Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 5 March 2015 at 10:00 am at Belgravia House, 62/64 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF

Members:
Professor S W J Reid (President in the Chair)
Mrs E Acaster* Mrs L V Hill
Professor D J Argyle Mrs A K Jeffery
Mr C T Barker Mrs R J Jennings
Mr D J Bartram Mr P C Jinman
Professor M Bennett Dr J B Johnson
Ms A K Boag Mr T J King
Dr K Braithwaite Professor S A May
Professor N Burrows Ms J R Molyneux
Professor E Cameron Dr R P Moore
Mr D F Catlow Mrs S Paterson
Mr N T Connell Professor J S Price*
Professor S M Crispin Col N C Smith
Dr J V Davies Mr R S Stephenson
Mr R Davis Dr C P Sturgess
Professor S Dawson Lord Trees*
Mr M F Elliott Mr C W Tufnell
Professor G C W England Dr B P Viner
Mr N P Gibbens* Ms J Webb
Mr C J Gray Dr T H Witte
Ms M O Greene Professor J L N Wood
Professor M E Herrtage

*Absent

In attendance:
Mrs E Butler Chair, Audit & Risk Committee
Mr G A Hockey Director of Legal Services & Registrar
Mrs K E Kissick Chair, Veterinary Nurses Council
Mr N Royle Executive Director, RCVS Knowledge (pm session only)
Mr N C Stace Chief Executive & Secretary

President’s introduction

1. The President opened the meeting and outlined the day. He extended a warm welcome to:
Apologies for absence

2. Apologies for absence had been received from:
   - Mrs E Acaster
   - Mr N P Gibbens
   - Professor J S Price
   - Lord Trees

Declarations of interest

3. There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes of the meetings held on 6 November 2014

4. Council accepted these minutes as a true record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

Obituaries

5. The President informed Council of the following obituaries:
   - Philip Cox QC – Legal Assessor for the RCVS from 1969 – 2000. Council noted the extract from the *Veterinary Record* written by Dr Porter;
   - Professor George Gettinby – a written obituary will be coming out to Council shortly;
   - Professor Alexander Mackenzie (Mac) Johnston OBE HonFRCVS – the President reported that the RCVS had been informed of Professor Johnston’s passing 2 days prior to Council and that his funeral was to be the following day. Professor Johnston had sat on many committees but never sat on RCVS Council, was an examiner, and worked hard in the areas of veterinary/public health. He was made an Honorary Fellow of the RCVS in July 1997;
   - Lady Soulsby – wife of Lord Soulsby, Past President of the RCVS and member of the House of Lords.

6. Council stood and observed a minute’s silence for all members who had passed away since the last Council meeting.

Council correspondence and matters for report

7. The President outlined the following:
8. **New Charter**: MPs, Lords, Council, staff, and members of the profession had a wonderful event at the House of Commons on the eve of Council, in celebration of the new Charter and a historical award. Council unable to attend the event were able to view the Charter which would be on display during the break. The President stated that it had been a huge amount of work and was grateful to get to this point.

9. **Council supper**: the President was pleased to finally be able to say that he had taken members out for a kebab on the eve of Council since the supper had been held at a Turkish restaurant.

10. **Building strategy**: this would be before Council in due course as matters were on-going.

11. **Defra’s SI consolidation exercise (red tape challenge)**: the President reported that the Registrar had e-mailed Council an outline of the consolidation of certain exemption orders as part of the government’s ‘Red Tape Challenge’, and thanked Council for dealing with the matter by e-mail as there were no substantive changes to legislation.

12. **National honours**: Mr Nicholas (Nick) Wingfield Digby had been appointed Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order (LVO) in the Queen’s New Year Honours, for his services as veterinary surgeon to the Royal Studs. He retired as Senior Partner of Rossdales last year and was now a consultant to the practice and currently High Sheriff of Suffolk. The President had written to congratulate him.

13. **RCVS Day 2015**: draft arrangements were in place as follows:

   **Date:** Confirmed as Friday, 10 July 2015  
   **Venue:** One Great George Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3AA  
   **Timings:**  
   09:30 am: Coffee  
   10:00 am: Annual General Meeting (followed by Meeting of Council)  
   11:00 am: Presentation of Awards  
   12:00 noon: Talk from guest speaker (TBC)  
   12:45 pm: Drinks  
   13:00 pm: Lunch  
   15:00 pm: End

14. **RCVS Council Election 2015**: the information is on the RCVS website and a press release has also been issued to veterinary press with the names of candidates standing for election. There are 11 candidates this year, 6 men and 5 women, and includes 2 existing Council members eligible for re-election and 9 new candidates.

