

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

Education Committee

Unconfirmed Minutes of the 152nd Meeting of the Education Committee held on
7th February 2008.

Present:	Professor R Anderson	Mr K Lewis
	Miss R Bailey	Mr D Pyle (Chair)
	Mrs J Brower	Dr Ahmed Sadiq
	Mr K Cavaye	Prof. M Salmon
	Dr G Harris	Professor A Tomlinson
	Mr R Hogan	Miss J Underwood
	Dr P Kyle	Mr C Wass
Advisers:	Mr R Carswell	Mrs R Shipley
	Dr A Jennings	Mr P Carroll
In Attendance:	Mr P Coe	Mrs H Robinson
	Miss L Kennaugh	Mrs J D Taylor
	Miss A Knapik	

Apologies for Absence and Chairman's Announcements

5120. No apologies were received.

5121. The Chairman welcomed Dr Ahmed Sadiq and Mr Rob Hogan as new members of the Committee, having taken over from Dr Stuart Roxburgh and Mr David Cartwright. He also welcomed Linda Kennaugh who has taken over from Lesa Oakley as Assistant Director of Education.

Election of Chairman

5122. Mr David Pyle was re-elected as Chairman.

Election of Deputy Chairman

5123. Dr Peter Kyle was re-elected as Deputy Chair

Declaration of interests

5124. Members and Advisers were reminded that any interest in an issue for consideration by the Committee which could have, or may be perceived as having an influence on their judgement must be declared pursuant to standing orders 2.7 to 2.10

Confidentiality

5125. Members and Advisers were reminded that the proceedings of the Committee are Confidential under Standing Orders 6.23 to 6.26

Minutes and Strictly Confidential Minutes of the 151st Meeting (20.09.07) ED(07)3M & SC(07)3M

5126. Minutes and Strictly Confidential Minutes of the 151st meeting held on 20 September 2007 were attached for Members' consideration.
5127. The minutes and strictly confidential minutes were confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

Matters arising

[i] Minute 5078 ECOO Academy, Accreditation of European Qualifications and Courses

5128. Mr Carswell explained they are in the preliminary stages of devising a business plan as requested. The target date to be up and running is 1st January 2009 however this date was viewed as optimistic.
5129. Mr Carswell explained it will take some time for the Directive to be implemented across Europe. All the UK legislation is in place and the GOC is currently updating the Act and Rules to include this legislation.

[ii] Minute ED5085 Bradford College Foundation Degree Submission

5130. The proposal had been received from Bradford College in the requested format and members of the working group met with representatives from Bradford College to discuss the proposal. The working group supported the proposal and recommended it to the Committee.
5131. The Education Committee agreed that the proposal should now go to Council for provisional approval, assuming the visit to Bradford in March does not identify any problems.

[iii] Minute ED5091 – CANDI proposal for a new registrable qualification – BTEC National Diploma in Ophthalmic Dispensing

5132. The meeting was cancelled due to the CANDI representative being ill.
5133. This item was deferred until the next Committee meeting May.

Strictly Confidential Minutes

5134. No Matters Arising

Composition of Project Groups

5135. Membership of the project groups was agreed and is attached at **Appendix A**.

Reports from the Project Groups

[i] Project ED01 - Movement of professionals across borders/ Bologna

5136. The committee received the minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2007. Professor Salmon (chairman) reported that there has been an approach from Norway regarding registration and a further update will be given on this at a future meeting.
5137. The Stage 1 competencies were signed off and will go to March Council and the Committee acknowledged its thanks to BUCO in helping achieve this.
5138. The Committee approved that the project group continue for the next financial year.

[ii] Project ED02 - Entry Standards, Dispensing Opticians

5139. The Committee noted that Mike Salmon has replaced David Pyle as Chair of this project group.
5140. The workshop held in October for providers and examiners was very successful.
5141. The group had met with Bradford to discuss their proposal for a new course and with CANDI regarding their proposal for an integrated award. There will be follow up ESDO visits to Bradford, CANDI and ABDO DLI in the new year.
5142. A full update will be provided for May Education Committee.

