

Council Meeting

Thursday, 16 April 2020 at 10:00 am to be held remotely by teleconference

Agenda	Classification ¹	Rationale ²
1. President's introduction	Oral report Unclassified	
2. Apologies for absence	Oral report Unclassified	
3. Matter for discussion and / or decision by Council		
a. Certification issues	Confidential	1, 2, 3, 4
4. Declaration of interests	Oral report Classification tbc	
5. Minutes		
a. Minutes of the meeting held 5 March 2020	Unclassified	
b. Classified appendix of the meeting held 5 March 2020	Confidential	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
c. Classified appendix of items between 6 – 31 March 2020	Confidential	1, 4
6. Matters arising		
a. Obituaries	Oral report Unclassified	
b. Council correspondence and matters for report	Oral report Unclassified	
c. CEO update	Oral report Unclassified	
7. Notices of motion	Oral report Unclassified	
8. Questions	Oral report Unclassified	
9. Date of next meeting Thursday, 4 June 2020 at 10:00 am	Oral report Unclassified	

10. Any other College business	Oral report Classification tbc	
11. Risk Register, equality and diversity	Oral report Confidential	1, 2, 3, 4
Dawn Wiggins Secretary, RCVS Council 020 7202 0737 / d.wiggins@rcvs.org.uk		

Summary

Meeting	Council
Date	16 April 2020
Title	March 2020 Council minutes
Summary	Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 5 March 2020
Decisions required	To approve the minutes and classified appendix
Attachments	Classified appendix
Author	Dawn Wiggins Secretary, Council d.wiggins@rcvs.org.uk / 020 7202 0737

Classifications

Document	Classification ¹	Rationales ²
Paper	Unclassified	N/A
Classified appendix	Confidential	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

¹Classifications explained

Unclassified	Papers will be published on the internet and recipients may share them and discuss them freely with anyone. This may include papers marked 'Draft'.
Confidential	Temporarily available only to Council Members, non-Council members of the relevant committee, sub-committee, working party or Board and not for dissemination outside that group unless and until the relevant committee or Council has given approval for public discussion, consultation or publication.
Private	The paper includes personal data which should not be disclosed at any time or for any reason, unless the data subject has agreed otherwise. The Chair may, however, indicate after discussion that there are general issues which can be disclosed, for example in reports to committees and Council.

²Classification rationales

Confidential	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To allow the Committee or Council to come to a view itself, before presenting to and/or consulting with others 2. To maintain the confidence of another organisation 3. To protect commercially sensitive information 4. To maintain public confidence in and/or uphold the reputation of the veterinary professions and/or the RCVS
Private	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. To protect information which may contain personal data, special category data, and/or criminal offence data, as listed under the General Data Protection Regulation

Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 5 March 2020 at Belgravia House, 62-64 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF

Members:

Dr N T Connell (President in the Chair)	
Dr C J Allen	Professor R A Hammond
Professor D J Argyle*	Mr D J Leicester
Mr C T Barker	Miss R M Marshall
Miss L Belton	Professor S A May
Ms A K Boag	Mrs C-L McLaughlan
Professor D Bray*	Dr S Paterson
Professor E Cameron	Mr M L Peaty
Mr J M Castle*	Professor C J Proudman
Dr D S Chambers	Dr C L Scudamore
Ms E K Cox	Professor K Smith
Professor S Dawson	Dr N C Smith
Dr M A Donald	Dr C P Sturgess
Dr J M Dyer	Dr C W Tufnell
Professor G C W England	Mr T J Walker
Ms L Ford*	Professor J L N Wood
Ms L V Goodwin	Ms J S M Worthington
Dr M O Greene	

*Absent

In attendance:

Ms E C Ferguson	Registrar
Ms L Lockett	CEO
Ms C McCann	Assistant Registrar / Director of Operations (DoO)

Guests:

Ms E Butler	Chair, Audit and Risk Committee
Dr D Dos Santos	President, BVA (open session only)

President's introduction

1. The President extended a warm welcome to guests and outlined the order of the meeting.

Apologies for absence and welcome to new member

2. Apologies for absence were received from:

- Professor D J Argyle
- Professor D Bray
- Mr J M Castle
- Ms L Ford
- Miss C H Middlemiss CVO, Observer

3. The President reported that following RCVS accreditation of the veterinary degree from Surrey University Veterinary School in October 2019, and subsequent Privy Council Office approval, Professor Proudman was welcomed as the new Surrey veterinary school representative onto RCVS Council (under current transitional arrangements, a representative from each veterinary school sits on RCVS Council).

Declarations of interest

4. New declarations of interest were received from:

- Ms A K Boag: now an examiner for the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) final year examinations for BVetMed.

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2020

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2020

5. Council had the opportunity to comment on the minutes electronically.
6. The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Classified appendix

7. Council had the opportunity to comment on the minutes electronically.
8. The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Matters arising

Obituary

9. There had been one written obituary received for James Edwin (Bean) Phillips, Honorary Fellow of the University of Edinburgh, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.

10. Council and guests stood and observed a minute silence for all members of the College who had passed away since the last meeting.

Council correspondence and matters for report

11. The President reported on the following items:

New Year's National Honours

12. In an omission at the January 2020 meeting, the names of the people involved in animal health and welfare that had received Honours in the Queen's New Year Honours List 2020 were:

Dr Martyn Blissitt	OBE	Veterinary Adviser, Animal Health & Welfare, Scottish Government
Professor Ian Brown	OBE	Head of Virology, Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)
Ms Claire Horton	OBE	CEO, Battersea Dogs and Cats Home

13. He had written to congratulate them.

RCVS Day 2020

14. Draft arrangements for RCVS Day in July were:

Date:	Friday, 10 July 2020	
Venue:	One Great George Street 1 Great George Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3AA	
Draft timings:	10:00 am:	Annual General Meeting (followed by Meeting of Council)
		<i>Coffee break</i>
	11:00 am:	Presentation of Awards President's address Talk from guest speaker Investiture of new President
	12:45 pm:	Lunch
	15:00 pm:	End

Coffee would be available from 9:30 – 11:00 am.

15. The AGM at 10:00 am was primarily for registered veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses, however, all guests were welcome to attend should they wish. Award recipients and their guests are invited to attend the Presentation of Awards at 11:00 am.

RCVS Council Election 2020

16. Information was on the RCVS website and a press release issued to the veterinary press with the names of candidates standing for election. There were eight candidates this year: six men and two women, and included three existing Council members eligible for re-election and five new candidates.

17. Ballot papers and candidate details were due to be posted during the week commencing 16 March and all votes must be cast, either online or by post, by 5:00 pm on Friday, 24 April 2020.
18. Once again the College had invited members to 'Quiz the Candidates' by putting their questions directly to all those standing for election. Each candidate would then be invited to choose two questions to answer from all those received, and produce a video recording of their answers – details of how to submit questions were on the RCVS website, where all recordings would be published the week the election commences.

Brexit Taskforce - update

19. Since the last Council meeting the UK had officially left the European Union. There had been a meeting of the Taskforce on the eve of March Council and work continued on looking to the future.

Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) General Assembly – June 2020

20. Currently this was still being arranged and it was important to continue to work with European colleagues on behalf of animal health and welfare.