15. Ballot papers and candidates’ details are due to be posted during the week commencing 16 March and all votes must be cast, either online or by post, by **5pm on Friday, 24 April 2015**.

16. Once again the College is inviting members to ‘Quiz the candidates’ by putting their questions directly to all those standing for election. Each candidate will then be invited to choose two questions to answer from all those received, and produce a video or audio recording of their answers – all recordings will be published on the RCVS website on Thursday, 19 March 2015.
17. **Chairs and Vice Chairs of Preliminary Investigation Committee and Disciplinary Committee**: at its meeting the day before Council, the Operational Board (on behalf of Council) agreed that the following should be appointed as Chairs and Vice Chairs of the PIC and DC respectively, from 1 July 2015:

- Chair, PIC: Mr Andrew Ash
- Vice Chair, PIC: Mr P Harvey Locke
- Chair, DC: Dr Ian Green
- Vice Chair, vet: Professor Alistair Barr
- Vice Chair, lay: Ms Chitra Karve

18. The appointments followed a selection process involving interviews by a Selection Committee which included the President or Vice President (Senior), the Chair of the requisite committee and an independent lawyer with considerable regulatory experience.

19. **Update on lay members of PIC**: there were 2 changes to lay representation on PIC:

- Sarah Pond, a member of the committee since June 2012, left at the end of 2014 to take up full-time employment with another Regulator and was replaced by John Anderson in January this year;
- Elana Tessler who had been a member of the committee since June 2013 left at the end of January this year and was replaced from the beginning of February by Stuart Hill.

20. Both John and Stuart had already been selected as part of the original LRO selection process and had been held as ‘reserves’ since then. The appointments were made by the Operational Board on behalf of Council.

21. **British College of Veterinary Specialists**: the Registrar and President had had discussions with Professor White explaining how the RCVS is implementing the recommendations from the Working Party Report on Specialisation of the Profession by Professor Sir Kenneth Calman, and were seeking to have a joint meeting of RCVS Operational Board members and trustees of the BCVS.

**CEO update**

22. The CEO introduced his report and added his thanks regarding the Charter celebrations. He stated that:

- 2014 had ended with all the objectives set out in the strategic plan for that year were complete, and had been an immense amount of work;
- the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) trial was going reasonably well and the time frame had been extended to allow for more concerns to go through the process;
- following the latest staff engagement survey, results showed that engagement was very high at 93% and the RCVS was now amongst the best companies in the country to work for;

- the current registration renewal process has been successful so far for 2015: 4,500 vets have renewed and paid; there were far fewer complaints about the process this year; approximately 1000 had used the new option of paying by debit card and he praised the team for their hard work.

23. Of the 11 items of focus:

- Mind Matters Initiative (MMI): had been launched just before Christmas and embraced all parts of the profession. This included funding to the Veterinary Surgeons Health Support Programme which had been doubled to approximately £90,000 per year, which would increase the level of support and staff available;

- there was a surplus in the budget owing to fewer disciplinary hearings being held as members had the option of going through either the Health, or the Performance, Protocols that were now in place. The MMI will also help to raise the profile of these within the profession;

- details regarding the international strategy, and the future role in Europe and the rest of the world, would return to Council at its next meeting in June;

- the RCVS was working closely with the British Veterinary Association (BVA) on the ‘Vet Futures’ project and what that means both as a Royal College and as a veterinary profession. At the moment both parties were deep in the research phase and BVA would join the Operational Board at its September away days to help with planning on the next strategic plan. A paper on vet futures would be prepared for November 2015 Council.

24. The CEO asked for comments or questions on the report.

25. The Mind Matters initiative was congratulated – especially given the relatively high number of suicides amongst veterinarians. But governance was questioned and surprise was expressed at the amount of money put aside for the project, and that it had been announced in the veterinary press before approval at Council.

26. The CEO responded by stating that there had been a lot of discussion over a number of meetings. Whilst commitment would be £200,000 over the next 5 years, the first year would be covered by the Strategic Development Budget which was managed by the Operational Board. When budget comes to Council in November, there will be a discussion on whether the figure was satisfactory for the commitment over the 5 year period.

