

Main Meeting

10am – Tea and Coffee

10.30am - Welcome and Apologies

Welcome from Chris Fife Shaw and apologies AHPD chair and co-chair.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting – Received.

Issues Concerning Heads

Athena Swan – Pre-covid there was a initiative to create an Athena Swan network but this has not be reinvigorated. Is it worth reviving the Athena Swan network? Email Hannah Zeffka Royal Holloway University.

There is pressure for some subject areas to recruit more students (especially during Clearing), especially psychology, than in other areas. What experience do other institutions have in terms of support provided for the additional student numbers (University of Surrey)? What is the contribution of psychology to the central University funds? There is a broad HESA banding about costs to run degrees:- some courses contribute more centrally than others.

BPS Update on Stage 2 Qualifications

- Slides available.
- Reviewing all: Forensic Psychology, Educational Psychology (Scotland), Health Psychology, Clinical Neuropsychology, Sport and Exercise, Counselling Psychology.

Chair's Report

Report from the Chair:

REF super-panel Chairs have been recruited; the REF are looking for panel Chairs. If the AHPD have a view of the type of person who should be the REF panel Chair, we should be involved earlier.

New AHPD website is nearly ready for launch.

Research projects funded by the AHPD to be added to the website. Those who have had funds to write a summary to go on the website.

Qualtrics funding has been inconsistent across the country. There is an anonymous questionnaire to be completed about this to help enable Heads to lobby their Institutions and companies, etc.

AHPD workshops: in February, the meeting will be held in a hybrid manner because some University's have put a travel-ban in place.

Regional AHPD meetings: North (Jo Ashby and Kirsty Miller) and Midlands (Claire Gibson) have had meetings.

Secretary's/Workshop lead Report

Future workshops outlined.

Treasurer's Report/Auditor's Report

Report from the Treasurer – received.

Finances are good. Postal Orders have been fulfilled this year. The bank account has stabilised (no longer losing money each year). Auditor has not responded to messages. Contact Stephen, Shazia, or Jo if you are interested in hosting a regional contact them.

AHPD Representatives' Reports

To receive: Reports from AHPD representatives

BPS Research Board Report

BPS Prizes are undersubscribed. Please advertise these. Several grants available are also available. Previous Chair of the BPS Research Board stepped down in May. They are actively recruiting for a new Chair.

BPS Education and Training Board Report

- The BPS have been conducting a research project into the experience of equality, inclusivity, and diversity for postgraduate research students. The full report will be published later this year and likely presented to us in the future. The broad headlines are that experience of postgraduate research students is similar to undergraduate students (there are fewer non-White PGRs than White PGRs and they typically don't perform as well. The solutions presented are similar to those that affect UGs: greater representation, mentoring, etc.
- There is a change to the governance of Standards for Accreditation. The Standards are drafted by a delegated committee from Partnerships and Accreditation Committee (PAC). These are then submitted to PAC and ETB for comments and approval with a consultation period.
- The new Standards for Accreditation of UG and MSc (Conversion), and the Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner courses has been approved by ETB and due to be published later this month (October 2024).
- For the UG Standards, key areas that we fed back on and the BPS' response to the consultation are:
 - The lead time to change degree titles (in the new titles "with Forensic Psychology" will not be permitted) was raised directly with the CEO of the BPS, Sarb, and Debra Malpass. The agreed verbally to a lead time of three years for institutions to change degree titles. They have now stated that this is to be amended by 2026/27. We have pushed back to 2027/28. The new Standard states:
 - ♣ Undergraduate and Master's conversion awards are not allowed to use degree titles that are identical to, or include the titles of, postgraduate courses that lead to designated titles that are protected by law and regulated by the Health Care Professions Council (HCPC) (e.g. an undergraduate Psychology degree with Counselling will be appropriately referenced as Psychology with Counselling rather than Counselling Psychology).
 - It has been made clear in the standards that reasonable adjustments need consideration of the individual needs of any students AND the necessity to assess learning outcomes
 - The BPS have accepted that the programme director does not need to be a chartered psychologist but simply be eligible to be chartered.
 - The BPS have accepted that empirical projects can be supervised by people in cognate disciplines and suitably qualified PGRs.

- There is an increase in the number of accreditation visits needed in 2024/25 and into 2025/26. The accreditation visits are typically done by volunteer academics with one of a couple of employed accreditation officers. This means that there is likely to be significant pressure of the accreditation teams. Thus, the BPS have indicated that they will prioritise visits for those that are more urgent (such as institutions with new courses and those in monitoring).
- There is an SSR working group exploring how best to improve the data capture tool (including clearer guidance) and whether the current SSR is sustainable.

12.30 Lunch

1.30-3.30 Workshop

1.30pm-3.30pm – The Future of Psychology