Coronavirus (Covid-19)

21. In light of the recent outbreak and spread of the virus within the UK, Council was reassured that the College had a Business Continuity Plan to ensure that essential work could continue in the event that the College had to close, or staff were unable to get to work due to transport issues. The decision had been made to postpone the annual Reception due to be held on the eve of March Council as it was a social event and safety was paramount.
22. The CEO further reported that the College was doing a lot of work in a range of areas for the professions regarding the virus and that, whilst veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses had a job to do, human safety must come first. The College had received a number of questions regarding, for example: having additional people in a practice such as students completing Extra-Mural Studies (EMS); 24/7 care arrangements; home visits for members of the public who had been advised to self-isolate; etc. The College's role was to reassure the professions and look at areas specific to the Code of Professional Conduct (CoPC), whilst being as supportive and helpful as possible. There would be a series of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the website shortly and the Director of Education had been in contact with veterinary schools regarding EMS students. As with any decision a veterinary professional makes, full documentation was important, and practices should have their own protocols.
23. Regarding RCVS meetings, a form was being produced for visitors to Belgravia House to complete regarding their health and recent trips abroad. Meanwhile a list of criteria had been developed to assist in decision making about whether events should go ahead: was the meeting time critical; where were attendees travelling from; the impact on staff/key workers; impact on animal health and welfare; etc. Also under consideration were business-critical activities such as disciplinary hearings, and ways of registering overseas members in the short term without them needing to physically come to the College. The majority of staff in Belgravia House had the ability to work remotely.

24. The College had also received statements from its investment firm, Investec, and advisors dealing with the estates strategy, and current advice was 'business as usual'.

CEO update

25. Further to the outline work regarding the coronavirus, the CEO reported that:

- completion of the recent continuing professional development (CPD) audit had shown 86% compliance. The 1CPD app had been launched, with 10,000 downloads from iOS, 6,000 downloads from Android, and there had been 2.2 million CPD entries migrated to the new system. There had been some updates to rid the system of bugs and also to respond to requests from members, such as a colour-coded bar that showed if you were/were not compliant, and the ability for Advanced Practitioners to record CPD against their designated area;
- there had been 65 applications for Fellowship; successful candidates would be notified in the summer;
- Veterinary Nurse Council elections 2020 had an unprecedented 13 members standing for two places;
- the Mind Matters Initiative Sarah Brown research grant period was currently open for its second year; the background of the grants was explained, and this year's grant would be awarded at RCVS Day in July;
- confidential meeting papers should now be clearer; there used to be two whole Council meetings held in closed session but now the majority of every meeting is in open session;
- frequency of meetings: a request to Council to share views as soon as possible on its thoughts around the number of meetings per year now that it had been through a complete cycle of the new schedule;
- a further request for Council to email through any items it would like to see on the 'dashboard' of the CEO report.

26. Council took the opportunity to congratulate staff involved in the CPD app; even critics of the College had made positive comments.

27. Various matters around the virus were discussed. The matter of EMS students would be discussed with Vet Schools Council (VSC) as the situation evolved; Council was reminded that a similar problem had been overcome during the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak in the past and that the College already had a workable format.

28. The update was noted.

Matters for decision by Council and for report (unclassified items)

Under care/out-of-hours review (UC/OOH) – update

29. The Chair, Standards Committee (SC), gave an update on work undertaken to date. Since the last meeting, it was noted that the proposed methodology had been found not to be workable once the detail had been drilled down into, so there had been a delay while a different proposal had been developed. It was agreed that focus group discussions with a wide range of veterinary surgeons from different career paths, veterinary nurses, and stakeholders would take its place. Thereafter there would be a wider evidence gathering process and a subsequent report would outline any or no changes to the profession, with any changes to guidance recommended then developed and put out to consultation. Through Standards and Finance and Resources Committees, funding had been approved and the focus groups were now ready to begin. Unfortunately, early delays had meant the overall timetable had also been delayed and it was expected that a consultation would be open at the end of 2020.
30. There were no questions and the update was noted.