[iii] Project ED03 - Scheme for Registration (Optometry)(SFR)

5143. The committee noted the minutes of the meeting held on 19th November and that Dr Peter Kyle had replaced Mr David Pyle as Chair of this working group.
5144. The project group had discussed correspondence received from BUCO and Buccle regarding concerns around gas permeable contact lenses and the fact the contact lens assessment will now be in practice rather than the end of year assessment. This will be implemented from summer 2009 and will be conducted by an independent assessor. The new OSCE will be trialled in May 2008 and it is hoped the college will be able to use the GMC facilities in London which provide ideal surroundings for an OSCE assessment process.
5145. Mr Carswell sought clarification as to why more changes are being introduced so soon in the scheme.
5146. Dr Kyle explained that the current failure rate at the first attempt is approximately 65% so the changes are in order to try to improve the pass rate and to make the process fairer by ensuring more consistency of assessments.
5147. Mr Lewis felt that these changes would ensure those showing they are competent during practical assessment will pass the final exam at the first attempt also.
5148. A need for better communication regarding the changes was identified and this will be raised with Jo Mullin from the College of Optometrists.

[iv] Project ED05 - Overseas Routes to UK Registration (OQ Sub-Committee)

5149. The group has held a series of meetings with the College of Optometry regarding the registration of non EEA Optometrists and agreed a portfolio is required to demonstrate evidence of the 82 competencies.
5150. Approval from Europe is ongoing and is progressing to the pilot stage.

[V] Project ED07 – ECOO Diploma

5151. The Committee received a copy of the letter from the GOC to Richard Carswell dated 18th October 2008.
5152. It was noted that the syllabus has not changed but the learning outcomes and competencies have been made clearer.

[vi] Project ED08 – Visit Accreditation Review Process

5153. The next meeting of this project group will be in April. The group is proposing a significant shift in visit arrangements. It is felt that there is a need for an annual monitoring process in between visits. It is proposed that Training Institutions will only be visited in between the 5 year visits if the annual monitoring reports highlight issues of concern. The group is looking to develop a suitable template for the report based on the existing monitoring reports that the universities already produced in order to keep the additional work required to a minimum. Once this process is established the visits will mainly consider clinical aspects of the training and other aspects will only need to be assessed during visits if the documentation identifies issues of concern in these areas.
5154. Professor Tomlinson stated that he would welcome this approach from a university perspective but still felt that producing the monitoring report even if based on existing reports would be time consuming.
5155. It was stated that there is a risk that annual monitoring could highlight additional issues and therefore create a need for more visits. This risk was acknowledged.
5156. It is intended that the new annual monitoring system be introduced from September 2008 for an initial trial period.

[vii] Project ED10 – Joint Working Group on a GOC Scheme for Student Registration

5157. The committee received an oral update. It is proposed that both students and tutors should be registered with the GOC during training. The group has identified 15 different areas for debate. The group will meet again on 16th April to continue the discussion and will provide a paper to the next Education Committee in May and to Council in July.

Continuation of Projects

5158. All project groups were approved to continue for the next year.

Programme of Visits

5159. The committee received and acknowledged paper ED(3)08 the programme of visits up to April 2009.

OTHER ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION & DECISION

Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) initiative on developing an Integrated Qualification Framework for the children's workforce.

5160. This item was referred to ESDO Working Group for consideration of any action required.

CHRE documents on clear sexual boundaries between healthcare professionals and patients:

5161. Dian Taylor explained that the CHRE documents on clear sexual boundaries between healthcare professionals and patients has also been sent to training establishments.
5162. The documents provide six recommendations for regulators.

5163. The Committee considered the report and agreed to wait until the professional and representative bodies issue guidance before taking any further action. There is a need to work with FTP Committee to ensure the implications are fully understood.

HANDBOOKS

Review of Optometry Training Handbook

5164. The Optometry Handbook was approved to go to the Council meeting on 13th March.
5165. David Pyle clarified that the following handbooks now exist:
- Optometry
 - Dispensing Optics
 - Contact Lens
 - Therapeutics (including Independent Prescribing)
 - Visiting non UK training establishments
 - Oversees examinations
5166. It was agreed it would be helpful to produce a 'Guide to the Handbooks'. A independent reviewer may be best placed to produce such a document.
5167. The committee considered that it may be necessary to charge a fee for visiting non UK training establishments. It was agreed this advice would be provided to Council.

Review of Ophthalmic Dispensing Handbook

5168. The Ophthalmic Dispensing Handbook has been trialed and has been well received. The final version is currently out for consultation and will be brought back to this Committee in May ready to go to Council in July.

