

BIOLOGY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting: Thursday 17th May 2006 – Room B102

Present: John Pillmoor (Chair and Strategy Board Link)
Jo Brighton (Secretary)
Nicola Charlton (Technical Representative)
Adrian Harrison (Departmental Outreach Organiser)
Ottoline Leyser (Research Committee + Academic staff Representative)
Thorunn Helgason (Academic Representative)
Richard Horler (Postgraduate Representative)
Lauren Crawley (Undergraduate Representative)

Apologies for absence:
Caroline Calvert (CNAP)

Action

06/10 **Minutes of previous meeting (16th March 2006) and matters arising:**

The minutes of this meeting were approved by the committee, with the following corrections: 06/04vii should read "Ottoline Leyser is applying to take place in the show again this year". 06/08i should read "...TH and ABH..." These corrections will be made prior to releasing the minutes on the web. The following matters arising were noted: **JB**

i) 06/01i Website

The Outreach Website has been updated and a few extra items included. As discussed, JB has now added "Examples of recent outreach activities" page which were agreed to be excellent. Committee members should continue to check the web regularly to make sure all information is up to date and improvements made if necessary.

ii) 06/01ii Introduction to postgraduate students

Will be addressed at the next meeting.

ABH

iii) 06/01iii Bioscience newsletter.

The newsletter is currently waiting to be printed. JBP praised the team behind it for their efforts. We look forward to receiving feedback on the response to the newsletter. **JBP/ABH**

iv) 06/01iv Outreach Fair

Although this event is a good idea, the committee decided that the Outreach Fair, unfortunately, will not go ahead in the near future as hoped due to other time pressures.

v) 06/02 Discovery days

HMOL reported that the plant structure material produced has been a great success with a huge amount of interest. It was agreed that the material might be of interest to the NSCL and ABH will contact them. **ABH**

vi) 06/02v National Science Learning centre

JBP gave feedback from the Strategy group meeting he attended. In response to his question whether academics can put in claims for teaching load, a clear NO was given, since people will be paid for any input. JBP also noted that the Head of Department has contacted the NSLC to obtain a summary of the inputs made by Biology staff.

vii) 06/04vi BA Festival of Science

The academic representative for this event is Sean Sweeney. CNAP and UK PopNet will also be submitting proposals for this event.

06/11 **Events Update**

- i. **Green Apples / Higher Education Academy.** ABH
This event will next take place, provisionally, on 19th June 2006. There will be two activities. Chris Kelly will assist ABH with the DNA fingerprinting and Stuart Priest will run a DNA murder mystery session.
- ii. **Science Course for non-NAGTY** ABH
This 2 day course for local school children, who are at an equivalent level to NAGTY pupils, took place on 11th and 12th April. ABH informed the committee that all the children who took part really enjoyed themselves. The children took part in various microbiology-based sessions. They also produced posters which were printed out which they used during their presentation to their parents on the second day of the course.
This was a pilot scheme, but since it has been successful, ABH felt that this event could be a lot bigger next year.
- iii. **Outreach Log** JB
Currently, there is just one data log for all outreach and CPD events that people have taken part in. However, the committee decided that it would now be better to have two data logs. One, solely for outreach activities and events, the other for CPD training/workshops/conferences. This was felt to be necessary as CPD activities are separate to outreach work and also teaching credits are unavailable for this type of activity.
- iv. **Royal Society Grant.** TH/ABH
As briefly mentioned at the last meeting (06/08i). TH and ABH helped secure a grant for a Wildlife Pond at the Holy Trinity School in Ripon. TH told the committee she should be making a return visit to the Wildlife Pond on 19th June to monitor the progress. The school is also expected to make a trip to the Biology department on the 15th June.

06/12 **Next Major Events**

- i. **NAGTY**
31st July - 11th August. ABH informed the committee that things are progressing well in the run up to this event and that requests for people to participate/volunteer etc, have been emailed throughout the department. **ABH**
- ii. **Art of Microscopy**
This event, involving Cannon Lee school will take place on Friday 7th July and will involve a repeat of the successful sessions from last year. **ABH**
- iii. **Forensic Science Day – Archbishop Holgate School.**
The Forensic Science day with Archbishop Holgate School has taken place for the past 2 years. Currently waiting for confirmation from the school that they will be going ahead with this event this year. The day involves activities like DNA fingerprinting. **ABH**
- iv. **Driffield School** have asked for assistance with a visit to Pocklington Canal on the 10th of July. They have also asked to borrow some microbiology equipment for a two week period. **ABH**

06/13 **BUDGET**

The money paid to ABH for the non-NAGTY event from Admissions and School Liaison office was £360. This was for time spent on the event Teaching was paid directly for consumables. **ABH**

Printing charges for the Bioscience Newsletter have yet to come out and the remaining budget currently stands at £2356

It was decided that we should apply for the same budget again next year, even though it looks as if we shall under spend this year. **JBP**

06/14 **Any other business.**

- i. **Request from Millthorpe School.**
HMOL has received a letter from Millthorpe School in York, asking for assistance / support for a Science and Maths career conference for their pupils. The event which is due to take place on October 13th is aimed at 14 to 18 year olds and would involve a 40 minute interactive, inspiring workshop, to be run throughout the day. The workshop should involve science but also promote a career in science. ABH and TH suggested ideas for DNA fingerprinting and water quality as these sessions would allow clear reference to specific careers. **HMOL**
- ii. **RCUK Fellowships**
HMOL noted the new fellowships that have been awarded in collaboration with Maths and Computer Science. The fellows will have a specified requirement to be involved in outreach and could therefore provide some interesting new workshops, particularly involving computer simulation, which could be very attractive for children to take part in. **ABH**

06/15

Date of next meeting

It was agreed to request dates for the next meeting at the start of the Autumn term as the timetable has not yet been finalised. **JB**

Joanne Brighton
22nd May 2006.