27. It was suggested that after a public statement committing £1,000,000 to the initiative and the VSHSP, the commitment was already made and Council cannot go back on that.
28. It was questioned why the international strategy had started in Hong Kong and Sydney. The CEO responded that it had started there as Hong Kong has the largest veterinary base – all vets there before 1997 had to be registered with the RCVS and many had continued to do so. In Sydney many members travelled from New Zealand and further afield, and that there was an appetite to become a member of the RCVS, so it was possible to expand the reach of the RCVS throughout the world.

29. It was requested that under item 6 – IT transformation – to try to speed up solving the issues with the profcon system. The Registrar responded that a first tender exercise had not identified any suitable partners and a second tender exercise was being undertaken. He added that there the slowness experienced accessing the profcon system was not a fault with the system itself, but a problem with RCVS firewalls. He said that if the problem continues we would need to find a solution before the proposed new system is installed.

30. The CEO took the opportunity at this point in the meeting to thank the Director of Education, Mrs Freda Andrews, for her tremendous commitment to the RCVS and the legacy she is leaving behind as she retires after being here since 1999. She leaves two strong Heads of Department in her wake and had been instrumental in a number of projects:

- the Professional Development Phase (PDP);
- Modular Certification of Advance Veterinary Practitioner (CertAVP);
- life-long learning through continuing professional development (CPD) and the CPD audit;
- improvement in the way we accredit universities;
- better links with overseas.

31. The President presented her with flowers and she received a standing ovation from Council. Mrs Andrews thanked Council for their best wishes.

College Honours and Awards

32. The College honour awardees approved at the November 2014 Council meeting have all accepted their honours:

Queen’s Medal
Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior PhD MA DSc(hc) DVM&S(hc) DVM(hc) DVMS(hc) DVSM CBiol FSB HonFRCVS

Honorary Associateship
Dr Michael James Francis EurProBiol BViol FSB PhD
Miss Catherine Anne Phillips RVN REVN
Mr Phillip Sketchley BSc(Hons)

Honorary Fellowship by Election
Mr Gordon Nicholson (Nick) Henderson BSc FCIPR MRCVS
Professor Donal Francis Kelly BVSc MA PhD DiplECVP FRCPath MRCVS
Mr Alistair McLaren Lawrie BVMS MRCVS
Matters for decision by Council

Draft accounts for 2014
33. The paper was introduced by the Treasurer, Ms Boag. She stated that:

- the annual accounts have been set out in the paper before council and some informational graphs tabled;

- the audit process was just starting and if there were any specific points that Council wished to raise they should let her know over the next week or so and she will meet with the auditors accordingly;

- there was a larger surplus than expected but would be looking at different issues over the next week or so, e.g. the building strategy, etc;

- income was higher than predicted as there is a slightly higher number of veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses paying their fees, and a smaller amount of disciplinary committee cases because of the health, and the performance, protocols in place, although there would be some cases coming through shortly; and

- there was a PSS negative variance – income was pretty consistent and only a little over budget.

34. The Treasurer invited questions on the paper.

35. It was queried if the budget investment management cost of £40,000 in the paper was just an error, or on-going amount.

36. The Director of Operations responded that the accounts were now set out in the new SORP accounts layout – it was not a new cost, it was consistent and grows with the portfolio; it never used to be on a separate line as the new layout now requires but that she could put the percentage in the accounts if Council wished. This was agreed.

37. The paper was noted.

RCVS governance
38. The President introduced the paper on RCVS Governance, noting that it has been developed by the Operational Board following the discussion in the afternoon workshop of Council on 6 November 2014. The paper outlined two options for governance reform which provided a framework for discussion. The paper made a recommendation to set up a Council Panel to work with the Operational Board to take governance reform forward.

39. In discussion the following points were made:
- it was imperative that the opportunity for practitioners to be on Committees was not reduced. The use of the term 'expert' in relation to committee membership could be perceived as precluding ordinary practitioners;

- the proposal for a limited number of terms for Council members was to be commended. Council had agreed that the President's term of office should not be increased beyond the current year term as this had the potential to prevent practitioners standing for the role;

- the proposals would make the RCVS more modern and efficient, but there may be unintended consequences regarding its Royal College role. The Council must consider what a modern Royal College looked like in addition to a modern regulator;