Preparation of the Handbook for Optometry Independent Prescribing

5169. The Working Group are next meeting on 19th March to work on the Independent Prescribing section of the Therapeutics Handbook. It is intended that the Handbook will be ready for the next Education Committee meeting in May and Council in July.
5170. A seminar is also planned for potential providers once the handbook is finalised.

TRAINING ESTABLISHMENTS / VISITS

Ulster University

5171. The Committee received Paper ED(12)07 being a submission from University of Ulster for a revision to the optometry degree programme.
5172. Before leaving the room for this item Professor Roger Anderson expressed concern regarding the way in which the Visit report is presented. In particular he felt that the way the recommendations are presented creates a negative view of the visit and efforts should be made to present them in a more positive way. He also requested clarification as to why it was necessary for a two year return visit.

5173. Members acknowledged that the return visit was due to updates to the curriculum which effectively changed the course. The visitors had no concerns with the updates to the curriculum following the visit, however they did have concerns with the quality of teaching and recording of events. They felt staffing may be an issue and students had expressed concerns regarding being sued for clinical negligence.
5174. It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged as soon as possible, to be chaired by Mike Salmon between the University of Ulster and the Visitors in order to try to establish a way forward acceptable to both parties.
5175. Feedback from the visit was noted particularly regarding speeding up the timescales for producing visit reports and establishing more commonality of style and structure of the documentation and reports.

JOINT WORKING GROUP WITH STANDARDS

Competencies

5176. The Committee received and noted Paper SD(02)08 the results of the consultation on the revised competency framework.
5177. This item will be given further consideration at the next meeting in May.

WHITE PAPER

White Paper Update

5178. The Committee received and noted Paper SD(06)08, the draft response to consultation on proposed amendments to the Opticians Act 1989 under the Health Care and Associated Professions Order 2008.
5179. The Council has agreed to retain Statutory Committees in Education, Registration and Investigation. The Section 60 Order regarding Statutory Committees is expected in summer 2008 and Council members will attend a seminar next week to receive the latest updates regarding the White Paper.

FOR INFORMATION

QAA Benchmark Statement for Optometry

5180. Members noted that the revised QAA Benchmark Statement for Optometry has now been published and is available on the QAA website:
www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/benchmark/default.asp

Any Other Business

Appointment of Advisors

5181. The Committee agreed the following advisors should be appointed until May 2009:
- Dr A Jennings – Optometrist
- Mrs R Shipley – Dispensing Optician

Mr R Carswell – Europe

Mr P Carroll - Companies

Dates of Education Committees in 2008

5182. The Committee was asked to note for information the dates and times for Education Committee in 2008:

- **10.30 a.m. 8 May 2008**
- **10.30 a.m. 2 October 2008**

Composition and Membership of Working Groups 2008

Project ED01 - Professionals Crossing Borders/Bologna

Mr R Carswell
Dr A Jennings
Dr P M Kyle
Mr D W Pyle
Professor M Salmon
Professor A Tomlinson
Ms J Underwood

Project ED03 – Scheme For Registration (Optometry)

Dr A Jennings
Dr P M Kyle
Mr D W Pyle
Professor M Salmon
Professor A Tomlinson
Mr N Rumney

Project ED07 - ECOO

Dr P M Kyle
Mr D W Pyle
Professor M Salmon
Professor A Tomlinson

Project ED09 – Optometry Independent Prescribing Handbook Group

Dr P Kyle
Prof J Lawrenson
Mr D Pyle
Prof A Tomlinson
Prof R Buckley

Project ED02 - Entry Standards Dispensing Opticians [ESDO]

Miss R E Bailey
Mrs C Harm
Dr A Jennings
Professor M Salmon

Project ED05 – Overseas Qualifications Sub-Committee

Mr R Carswell
Mr K Cavaye
Mr R Anderson
Mrs E Grisdale
Mr K P Lewis
Mr J Russell
Miss J Underwood
Professor A Tomlinson
Dr A Jennings

Project ED08 - Visit /accreditation review process

Mr D Cartwright
Dr G Harris
Dr A Jennings
Dr P Kyle
Mr D Pyle
Prof. M Salmon
Prof. A Tomlinson
Miss J Underwood

Project ED10 - Joint Working Group on Scheme for Student Registration

Dr G Harris
Professor A Tomlinson
Miss J Underwood
Mr D Pyle
Professor M Salmon
Dr P Kyle
Professor R Buckley
Dr A Jennings