circumstances) and the discrepancy between hours allocated and time actually taken (e.g. new teaching and number of students in a class). It was noted that some used percentages rather than hours. The issue of governance like the workload models themselves seems to be very variable across institutions.

**Job Market –** is there a trend for academic posts advertised in psychology to be moving down the pay scale from Grade 8 to Grade 7? This was not thought to be the case as some research posts have been scaled up recently and in more expensive areas, candidates are often in a strong position to negotiate more pay.

**Elective Modules –** is there a move away from offering electives? This could be because of timetabling problems and QA issues. Generally, students like to have options and new topics such as cyberpsychology need to be accommodated and electives allow this. For some, Level 4 electives can be a USP. In sum, it was not felt that there was a trend against offering electives.

**BPS SSR Requirement** **–** a request was made to know the current position with regard to the Student-Staff Ratio (SSR) requirement. It was noted that the BPS are looking at this again. Heads felt this issue was very important as it sometimes acts as a protection for programmes. Decolonisation of the curriculum has been mentioned as being one of the eight standards for accreditation and subsequent discussion focused on this.

**Web App –** mention was made of a freely available Web App to help allocate students to projects. See: <https://github.com/richarddmorey/studentProjectAllocation>

**Industrial Action –** the issue concerned the claim for financial compensation by students for lost teaching. The strikes place heads in a difficult position especially the tension which arises with Professional Services staff who have to undertake more work concerning student activities and who often, do not really understand why academics are striking.

1. **Chair’s Report**

Chair gave a verbal report.

Chair announced that Professor Chris Fife-Schaw, University of Surrey, will take over as the new chair. New blood is needed on the committee and a request was made for more members. Ideas for future workshops would be welcomed.

1. **Secretary’s Report**

Secretary gave a verbal report on the upcoming May workshop on Older and Wiser, that is, heads who had been promoted after being a head in psychology.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer gave a verbal report on the finances. Accounting is now in line with the subscription period. The accounts are currently being audited and are running with a small profit which will allow training days if members wish.

1. **AHPD Representatives’ Reports**

JCPHE – not met since last meeting

BPS Research Board – JN gave a verbal report. Next meeting – 28th February 2020.

Educational and training boards – not met.

The BPS boards are still in transition.

1. **Any Other Business**None
2. **Dates of Future Meetings**

Friday 15th May 2020

**Attachments**

BPS Research Board

Treasurer’s Report