- the proposals represented one of the biggest changes to the regulation of the profession. Changes in governance arrangements in the corporate world were not yet complete and were arguably still failing. The RCVS needed appropriate internal structures in order to keep the professional model of regulation and not everything could be solved by external regulation. There was limited evidence that small Councils or the ‘best practice’ model provided more effective governance;

- the new governance processes were not yet fully bedded down. Reform should not be rushed and the evidence base needed to be reviewed. Engagement with the profession was critical;

- there was a real opportunity to improve governance structures at the RCVS. The College should be bold and not ‘navel-gaze’;

- the RCVS had made extraordinary progress over the last five years and was willing to confront difficult issues. The College should not lose the momentum it had and should complete the journey of reform;

- the process of reform needed to continue, but the RCVS must bring the profession with it and build support. LROs were used to correct errors in legislation and it was therefore necessary to clearly lay out the issues the existing legislation presented.

40. The CEO reflected on the discussion noting:

- there was a strong case for reform, the new Charter squarely set the RCVS as regulator of the Veterinary Nurses, but Veterinary Nurses did not have a formal seat at the Council table;

- lay representation was a critical part of being a regulator and permanent lay representation was needed on Council;

- the ratchet effect of new veterinary schools needed to be addressed;

- the introduction of term limits was an important aspect of good governance;
the RVCS must not blindly follow a ‘best practice’ model, but instead it needed to find a solution that worked for the College;

- it was important that decisions were not rushed and there would be at least four months before the profession was consulted on proposals. It was also important to note that the College had already given considerable attention to the issue of governance through various working groups;

- whatever model the RCVS adopted it was important that future generations were provided with the flexibility to amend and reform the governance arrangements.

41. Concern was raised by one member that the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) might not have a seat on a reformed Council. In response the CEO noted having the CVO on Council could be perceived by some as a conflict of interest, because Defra, through the Privy Council, provided oversight of the work of the RCVS. Going forward it was likely that the CVO would be closely engaged with the RCVS, but would not have a position on Council.

42. The President summarised discussions. Council endorsed the direction of travel, whilst noting the timescales, and the formation of a Council Panel to support the Operational Board in developing proposals.

‘Dr’ title

43. The paper was introduced by the Registrar, Mr Hockey, who stated that the College had sought engagement with both the profession and public and, as a result, there was over 11,000 people who had expressed a view. He thanked Ms Kingswell, DC Clerk, for her work on this issue.

44. He highlighted:

- 81% of respondents were in favour of the title and the graphs within the paper set out who responded;

- it was not all about the numbers – paragraph 10c and d showed the arguments against the proposal;

- the consultation paper set out in Annex A was based on the paper that was before Council at the last meeting;

- the responses to the consultation recorded on survey monkey were set out in Annex B;

- every qualitative comment had been analysed over the course of one day by a team of approximately 10 people from across 4 departments and the results were set out in Annex C;

- the responses from outside bodies were set out in Annex D;

- there was draft supporting guidance - that if a member uses the title ‘Dr’ they should use MRCVS or veterinary surgeon after their name.
45. The Registrar invited questions or comments on the paper.

46. There was support from Council given overwhelming support for the change shown by the consultation.

47. The President asked Council to vote on:

i. whether the title ‘Dr’ can be used if a member wished – this carried by a majority vote;

ii. approval of the guidance as set out in the paper – this was agreed by a majority vote.

Reports of Committees

Audit and Risk Committee

48. The Chair of the Committee, Mrs Butler, introduced the ARC papers. Council noted the October 2014 and January 2015 minutes which had been reviewed by the committee independently.

49. Mrs Butler highlighted the following points:

- the committee had discussed that ‘buying in’ facilitators for an internal audit would entail a unnecessary and disproportionate cost to the College and that the current arrangements namely the first rate regulator review and external partners, for example, Penningtons, provide adequate assurances for the committee;

- the CEO now gives the committee an update at each meeting and particularly highlights any issues of risk;

- the committee continue to focus on the risk register and particular areas of risk;

- following a recommendation from the committee a meeting took place between the CEO and Penningtons, the College solicitors, and this went well;

- the PSS IT project is in the early stages and the committee were ‘happy’ with the delay if it meant that the right suppliers are chosen;

- Mr Peter Florey, the IT advisor, will attend the next meeting to meet the committee. This is so they can be assured that all processes are being followed particularly with the profcon IT project, which has been mentioned already;

- the audit process is being started shortly. Mrs Butler has been talking to the auditor re the process and the committee has extended the scope of the audit. They will look at the IT spend, the strategic development budget and explained that they do not need to focus on fixed assets as this rarely changes;

- the committee have been working with the Treasurer to discuss her role and the future approach to the role;
• the committee had also considered the continuity of membership and have agreed to staggered terms of office. A recommendation was made that the person who is chosen to take over from the Chair should serve a year as a standard member of the committee first;

• the committee are available for visits if invited!