Veterinary Council of Ireland Mutual Recognition Agreement - addendum

31. The Chair, Education Committee, outlined the background to the paper and that it had been discussed and agreed at the recent Education Committee meeting.
32. Clarification was sought with regards to the Mutual Recognition of Primary Qualifications (MRPQ) Directive that was in place until 31 December 2020, and whether the proposed addendum was compatible; also noting that part of trade negotiations would include further discussions regarding qualifications. It was confirmed that this addendum was only to close a loophole that had been identified in the previously agreed Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA), and that the MRA would not come into effect unless there was no deal by the end of the year. Any future legislation would also need to be carefully considered for further unintended consequences.
33. The circumstances around the need to sit the Statutory Examination for Membership to be eligible to work in Ireland/the UK was questioned. It was confirmed that the MRPQ situation applied to community rights entitled persons i.e. EU citizens; it was not applicable for those who were only resident in an EU country, nor those that were, for example, an Indian national with an EU degree.
34. A vote was taken to approve the proposed addendum:
- | | |
|--------------|----|
| For: | 30 |
| Against: | 0 |
| Abstentions: | 0 |
35. This was unanimously agreed.

Practice Standards Scheme (PSS) – updates

36. The Chair, SC, outlined the paper, which was the result of a significant amount of work to undertake the five-year review of the Practice Standards Scheme. Whilst there was a multitude of

amendments, the structure of the Scheme remained the same; it was noted that there were only a few changes to Core requirements (which were relevant to all veterinary practices not just those under the Scheme, as Core requirements form part of the CoPC), however the overwhelming majority related to categories other than Core / and to PSS guidance.

37. The reasons behind the changes were questioned and why, given the remit of Standards Committee was to recommend decisions for approval, and that the recommended amendments had already been through two rounds of scrutiny – Practice Standards Group (PSG) and Standards Committee (SC) – it was now being placed before Council for review. It was confirmed that the rationale behind the amendments had already been through PSG and SC, therefore Council was to decide whether to accept the recommended amendments rather than suggesting changes.
38. A vote was taken to approve the proposed amendments to all sections as detailed in the paper:
- | | |
|--------------|----|
| For: | 29 |
| Against: | 0 |
| Abstentions: | 1 |
39. This was agreed by a majority vote.

Reports of Committees – to note

Advancement of the Professions Committee (APC)

40. In the Chair's absence, Professor Dawson introduced the minutes of the last meeting and highlighted the decision to develop a unified programme that would advance the professions through primary care practice, since amended to general care practice, through recruitment and retention of staff.
41. Paragraph 8 of the report was questioned: there was already a huge amount of investment to support students at university, as well as a gateway programme, and queried where this need had arisen from. It was noted that whilst a lot work through veterinary schools and the Mind Matters Initiative had already been undertaken, it was not for specific minority groups and it was felt there may be a need to further recognise some of the unique challenges smaller groups of individuals may face once they are in vet school, for example, LGBT or minority ethnic groups. There had been a successful student mental health roundtable in September 2019 where students recognised things that had been done on their behalf, and that a second event could be set up to look specifically at diversity and inclusion.
42. The report was noted.

Audit and Risk Committee (ARC)

43. The Chair, ARC, explained that the entirety of the February minutes remained confidential as they had yet to be agreed by the Committee. She highlighted:

- work had been undertaken to match the College's governance structure with the Charity Commission's Governance Code, and had brought up some key recommendations that the Committee was considering;
- work on the Risk Register was ongoing: there had been two 'deep dives into departmental Risk Registers, the Standards and Advice Team and the Education Department. Council was asked to 'horizon scan' for anything outside of the College that could potentially have an impact on the RCVS Risk Register;
- Business Continuity Planning was well-placed;
- assurance mapping: multiple sources of assurance provided good governance and this exercise was ongoing;
- there was now an anti-fraud policy.

