

Main Meeting

1. Welcome and Apologies

Welcome from Chair Professor Almuth McDowall and apologies for absence from members.
Welcome to our new members of the committee – Sophia Bokhari, Tim Hopthrow and Duncan Guest.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Received and agreed minutes of the previous meeting.

3. Matters Arising

To note: All issues outstanding included within agenda items.

4. **Issues of concern to heads** – These can also be raised in advance of the meeting via emailing the chair (a.mcdowall@bbk.ac.uk).
- Stage 2 qualification upset – BPS plan to withdraw the delivery of stage 2 qualifications (not the accreditation). Consultation process open but structure not determined. AHPD will engage with BPS to work with them to move forward and to foster solution for stage 2 training. **ACTION – any members who wish to work the AHPD committee on this should contact Sophia Bokhari.**
- Petition about protected psychology titles – petition to legally protect title ‘psychologist’. 11953 signatures. Government response 7th May 2024 – *‘No plans to make the professional title ‘psychologist’ a protected title. However our regulatory reform programme which is underway will consider protected titles more generally.’*
- Academic frameworks and credit structures - membership wanted to explore how other institutions were dealing with these changes. Appears that many institutions have or are in process of changing module credit structures.
- Attendance for AHPD meetings– suggestion that question of online/in person attendance at AHPD meeting should go to all membership not just those present. **ACTION- Development of a poll shared to AHPD membership.**
- SSR BPS concerns shared and discussed.

Workshop suggestions – Generative AI, Assessment design, Attendance & Engagement, Student anxiety and its impact on engagement.

5. Chair’s Report

- New website currently under development.
ACTION – KM to explore with web designer if external examiner information could be included? List of people interested in EE posts.
ACTION – Heads to share testimonials that could be included on the website. Email to Secretary (kmiller@lincoln.ac.uk).
- Updated constitution has been shared with membership via email.
- ‘The future of’ project – Will be focus of workshop in October. **ACTION - Preparation information to follow for HoD to complete. Will be sent by Duncan Guest.**

6. Secretary’s/Workshop lead Report

Secretary – nothing to report

Workshop lead – reminder re workshop and open to suggestions. New head workshop will be held in October (Thursday before the main meeting on the Friday). Workshop suggestions to be sent to (J.Ashby@mmu.ac.uk).

7. Treasurer's Report/Auditor's Report

All PO requests went out at the beginning of 2024 - 106 invoices have been sent

To date 2/3 have been settled 5 have outdated supplier info, in train. Continuing to remind those not submitted payment yet

As of 16/05/2024.

Current Account: 91,028.72 cf £93,102.97 ly

Reserve Account: 33,769.29 cf £33,303.90 ly

8. AHPD Representatives' Reports

a. Peter Hills. BPS Education Training Board Rep

Updated BPS standards following on from QAA benchmark statements.

New accreditation standards for UG programmes following on from the new QAA benchmark statements - the UEC have drafted these with little oversight. They were due to go out for consultation recently, however, the BPS (very sensibly) have decided to ensure these go through relevant committees for oversight and comment. These may include PAC and ETB.

Summary of expected changes - Most of this follows the QAA subject-benchmark statements. In terms of content, the new standards have indicated that big data analysis, open science, community psychology (as part of social psychology), inclusivity and diversity, and AI (as part of cognitive psychology) should be included. CHIPS and UN Sustainability Goals should be embedded throughout the programmes. The language of the standards should be clear and exact (whether this means there is less flexibility in content remains to be seen).

While there is a review of the SSR, currently, the standards regarding staffing are changing to ensure that lecturing staff should have at least an MSc or PhD to teach UG (or PGT).

The discussion around UG degrees that use the protected titles has also progressed. The new standards state that UG degrees should not contain the protected titles (for example, BSc Forensic Psychology; or BSc Psychology with Forensic Psychology - the latter being a change in position from that originally stated). The reasoning for this relates to reports of students graduating and claiming that they are a Forensic Psychologist after the degree and that some HEIs have been marketing these degrees as providing qualifications in these areas.

ACTION – AHPD to formally contact chair of ETC and DM around veracity of information provided and clarity around the use of titles and additionally around consistency of timing of changes (KM, PH & AM). Including queries around student and programme lead consultation. In person meeting request.

HoD queries raised around consistency of BPS visits – issues raised around delays, inconsistency around advice given (example of incorrect ethics advice given, queried and withdrawn).

b. Martin Corley – BPS Research Board rep

PsyPAG – membership decreased once under BPS umbrella and when charge for membership enacted. BPS currently consulting around future of PsyPAG and focus group claimed to have been held with PGR students.

BPS Awards – very few entrants to these awards. AHPD membership encouraged to nominate students and colleagues.

ACTION- MC to encourage research board to publicise these awards more broadly.

9. AOB –

Northern Hub – Regional gathering of Heads to allow sharing of best practice and development of collaborative projects. Co-led by Jo Ashby and Kirsty Miller First meeting held in April. Suggestions that others may want to develop regional meetings - funding provided by AHPD for lunch..

Lunch

10. Workshop

Students Complaints *led by Gemma Slade – Office of the Independent Adjudicator in Higher Education* – **ACTION – slides shared**