

BIOLOGY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting: Thursday 16th March 2006 – Room K227

Present: John Pillmoor (Chair and Strategy Board Link)
Jo Brighton (Secretary)
Nicola Charlton (Technical Representative)
Adrian Harrison (Departmental Outreach Organiser)
Thorunn Helgason (Academic Representative)
Richard Horler (Postgraduate Representative)

Apologies for absence :

Caroline Calvert (CNAP)
Ottoline Leyser (Research Committee + Academic staff Representative)
Lauren Crawley (Undergraduate Representative)

JBP welcomed Nicola Charlton and Thorunn Helgason to the committee. Following the decision of Peter Humpherson to step down from the committee, JBP formally recorded thanks to Peter for his inputs to the initial start-up of the committee.

Action

06/01 **Minutes of previous meeting (2nd December 2005) and matters arising:**

The minutes of this meeting were approved by the committee, with the following matters arising:

i) 05/15ii Website

JB

The majority of the updates had been made. The committee discussed how the events log could be displayed in a simpler way on the website. Rather than a complete listing, it was agreed to provide "Examples of recent outreach activities". Jo Brighton will select key events from the current log and report on only the event, date and school/body which took part in order to make it easier to view.

ii) 05/15iii Introduction to new students

ABH

Unfortunately this year, the opportunity passed us by to introduce outreach to the new students. The next opportunity to introduce outreach to the undergraduates should take place in Week 1 of the new academic year. ABH to talk to Hilary Jones and Julie Knox regarding the best timing to introduce outreach to the postgraduates.

iii) 05/18 Proposal to create a student bioscience newsletter.

JP/ABH

Plans to launch the new bioscience newsletter are progressing well, led by Buzz Denholme. JBP showed the meeting an initial outline of the first edition. The content is currently a mixture of both department generated research news and general biology items. JBP confirmed that we (ABH and JBP) will have the opportunity to provide final approval before printing. ABH suggested that the editorial team should approach Sarah Mitchell (Communications office for science outreach) and Nick Miller (Schools Liaison office) to help with the distribution and marketing. ABH also commented that it might be a

good idea to use these newsletters for Admissions, although the budget implications will need to be borne in mind.

iv) 05/19 Outreach Fair

ABH/JP

The committee decided the best time to hold the fair would be in the Autumn Term, sometime in October, on a Wednesday afternoon, ideally early afternoon and before the UCAS days commence.

06/02

Events Update

- i. **Science Trail** - This event took place early March attended by approx 270 school children. A variety of activities and events took place around campus including Health Sciences, Physics and Computer Science, Archaeology and Chemistry departments. Biology and CNAP held four activities including DNA fingerprinting. This is a very popular event and went very well. It looks likely that it will grow every year and it is hoped that more academics and staff will volunteer in future years. **ABH**
- ii. **Discover and Explore** – This year the topic was colour. Groups of 10 – 13 year olds and 14 – 16 year olds took part in a variety of activities including chlorophyll separation and perceiving colour. The event was felt to have been a good success. Next year this event will be Discover and Explore : Energy or Forces.
- iii. **Discovery Days** – Ottoline Leyser is helping at the discovery days event which is held Thursday 16th and Friday 17th March at the Guildhall and St Johns College at the weekend. There will be a variety of interactive and information stands. ABH has given Ottoline £200 from the Outreach budget for advertising (stands etc). JBP reported that CNAP is also attending this event.
- iv. **CNAP** – JBP reported on information provided by Caroline Calvert. Key to note was that funding is now secure for Hidden Worlds and Secret Lives until July 2007. Research Council UK funding has been obtained to develop the new Science Week project "Bug Box" for KS2 pupils.
- v. **National Science Learning Centre** – it was noted that staff are being called upon to provide inputs on an individual basis with a growing number of people being involved. JBP to raise with Strategy Group to determine whether the Department requires a co-ordinated approach. He also agreed to raise the issue of whether teaching load points can be obtained for this work as staff are generally paid for their inputs. **JBP**

06/03

Outreach Log

Only a handful of people this year have sent in entries for the outreach log. There have been many events which have taken place yet very few had submitted these to the log. For the postgraduates, the incentive is the potential for green card points but these will only be given following approval by ABH and once they have sent JB information on the event they took part in. For staff the incentive is the potential for the inputs to count on their teaching load. The timing for submissions to be counted in the teaching load need to be clarified and staff then emailed a reminder.