44. There were no comments or questions. The report and classified appendix were noted.

Education Committee (EC)

45. The Chair, EC, outlined the report, highlighting:

- CPD: the good news about the app had been mentioned earlier in the meeting; and the preliminary report of the 2019 CPD audit showed an increase in compliance after years of falling percentages. There would be workshops taking place in April that would report back through Education Committee to Council;
- Graduate Outcomes: the stages of different workstreams were outlined, Day One Competencies were now part of a draft conceptual module; Extra-Mural Studies (EMS) and clinical education streams were a little behind but there would be further working groups with increased input from primary care vets;
- Professional Development Phase (PDP): after a long discussion this had been given the working title Veterinary Graduate Development Programme (VGDP), although this was not yet finalised;
- Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice and Advanced Practitioner status would be reviewed by EC;
- since the papers had been sent to Council there had been 28 candidates confirmed for the Statutory Examination for Membership, which was double the 2019 cohort.

46. There were no comments or questions. The report and classified appendix were noted.

Finance and Resources Committee (FRC)

47. The Chair, FRC, outlined the report and highlighted:

- the College's investment manager, Investec, had given a presentation and discussed the general financial landscape. Since the meeting they had sent a position statement regarding coronavirus advising caution in making any significant changes to investment strategy at this uncertain time, for example, dis-investing and then trying to predict the low point and re-investing. As College funds were a long-term investment, 'staying put' was the current best advice;
- asset planning and how the College organised its financial health were discussed;
- the annual audit was ongoing by Crowe, and there would be a joint ARC/FRC meeting in May to discuss the findings;
- the budget for UC/OOH was approved;
- due to the virus outbreak, Council was advised that if any advance travel or accommodation were to be booked, to try to do it on a refundable basis, accepting this may be more expensive; or hold off until confirmation was given that an event was definitely taking place.

48. There were no comments or questions. The report and classified appendix were noted.

Standards Committee (SC)

49. The Chair, SC, introduced the report and highlighted:

- draft Recognised Veterinary Practice (RVP) framework was nearing completion and would be a useful document;
- the Committee, and now Council, had approved the amendments to the PSS;
- social media and online network case studies will be on the website shortly to outline some 'do's' and 'don'ts' for the profession;
- it was proposed to amend the wording to Chapter 11 of the Supporting Guidance regarding ownership of wildlife.

50. There were no comments or questions. The report and classified appendix were noted.

Veterinary Nurses Council (VNC)

51. The Chair, VNC, introduced the report and highlighted:

- CPD audit: 79% of veterinary nurses were compliant, which was a 7% increase from last year and the highest percentage compliance to date;
- there were now over 18,000 veterinary nurses on the Register so work would take place to encourage them to vote in the forthcoming elections;

- VN Futures: three webinars were planned around the value of the VN; one was in February, one due to take place the following week, and the other planned for a later date;
- there would be a VN stream at the forthcoming British Small Animal Veterinary Association Congress in April.

52. There were no comments or questions. The report and classified appendix were noted.

PIC/DC Liaison Committee (PIC/DC LC)

53. The Chair, PIC/DC LC outlined the report and highlighted:

- the Veterinary Client Mediation Service (VCMS) data continued to be positive and useful;
- notes on the buddy system were in the classified appendix;
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were reviewed, the details of which were in the PIC report before Council: Stage 1 KPI for January's was 82%; Stage 2 (simple cases) was 83% and Stage 2 (complex cases) were scrutinised individually, six cases did not meet the KPI;
- there was discussion about the periodic dips in Stage 1 KPIs that occurred when there was staff turnover. It was noted that it was an emotionally intense job and the Committee recommended that the number of Case Managers be increased by one to introduce some additional capacity thereby reducing the impact on KPIs should a Case Manager leave; the CEO, Registrar and DoO were looking at how to implement this.

54. It was questioned whether there were any areas of veterinary care that regularly came up as problematical areas, and it was confirmed that there was a standing agenda item for feedback to Standards Committee if there were areas the Committee felt information/advice could be provided by the College. The Chair, SC, was also a member of the Committee. It was noted that common areas of concern were communication issues and informed consent, so after feeding back to SC the guidance had been amended.