50. The Chair invited questions or comments on the papers.

51. It was noted that there had been one meeting of ARC without any members of the Council present. The Chair agreed that their absence was felt and that circumstances had unfortunately prevented their attendance on that occasion. She felt that the committee could absorb other Council members.

52. It was also queried if there would be any changes as a result of the separate memberships of DC and PIC after July 2015. Mrs Butler explained that ARC had received the processes of the current systems, and the President added that this issue was for the April meeting of PIC/DC Liaison Committee. It was noted, however, that this would only leave the June Council meeting for discussion.

53. Performance indicators for PIC and DC at paragraph 25 were noted, and a definition requested. Mrs Butler explained that they should be mechanical indicators – such as quality and timeliness.

54. The papers were noted.

**Education Committee**

55. The report of the meeting held on 4 February 2015 was presented by the Chair, Mr Tufnell. He thanked Mrs Freda Andrews for all her work for the Committee over the years and said she would be sorely missed but that he was confident that Ms Christine Warman and the Education team would continue to provide Education Committee with excellent support.

56. Over 600 applications for Advanced Practitioner status had been received and this had exceeded expectation. The Chairman paid tribute to Dr Sturgess and his team for their work in considering this large volume of applications in a timely and thorough way. The successful applicants would be informed after this meeting. Looking forward, RCVS now needed to focus on promotion of both Specialist status and Advanced Practitioner status.

57. From the report Mr Tufnell highlighted the decision to continue to recognise the University of Massey’s veterinary degree and the Committee’s agreement to update the Year One Competences. He reported that work to develop a CertAVP designation in Veterinary Primary Care was progressing. Finally, he drew Council’s attention to the new accreditation standards. This had been a huge piece of work for which Mrs Andrews was to be commended. An outcomes-based approach had been adopted and the standards were in harmony with those used internationally by AVBC and AVMA.

58. Members discussed CPD requirements and recording and some specific areas of concern were raised. It was suggested that the allowance for 10 hours of undocumented private study needed
to be reviewed as some vets were recording large blocks of time for vaguely defined activity. More needed to be done to encourage vets to back up what they recorded through use of the notes facility. Also, the option for a person to complete all his or her CPD through webinars could be unsatisfactory. It was suggested that veterinary surgeons should engage with a variety of CPD activities and reflect on and record what they had learned.

59. It was also felt that, over time, RCVS should consider verifying CPD outcomes, rather than inputs, and measuring what had been achieved or learnt.

60. RCVS had so far refrained from accrediting any CPD, partly because of the cost and resource implications, but many CPD providers had indicated that they would welcome a system whereby RCVS provided accreditation of their courses and other provision.

61. The report of the Education Committee was noted.

**Preliminary Investigation Committee and Disciplinary Committee Liaison Committee**

62. As Chair to the Committee, the President reported that there had not been a meeting of this committee since the last meeting of Council. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 15 April 2015.

**Standards Committee**

63. The Chair, Mr Catlow, provided a report on the most recent Standards Committee meeting held on 28 January 2015, highlighting the minutes and annexes circulated in advance of the Council meeting.

64. He outlined that the Committee has approved a number of updates to the existing guidance on advertising and publicity as well as changes to the guidance on communication to reinforce vets and veterinary nurses’ obligations to comply with equalities legislation. It was also reported that the Committee has issued new advice on the safe handling of cytotoxic drugs, including the need for a risk assessment and measures designed to protect the health and safety of staff and others, who may be affected by the use of cytotoxic drugs. The guidance also recommends periodic testing and monitoring of protective measures, if appropriate and available, and regular review of risk assessments. He explained that the Committee has not set out to produce a detailed ‘how to’ manual, but sought to raise awareness of the fundamental principles of the safe use of cytotoxic drugs and to signpost the profession to the relevant sources of information.

65. Finally, the Chair reported that the Committee is working on a number of ongoing matters including a review of the Kennel Club reporting scheme as well as the development of new advice for veterinary surgeons working in senior management roles. The Committee is also considering issues around veterinary nurses and anaesthesia, but these are complex and time is being spent to ensure any draft proposals are sound.

