

THE FORENSIC SCIENCE SOCIETY

Minutes of the 52nd Annual General Meeting held at 12:25 on Saturday 5 November 2011 at the Barcelo Oxford Hotel

		ACTION
1	Apologies	
1.1	Apologies had been received from: Viv Emerson Dr John DeHaan Dr Sheilah Hamilton Sir Leslie R Angell Susan J Thornewill Dr Roger Berrett Professor John Cooper Dr Sheila Willis Chris Price John Twibell Daniel Jackson Darren Phillips John (Zeke) Thackray Christophe Teuber Celia Dyke Natasha Brunning Kathryn Thorndycraft Alistair Brownlie Martin Bloomfield Caroline Sheriff Professor Tim Wilson Terry Keating Nigel Hodge Richard Talbot Ms Poh Yee Cheong Dr Lee Chatfield	
2	Minutes of the 51st AGM The minutes of the previous AGM were confirmed as an accurate record.	
3	Matters arising	
3.1	There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.	
4	Presentation of Annual Report and Financial Statements	
4.1	Honorary Treasurer, Dr Anya Hunt, thanked office colleague, Tracey Kilvington, and Senior Statutory Auditor, Andrew Beckett of Becketts Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors, for their help in the preparation of the accounts which were set out in the hard copy of the Annual Report. Dr Hunt welcomed feedback on the lay out for discussion after this session.	
4.2	From a range of income streams, including subscriptions and charitable donations, total incoming resources were £396,401 in the year ending 31 March 2011.	
4.3	Total resources expended in the same period were £362,226. This follows changes in the way prices for certain activities are priced, such as conferences, and in the running of Clarke House.	
4.4	The resultant net income was £34,175. Dr Hunt gave a special vote of thanks to Chief Executive, Dr Carol Ostell, for turning round a deficit in the 2010 accounts to a surplus of income over expenditure in the year ending March 2011.	
4.5	Income from subscriptions was slightly up which was seen as a positive sign.	
4.6	Dr Hunt said that there was now a raised awareness of the risks posed to the Society in the current economic climate and in the coming year.	
4.7	Numbers attending conferences had been down. Dr Hunt said the Society is often criticised about conferences being expensive. Delegates were asked to consider the fact that even given the prices charged a slight loss had still been made in this area of activity.	
4.8	Dr Hunt added that in order to develop as a Society and professional body the areas of accreditation, diplomas, conferences and CPD must be supported.	

4.9 Callum Sutherland, Vice President and Chair of the Membership and Ethics Committee, reported that at the end of March 2011 the total membership was down to 1505. General feedback suggested this was a result of the current financial climate and redundancy, and those leaving were keen to re-join when the position improved.

4.10 The area of Continuing Professional Development for students was seen as offering potential for increased membership. Callum Sutherland encouraged everyone present to do everything possible to promote the benefits of Society membership to students.

4.11 Practitioners in the legal, police and scene of crime fields were also seen as potential sources of new members.

5 **Election of Council Members**

5.1 President Elect: Honorary Secretary, Anna-Marie O'Connor, referred to the motion passed at last year's AGM when it was stated that, in the absence of nominations for President Elect, Dr Ann Priston would continue in post for an additional period of time up to a maximum of two years. This had required an amendment to the Constitution.

5.2 As a result, Dr Priston can only remain as President for the coming two years. Nominations for President Elect are needed. Delegates were asked to consider appropriate people for the post, bearing in mind not only the hard work and commitment involved but also the wonderful opportunity this would represent.

ALL

5.3 Honorary Editor: Leon Barron had been elected the new Honorary Editor and was presented with the folder from Dr Niamh Nic Daéid, outgoing Honorary Editor. The badge of office will follow. The handover will be completed in the next few months.

5.4 Dr Nic Daéid referred to the progress she had seen during her six year tenure and acknowledged the support received from office colleagues, from members of the Editorial Board, from Elsevier, and from those in the wider community who had answered the call to review papers.

5.5 Honorary Secretary: Colin Ratcliff had stood unopposed, was duly elected and presented with the badge of office by Anna-Marie O'Connor, outgoing Honorary Secretary.

5.6 Out of four people standing two Ordinary Members had been elected: Dr Andrew Jackson and Marce Lee-Gorman.

5.7 The President congratulated those newly elected and looked forward to seeing them at the next Council meeting on 12 November.

6 **Council Structure**

6.1 This item was withdrawn.

7 **Motions for Consideration**

7.1 Proposed Revised Amendment to the Constitution of the Forensic Science Society

7.1.1 Anna-Marie O'Connor reported that the revised way of collecting subscription payments had been trialled for a year but had proved cumbersome to administer so it was proposed to revert to the previous method.

7.1.2 The proposal to revert to the previous wording was read out, proposed by Anna-Marie O'Connor, seconded by Callum Sutherland and carried unopposed.

7.2 Graduate Membership and the Graduate Basis of Registration

7.2.1 The motion which had been circulated had been withdrawn and replaced by the wording on the screen.

“That the Society introduces a membership category for graduates. This category of Associate Member will confer the post nominal AFSSoc (Associate Member of the Forensic Science Society) to recognise graduates of Forensic Science.”

7.2.2 Last year the category of ‘Chartered Status’ had been introduced and had proved to be very popular and much needed. The President had subsequently been informed that, for the time being, the term ‘Chartered’ could not be used. For this reason practitioners who had reached this high level should be ‘Accredited’.

7.2.3 As part of this process the Society is required to show a proper category structure. The President asked for support for the introduction of this scheme which will be taken back to Council.

7.2.4 Dr Andrew Jackson asked how this related to the accreditation of the higher education institutions.

7.2.5 Past President, Brian Rankin, explained that the university system has a Quality Assurance Agency which sets benchmark statements for various subjects eg chemistry. The QAA has agreed to a benchmark statement for forensic science. They require that there will be a graduate progression scheme within that benchmark statement and would look to the professional body to see that this is in place.

7.2.6 It was confirmed that this would also refer to MSc students.

7.2.7 From the floor Brian McKeown suggested the term ‘post nominal’ should be hyphenated.

7.2.8 In order to provide a written record queries, feedback and questions were invited via e-mail for consideration by Council at the meeting on 12 November.

7.2.9 This motion was proposed by Callum Sutherland and seconded by Niamh Nic Daeid and was overwhelming carried with no votes against and no abstentions.

8 **Any other Business**

8.1 Via e-mail Martin Evison had asked for a topic to be included on the agenda concerning the consideration the Society gives to its relationships and links with countries whose ethics and human rights records differ from those in the UK.

8.2 Further clarification will be sought from Martin Evison as to precisely which areas of business activity he is referring to and this will be given full consideration by Council.

8.3 As there was no other business the President concluded by thanking outgoing Council Members for their contribution. Dr Priston acknowledged that these were exciting and challenging times in which the Society would be taking an increasingly important role.

The meeting closed at 1310. The date of the next AGM is 10 November 2012.