

## **BIOLOGY OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the meeting:** Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007 - (Room B/M052)

**Present:** John Pillmoor (Chair and Strategy Board Link)  
Jo Brighton (Secretary)  
Caroline Calvert (CNAP)  
Nicola Charlton (Technical Representative)  
Jasper Green (Postgraduate Representative)  
Adrian Harrison (Departmental Outreach Organiser)  
Thorunn Helgason (Academic Representative)

**Guests:** Sean Sweeney

**Apologies for absence:**

Ottoline Leyser (Research Committee + Academic staff Representative)  
Baur Aituov (Undergraduate Representative)  
Richard Horler (outgoing Postgraduate Representative)  
Lauren Crawley (outgoing Undergraduate Representative)

JBP welcomed Jasper Green as the new Postgraduate representative.

### **Action**

**06/28 Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising:**

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

**06/18 – Biology Matters** The new edition of Biology Matters Newsletter has been approved and printed. JB is to contact Buzz Palmer to request a PDF version of this new edition to display on the Outreach website.

**JB**

**06/22 - NYBEP Letter** This item is to be carried forward to the next meeting.

**JBP**

**06/29 BA Festival of Science**

SS, the department's coordinator for the BA Festival of Science reported to the committee on the progress to date.

**Confirmed Sessions:**

- Adrian Harrison
- Ottoline Leyser
- Mark Coles
- Peter O'Toole
- Paul Genever
- PopNet will also be in the main programme for ecology

**Other people who are involved and agreed to help out:**

- IIU
- Dale Sanders
- Debbie Smith
- Caroline Calvert for CNAP – Unsure of whether to do a city event so far no decisions have been decided for this.
- TF Facility
- Hilary Jones

YCR offered their help, but unfortunately have now pulled out.

It was felt that efforts should be made to increase the Ecology representation and TH will lobby for additional inputs.

TH

Other ideas:

- Themed days
- A whole 'Plant' day
- Medical health day
- A 'Climate' talks day
- Hands on days/sessions for public running over several days
- Special sessions for school pupils/students
- Hire a Zeiss Roadshow truck (hire & place outside biology dept in car park)

Budget:

Dale Sanders has agreed a budget of a £1000 to create leaflets with which to advertise the Biology events. JBP also suggested putting money from outreach budget into the leaflet production.

Various events will take place around campus and a suggestion was made to host most of our sessions and events in the afternoons. Repeats of some events may also be considered.

One concern was that certain events may prove to be very popular, so organisers may have to think about limiting the numbers and asking people to pre-book.

The event is still to be free of charge for entry.

SS noted that he has still to confirm on several items but has just sent out a form to people asking for information on: timings / room requirements / budgets / helpers etc and is currently awaiting the responses.

SS

Communication from the BA was still non-existent and CC suggested contacting Sarah Blackford.

A request had been received from NYBEP to assist with their events but this had been declined as we were running our own events.

#### **06/30 Science Education Advisory Group (SEAG)**

ABH reported that the first meeting had been cancelled. However, terms and conditions had been circulated and these appear to be targeted to curriculum development. He therefore felt that SEAG is unlikely to very relevant to our outreach committee.

ABH will continue to attend the meetings and inform the committee of any relevant points.

ABH

#### **06/31 Previous Events Update**

- I. Hidden World Secret Lives – CC noted that the current funding finishes in June and decisions have yet to be made regarding the future direction. However, an application had been made to develop the programme towards KS3.
- II. Outreach Log – To try to increase reporting of outreach activities, it was agreed that a reminder email should be sent out to academics / postdocs / staff in the department at the end of each term, asking people to inform JB of any outreach events that they may have

taken part in so that they can be added to the log. So far there is very little information has been received for this year. **JB**

#### **06/32 Next Major Events**

- I. **Discover and Explore 'Energy'** – Feb 07 – at the Early Learning Music Centre, York
- II. **South Hunsley School** – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2007 – DNA and lab work
- III. **Science Trail 2007** – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2007
- IV. **Green Apples** – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2007
- V. **Boston Spa School** – 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2007 – DNA and lab work
- VI. **Bioscience** – 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2007
- VII. **Ripon Junior School** – 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> June 2007
- VIII. **Archbishop Holgate School** – 9<sup>th</sup> July 2007 – Forensic Science Day
- IX. **Cannon Lee** – July 2007 – Art of microscopy
- X. **NAGTY** – August 07.

ABH has applied for a royal society grant for Drifffield School for microbiology. **ABH**

#### **06/33 Website**

- I. Recent Activities – This page needs to be updated. **JB**
- II. Biology Matters – JBP suggested having a link to a web page about the newsletter, explaining what it is about and having each edition available on the page for download. **JB**

#### **06/34 Budget**

ABH informed the committee that the remaining budget is £2820

Recent expenditure has been:

- £250 science trail
- £260 committed for lab consumables
- £457 Biology matters newsletter 2<sup>nd</sup> edition
- £1000 Leaflets for the BA festival

**ABH**

NC said that the Teaching lab needs money to purchase more consumables.

Balances for :

- Science Communications £2875
- NAGTY £1800
- YZEP £7399

#### **06/35 Community Engagement Questionnaire**

The committee noted the response to the Community Engagement Questionnaire provided by the centre that had been produced by ABH, CC and JBP. The importance of having an up to date Outreach Log in producing this type of feedback was emphasised.

## **06/36 Gifted and Talented Activities**

Connie Cullen, the director of Admissions and Schools liaison at the University of York contacted ABH regarding a bid the University is putting together to act as an Excellence Hub providing events and activities for gifted and talented pupils aged 11 – 19 from the Yorkshire and Humber area for 3 years. Connie Cullen would like to know if the department would like to become involved and stated in an email that agreeing would not commit the department to specifics but would enable them to know which subjects could be part of the provision.

If the bid were to be successful the University would organise and provide the following:

- Non residential summer schools
- Activities spanning the final weeks of the summer term and the first part of the school summer holidays
- Short residential options
- Linked sequences of short-term activities
- Blended approaches involving online and face to face learning

These would be across the age groups and could involve working in partnership with other HEI's and schools/colleges.

ABH told the committee he did have some reservations about what would happen if the bid was successful. For example: it would create extra administrative work; The possibility of holding sessions off-site would mean transporting equipment and make it difficult to organise; there could be insufficient funds to cover expenses. It was concluded that ABH would show interest but would highlight the concerns that have been raised.

## **06/37 TEBIS Kits Update**

NC updated the committee on the TEBIS Kits.

They have proven to be very popular amongst schools and are booked out during most of the duration of term time. The kits are still in very good condition.

Loaned out to most recently:

- Currently with Joseph Rowntree's Secondary School
- York College
- Stokesly School
- Driffield School
- All Saints Secondary School have also shown interest.

## **06/38 Date of next meeting.**

The next meeting is to be held during the middle of summer term. To be confirmed.

**JB**