

**Main Meeting**  
**10am – Tea and Coffee**

**10.30am - Welcome and Apologies**

Welcome from Chair Professor Almuth McDowall and apologies for absence from members

**Issues of concern to heads – raised on Padlet**

1. Students studied abroad – BPS GBC – **ACTION: for AM to go back to BPS to clarify process for accreditation.**
2. SSR- discussion within BPS to change UG/conversion SSR – currently at 20:1 Conversations across HoS as to the potential impact of change.

Summary: Psychology still makes significant return to our universities. We are delivering financially. impact on staff and students, difficulty with maintaining student satisfaction, skill developments, attainment gap, staff wellbeing and workloads, Psych SSR not lowest within university, SSR protective, time intensive nature of project supervision, staff research time, BPS pulling back doesn't send right message of recognition of importance of research for the discipline, allows open door policy, allows us to know our students, tutorial system, accreditation standards, allows control of staffing (compared to HESA data), Leveraging with SSR is starting in the wrong place, how do we derive measure of quality that puts students first? 'need to not price ourselves out of the market', clear rationale needed for SSR, SSR is a poor proxy for quality – argument is about what SSR is delivering for our students, what is the quality provision? Potential compromise on PGT programmes -1:10 at PGT challenge from financial basis. Concerns raised re background motivations from BPS and who they are representing and supporting with these decisions – academic psychology membership or PVC/VCS?

We are all recruiting students from a limited pool – increasing SSR will cause some schools to grow at the expense of others.

Sport & Exercise Psychology division – suggested 1:15 for MSc.

**ACTION: Committee will initially design survey. Will be shared with reference group from membership (interested members to identify themselves to Secretary (kmiller@lincoln.ac.uk) for feedback before more widespread dissemination to heads.**

3. Protected titles use in UG programmes. – update. All programme directors were emailed in November. In room show of hands suggests approx 1/3 received, 1/3 didn't, 1/3 unsure.  
Teach out of current titles necessary. Recognition of this not yet in writing – pick this up in BPS letter.  
Query that this goes beyond the QAA standards that the BPS are using for justification.  
Challenges remain that some departments are in process of title changes now. When timeline has been queried with BPS schools have received communications they have found threatening. Other schools have had periods of back and forth wherein some programme names have been approved and then later refused. **ACTION: AHPD to write letter to BPS outlining issues around communication and timeline. ACTION: to send on letter from BPS to all HoD.**
4. Challenges of changing numbers with educational contracts with NHS-E – agreed numbers are not met, minimum numbers have been removed. Staffing challenges. Vulnerability of programmes due to financial

viability. Suggestion of collective challenge to NHS-E – **ACTION: Contact Chris Martin from Sheffield for those concerned.**

### **Minutes of the last meeting**

Received the minutes of the previous meeting

### **Matters Arising**

To note: Any matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

Future of Psychology project – will be picked up again in May meeting.

**Level 7 Apprenticeships** – AHPD response produced after consultation with 7 providers – available on website under reports/resources. Thanks to all who contributed to this, and to Duncan for leading.

**AHPD Future of Psychology awards** – recognition of work that is happening in schools and depts. Annual award team/school/dept – transforms our practice in academic psychology. Short case study/workshop presentation. More details to follow. Self-nomination process. Template to complete.

### **Chair's Report**

To receive: a report from the Chair

- BPS Consultation on the Stage 2 qualifications  
Doctoral equivalent particularly Counselling Psych and Occupational Psych have been delivered either by HEIs OR the BPS. Decision of BPS to stop delivery. Now reversed to allow engagement in consultation. AM member of steering group. ToR developed. Seymour associates appointed to consult and scope. SB member of wider reference group.
- Reminder on REF sub-panel chair, deputy chair and member appointment deadlines
- AM's last year as Chair of AHPD – encourage membership to nominate themselves for Chair. Voting in May AGM. David and Chris happy to have informal chats about the role.

### **Secretary's/Workshop lead Report**

To receive: a report from the Secretary

New website – [www.ahpd.ac.uk](http://www.ahpd.ac.uk)

Agendas, minutes. Developing resource bank. Send on links to [kmiller@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:kmiller@lincoln.ac.uk)

Form for updates re department details.

### **Workshop update**

Workshop – team from Swansea this afternoon. May – facilitated workshop. October – New heads workshop on the Thursday. Run by Jo and Kirsty. Suggestions for workshops then please get in touch with Jo.

Regional groups – There are currently two regional groups - Northern. Midlands. Space for more regional hubs. Support available to set up.

### **Treasurer's Report/Auditor's Report**

Received a report from the Treasurer. Fees currently being collected. Please pay as soon as possible.

Audit successfully completed.

### **AHPD Representatives' Reports**

To receive: Reports from AHPD representatives

- Peter Hills: BPS Education Training Board – Last meeting held on Monday. Issues with accreditation visits. Growing number that are due. BPS delaying – likely beyond the 6yrs planned. Only new programmes and those being monitored likely to happen this year. Review of process to see if any efficiencies can be made. SSR working group for data capture tool – will be reporting back next month. Decisions around potential changes to SSR will

require consultation, but BPS do not have capacity this year. Will take place in 2026 – hence reasons for capturing heads views and evidence base to share.

- Martin Corley: BPS research board – state of flux. Chair had to step down. Next meeting March 14<sup>th</sup>. New chair is Richard Stephens from Keele. Very few nominations for BPS awards – consider nominating your teams.

## **12.30 Lunch**

## **1.30-3.30 Workshop**

1.30pm-3.30pm – ‘Student Engagement’ facilitator Prof. Ian Walker, *Swansea University*.

Date of next meeting - AGM 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025