55. The CEO further commented that case studies and webinars were key areas that could feed into the Academy that Council had approved previously. It was noted that when considering trends to also look at technology and whether it was being used properly i.e. systems vs. individuals.

56. The report and classified appendix was noted.

Reports of Statutory Committees – to note

57. In the absence of the Chairs of the Committees, the Registrar was able to answer any questions from Council.

Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC)

58. There were no questions and the report was noted.

RVN Preliminary Investigation Committee (RVN PIC)

59. There were no questions and the report was noted.

Disciplinary Committee and RVN Disciplinary Committee

60. There were no questions and the report was noted.

Notices of Motion

61. There were no notices of motion received.

Questions

62. There were no questions received.

Any other College business (unclassified) (taken out of order)

63. There was no other business to report or discuss.

Risk Register, equality and diversity (unclassified) (taken out of order)

64. Two items were to be added to the RCVS Risk Register:

- Coronavirus: adequate planning;
- MRPQ after 31 December 2020 when the government Brexit transition period came to an end.

[Afternote: Coronavirus planning was already on the Risk Register.]

Date of next meeting (taken out of order)

65. The date of the next meeting was Thursday, 16 April 2020, commencing at 10:00 am. The afternoon session would include training on unconscious bias.

[Afternote: the training on unconscious bias has been postponed until the September 2020 meeting. The status of the April meeting is under discussion with Officers; Council will be kept up to date accordingly.]

Recommendation for the appointment of Officers – President and Vice-President (Senior) respectively, for confirmation at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 10 July 2020

66. The (current) Vice-President (Senior) took the Chair for this item whilst the President and Vice-President (Junior) left the room to ensure procedures and oversight were followed. Staff and guests also left the room in order for Council to have a confidential discussion if it so wished.
67. It was reported that Officer Team had recommended, in accordance with convention, that from the AGM in July, the incoming President to be Dr M O Greene, and that Dr N T Connell move to become Vice-President (Senior).
68. There were no comments, Council agreed the recommendations by a verbal 'aye'.
69. The President and Vice-President (Junior) returned to the room and were congratulated.

Election of the Vice-President (Junior) – recommendation for confirmation at the AGM on 10 July 2020

70. The President reported that there had been one nomination received:

Candidate:	Dr C P Sturgess
Supporters:	Ms A K Boag Professor D Bray Dr M A Donald Dr M O Greene
Date of first joining Council:	July 2013 (Elected)
Current term due to end:	July 2020

71. The candidate voted and left the room in order that Council could have a confidential discussion if it so wished.
72. There were no postal votes received. A vote was taken, the Registrar and DoO briefly left the room to count the ballot papers.
73. The candidate returned to the room and was congratulated on his successful election as Vice-President (Junior) (subject to successful re-election in the forthcoming RCVS Council elections 2020).
74. It was questioned what would happen should a candidate in the forthcoming RCVS Council elections 2020 not be re-elected. It was confirmed that this situation regularly arose and should that happen the entire process for the elections of Vice-President (Junior) would need to be re-

run, albeit with shortened timeframes, and culminate in an agenda item at the June Council meeting. Council had agreed at its meeting in March 2018 to continue with the current process until the entire election process, including timeframes, could be reviewed in due course.

Other elections

Treasurer

75. There had been one nomination received:

Candidate:	Professor S Dawson
Supporters:	Professor D J Argyle Dr S Paterson Dr C P Sturgess Professor J L N Wood
Date of first joining Council:	July 2011 (University appointed to July 2020, Vet Schools Council appointed thereafter)
Current term due to end:	July 2021

76. The candidate voted and left the room in order for Council to have a confidential discussion if it so wished.

77. There were no postal votes received. A vote was taken, the Registrar and DoO briefly left the room to count the ballot papers.