66. There were no questions and the report was noted.
Veterinary Nurses Council

67. The Chair of Veterinary Nurses Council, Mrs Kissick, presented the report from the meeting held on 3 February, and drew attention to a few of the issues which had been covered.

68. There had been further discussion on the inclusion of postnominals in the Nurses’ Register, and VN Council had unanimously agreed to maintain the status quo, with the only postnominals displayed being RVN and DipAVN. A focus group would be established to review advanced qualifications and make recommendations as to whether these might be considered for inclusion in the future. It had also been agreed that it should be made clear that other relevant postnominals could be shown on stationery and business cards.

69. VN Council had approved changes to the registration procedure for veterinary nurses trained outside the UK, and had also approved proposals that would allow awarding organisations and higher education institutions located outside the UK to apply for accreditation, being subject to the same criteria as UK institutions. It had been noted that whilst the RCVS cannot ask an EU/EEA trained veterinary nurse to provide evidence of their ability to communicate in English before they register with the RCVS, the employer has a right to ensure the English language competence of their employees, and the RCVS had been requested to do more to inform employers of this fact.

70. VN Council had been pleased to note an increase in the number of training practices, with 209 new approvals in 2014.

71. The nomination period for the Golden Jubilee award for 2015 was now open, with a closing date of 24 April. Council members were urged to encourage nominations for this award which is for VNs, veterinary surgeons and lay people who have made an outstanding contribution to veterinary nursing.

72. The list and register of veterinary nurses have been amalgamated following the signing of the new Royal Charter, and there are now over twelve thousand Registered Veterinary Nurses.

73. Several members commented on the right of the employer to test the English language skills of potential applicants and it was suggested that this was a duty, and that practices should be encouraged to do this. The Registrar confirmed that although veterinary nurses are governed by a different directive to that for veterinary surgeons, the testing of EU/EEA applicants to the VN Register is not permitted at present. This issue was due to be raised with DEFRA in respect of veterinary surgeons, and the discussions would also be widened to include veterinary nurses. It was hoped to be able to report further at the next Council meeting.

74. The report was noted.

Reports of Statutory Committees

Preliminary Investigation Committee

75. The report was introduced by the Chair, Dr Davies.
76. He highlighted activity over the period, and the large number against Category X – unclassified – in the table on page 4, relating to concerns – this included numbers of concerns by the public but were then not pursued.

77. He was grateful for the hard work of everyone on committee, and felt that it would be appropriate at this point to say thank you to Sarah Pond and Elana Tessler for their work on the committee (see AI 05b – correspondence and matters for report).

78. The report was noted.

**Disciplinary Committee**

79. The report of the committee was introduced by the Chair, Professor Burrows. She requested that the report of the individuals at paragraphs 16 and 17 coming up for hearings should not have been reported and to please keep confidential.

80. It was queried that the set of papers were already on-line, and the Registrar stated that the online papers had been amended.

81. It was questioned whether the profession could learn more from complaints to avoid problems. The Registrar agreed and said that there is a natural interest in bad news, but that the College would also aim to use its advice work to produce a booklet of good news stories to inform the profession. He added that the advice team and Communications Department are working on this.

82. It was noted that two people had now been signed off the health protocol and it should be publicised that the issues had been resolved without the need for disciplinary hearings. It was also noted that it was surprising how few people look beyond the headline to the details of a hearing.

83. The report was noted.

**Notices of Motion**

84. There were no notices of motion.

**Questions**

85. No questions had been received.

**Any other business**

86. The President reported that Professor Bennett would shortly be moving from the University of Liverpool to take up a position at the University of Nottingham and thanked him for his contributions on Council, as his term of office on Council will cease at the same time.
Recommendations for the appointment of Officers – President and Vice President (Senior) respectively, for confirmation at the AGM on 10 July 2015

87. The President stated that the Operational Board, in accordance with convention recommended that from the AGM in July, the incoming President be Dr B P Viner, and he move on to be a Vice President.

88. This was agreed.

Date of next meeting

89. The date for the next meeting of Council is Friday, 5 June 2015 (not 2014 as the agenda states) to be held at 10:30 am at the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP. The meeting would reconvene in the afternoon from 2:00 – 3:00 pm.

[The remainder of the meeting was held in Committee, the staff and public left the room.]

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