ABH/JB

Also considered was advertising the outreach log and website on the weekly biology bulletin and it was agreed to combine this with details of the

ABH/JB

new banners that have been purchased.

06/04

Next Major Events

- i. **NAGTY** – NAGTY will take place 31st July till 11th August. ABH informed the committee that they will replace some of last year's activities which were a little advanced for most of the pupils. However the majority of activities will remain the same. Graduate assistants have already been chosen and Ruth Trainer will also be helping. ABH is to put a call out for extra volunteers soon. **ABH**
- ii. **Science course for non-NAGTY** – This is a 2 day course for local pupils who are at the equivalent level to NAGTY pupils and will take place on 11th and 12th April. The topic is microbiology. The event is being organised by ABH and Nick Miller in the Admissions and Schools Liaison office. It was agreed that the income from this work will be paid into the current budget code **ABH**
- iii. **Green Apples** – The Green Apples event will take place on 30th and 31st March. ABH will be running various activities including DNA fingerprinting. Pupils will attend each day for one hour visits. Chris Kelly will be assisting ABH on these days.
- iv. **Art of Microscopy** – request from Holly Cooke at Canon Lee School. This event consists of activities in the teaching labs and a visit to the TF Facility. ABH will meet with Holly Cooke in April to arrange details and the event will probably take place June / July. **ABH**
- v. **Archbishop Holgate School** – Hoping to hold a forensic day in September.
- vi. **BA Festival of Science** – To take place in September 2007. The call for proposal deadline is 10th May 2006. The committee was unclear whether there should be a role for the Outreach group and whether there was to be a co-ordinated approach within the Department. JBP to raise at Strategy Group. **JBP**
- vii. **The Great Yorkshire Show** – Ottoline Leyser is applying to take place in the show again this year. Angela Douglas has said she is also interested in taking part and ABH has advised her to talk to Ottoline.

06/05

BUDGET

Budget spent so far this year :

- ? £100 to Chris Kelly for DNA casting trays
- ? £200 to Ottoline Leyser for Discovery Day to pay for material for the Discovery Days event.

The banners were purchased from last year's budget and it was also noted that we had made a commitment of £400 for printing costs for the proposed Bioscience Newsletter.

There are currently no other requests for funding and it is therefore likely that we will under spend the budget this year. NC will explore whether there are demands for other types of equipment when schools return the TEBIS kits.

NC

The loan of microscopes was also discussed. Some compound microscopes have been provided to Chemistry and feedback will be sought on whether they are being used. NC noted that there are some dissecting microscopes available but it was agreed that the potential maintenance costs and PAT certificates for these make them unattractive for us to provide to schools.

06/07 **TEBIS update** (Teaching Exciting Bioscience In Schools)

TEBIS Kits comprise of:

- ? Equipment for Gel Electrophoresis
- ? PCR Machine
- ? Microfuges
- ? UV Lamps
- ? Gilson Pipettes and tips

Nicola Charlton provided the committee with the following dates TEBIS Kits will be on loan from the Teaching Labs:

- ? 27th Feb to 17th March – Joseph Rowntree School
- ? 18th to 24th March – Oldham School
- ? 27th to 31st March – Stokesley School
- ? 26th April to 10th May - Driffeld School

Although relatively heavily used, the current resources were felt to be sufficient.

The TEBIS Kits will be advertised at future Outreach events to increase awareness of them.

ABH/NC

06/08 **Any Other Business**

- i. **Royal Society Grant** – 2 Schools in Ripon have approached TH and ABH to help them bid for a grant to establish a Wildlife Pond and this has been provided.
- ii. **Terms of Reference** – The committee agreed JB will modify the terms of reference to include the new committee members and update the version on the outreach website. JB
- iii. **Student reps** – Richard Horler confirmed that he will be able to stay on the committee as Postgraduate student rep for the next year. Jo Brighton to email Lauren Crawley to see if she will be able to continue to act as undergraduate rep on the committee next year. JB

06/09 **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 17th May** (week four) at **2pm** in room **B102**.

Joanne Brighton
20th March 2006.