

ACB Council July 2006

Association Structure

There has been much discussion recently at ACB Council, ACB Executive and, more importantly, amongst the membership about the organisation of the Association. Ideas around restructuring the Regions have already been discussed at previous Council meetings. At the July meeting further proposals for re-organising the Association were discussed. Those proposals are currently being scrutinised by Council Members and, on 13th July, will be distributed to the ACB membership for consultation.

FCS

Alan Penny retires from the NHS on 14th July and will shortly be retiring from his position as Chair of the FCS. His successor has not yet been elected. Ian Watson, ACB Chair, thanked Alan for all his hard work for the FCS and ACB over many years.

Alan contributed to his last Council meeting by reporting the on-going negotiations being undertaken by FCS to ensure there is clarity and uniformity for the pay determination of pre-registration trainees.

Alan also reported that discussions concerning NHS pensions reform are now nearing a conclusion. A formal consultation on proposals is anticipated in the next month or two. Alan pointed out that current employees are paying the pensions of those already retired. Given his impending state of retirement, he wishes this to continue.

Association Awards

At lunchtime Ian Watson presented Janet McMurray with her award of Emeritus Membership, and Phil Wood with his award of Fellow of the Association. Ian thanked Janet and Phil for all their hard work for the ACB.

News From Around the Regions

Regional Committees and Representatives on Council continue to work hard for ACB Members. The Representatives update Council on Regional activities and happenings.

Dr Felicity Stewart (North West) reported that two hospitals in her ACB Region have recently invited outside tenders to provide their pathology service. The Scotland Region Representative, Dr Anne Pollock, spoke of the successful setting up of a joint renal physicians / ACB liaison committee to tackle issues such as eGFR (now) and protein:creatinine and PTH measurements (in the future).

From the Regional reports it is obvious that Grade "A" (or "pre-registration trainees" as they should now be called) posts, AfC and Annex U are high on the list of Members' concerns. The lack of Grade "B" registration posts preys on the trainees' minds.

Carter Review

Nothing to report.

Feedback

John Kane, Chair of the ACB Workforce Advisory Committee (WAC), asked Regional Representatives to encourage, via their Regional Committees, Heads of Departments to respond to workforce questionnaires sent out in March 2006 so WAC can collate data on lost, vacant and new posts.

Council Minutes

ACB Council minutes can be viewed via the Members' Area of the ACB website. Feedback from Members on items of interest, Council or otherwise, is welcomed. Please contact your Regional Committee, Regional Representative on Council, the ACB Office or ACB News.

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