78. The candidate returned to the room and was congratulated on her successful election as Treasurer.

Chair, Advancement of the Professions Committee

79. There had been one nomination received:

Candidate:	Professor D J Argyle
Supporters:	Professor S Dawson Dr S Paterson Dr C W Tufnell Professor J L N Wood
Date of first joining Council:	July 2012 (University appointed to July 2020, Vet Schools Council appointed thereafter)
Current term due to end:	July 2021

80. The candidate had submitted apologies for the meeting so was not in the room.
81. There were no postal votes received. A vote was taken, the Registrar and DoO counted the ballot papers.
82. Professor Argyle was confirmed as the successful candidate and would be congratulated on his re-election as Chair, APC for his second year.

Chair, Education Committee

83. There had been one nomination received:

Candidate:	Dr S Paterson
Supporters:	Ms A K Boag Dr M A Donald Dr M O Greene Dr C L Scudamore
Date of first joining Council:	July 2014 (Elected)
Current term due to end:	July 2022

84. The candidate voted and left the room in order for Council to have a confidential discussion if it so wished.
85. There were no postal votes received. A vote was taken, the Registrar and DoO briefly left the room to count the ballot papers.
86. The candidate returned to the room and was congratulated on her re-election as Chair, EC for her second year.

Chair, Standards Committee

87. There was one nomination received:

Candidate:	Dr M A Donald
Supporters:	Miss L S Belton Mrs C-L McLaughlan Dr S Paterson Dr C P Sturgess
Date of first joining Council:	July 2016 (Elected)
Current term due to end:	July 2020

88. The candidate voted and left the room in order for Council to have a confidential discussion if it so wished.

89. There were no postal votes received. A vote was taken, the Registrar and DoO briefly left the room to count the ballot papers.
90. The candidate returned to the room and was congratulated on her re-election as Chair, SC for her second year (subject to successful re-election in the forthcoming RCVS Council elections 2020).

Matters for decision by Council and for report (confidential items)

91. This information is available in the classified appendix at paragraphs 1 – 3.

Discretionary Fund report

92. This information is available in the classified appendix at paragraphs 4 – 5.

Estates Strategy – update

93. This information is available in the classified appendix at paragraphs 6 – 9.

Draft accounts 2019

94. This information is available in the classified appendix at paragraphs 10 – 15.

Diploma of Fellowship by Thesis - ratification

95. Professor England declared an interest as he was the candidate's supervisor.
96. The Chair, EC, introduced this paper and stated that the recommendation had come through Fellowship Board and Education Committee and was now before Council for ratification.
97. A vote was taken to ratify the award of Diploma of Fellowship by Thesis:

For:	29
Against:	0
Abstention:	0

98. This was agreed by a majority vote.
99. It was questioned how many candidates were still applying for Fellowship by old routes. This was confirmed as eight candidates.

Appointment of Assistant Registrar

100. The Registrar introduced the paper. It was noted this was for 'housekeeping' purposes, and was serendipitous in light of the recent virus outbreak. In September 2016, Council had agreed to appoint two Assistant Registrars to give maximum flexibility and ensure there could be 'sign off' of legal documents in the Registrar's absence to maintain the College's statutory function e.g. Notice of Inquiries for Disciplinary Hearings. Due to staff changes there was currently only one Assistant Registrar on the financial side and no one on the legal side; the paper before Council was to rectify that.

101. A vote was taken to appoint a new Assistant Registrar (Ms Gemma Crossley, Head of Professional Conduct):

For:	30
Against	0
Abstentions	0

102. This was unanimously agreed.

RCVS Honours and Awards

103. This information is available in the classified appendix at paragraphs 16 – 38.

Any other College business (confidential)

104. This information is available in the classified appendix at paragraph 39.

Risk Register, equality and diversity (confidential)

105. This information is available in the classified appendix at paragraphs 40 – 42.

106. The meeting was brought to a close.

Dawn Wiggins
Secretary, Council
020 7202 0737
d.wiggins@rcvs.org.uk