

THE UNIVERSITY *of York*

DEPARTMENTS OF BIOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY

Biology – Chemistry Planning Group Minutes of Meeting held on 20th July 2011

Present: Tony Wilkinson (AJW - Chair), Debbie Smith (DFS), Christoph Baumann (CB), Ian Fairlamb (IJSF), Jennifer Potts (JP), Colin Kleanthous (CK)

In attendance: Belinda Wade (BJW), Simon Duckett (SBD) for item 11/15

Apologies: John Pillmoor (JBP), James Moir (JM), Richard Taylor (RJKT), Rod Hubbard (REHu), Keith Wilson (KSW)

Action

11/12 Minutes of the last meeting: 16th May 2011
The minutes were agreed.

11/13 Matters arising:

i) From minute 11/09 Biochemistry projects

AJW informed BCPG that Dave Smith would be co-ordinating and integrating the biochemistry projects next year. He had emailed all Chemistry staff.

ii) From minute 11/10 Biochemistry Executive Committee jobs

AJW confirmed that Gideon Grogan would become Secretary of the BCH Executive when Michael Schultze stepped down so that the Chair and Secretary came from different departments.

iii) From minute 11/11 BBSRC DTPs

CK said that the strategy documents for this joint bid between Biology and Chemistry, Leeds and Sheffield Universities, were being written by himself and Leo Caves and the necessary data were being collected by the Graduate Offices of both departments.

11/14 Biochemistry admissions/teaching update

(i) *BCH numbers* – DFS reported that the latest estimate for Biochemistry admissions was c.77, however this number could decrease as the results for the international baccalaureate were said to be poorer than expected. Numbers will be known at the end of August and then action will need to be taken accordingly.

(ii) *BCH Executive Committee* – DFS asked for clarification of the remit/governance of this committee since it has no parent department. It was thought that it makes recommendations for approval to both departmental BoS and that a joint BoS meets annually. AJW said that the Executive Committee was good at bringing both sets of staff together and worked effectively. It was agreed that JM should be asked to find the original rubric/terms of reference and that it was a good time to review this with Dave Smith taking over as Chair of BoS in Chemistry.

JM

11/15 EO support for biomolecular NMR in the Centre for Magnetic Resonance

High Field NMR Technical Support - There was a discussion, introduced by JP, concerning continuing high level technical support for high field NMR. This follows the departure of a very competent EO who has supported this activity effectively. SBD described interim arrangements for NMR support involving a six-month appointment of a Chemistry postdoc who had the necessary skills. The longer term EO arrangements will depend on the outcome of a bid led by SBD that has been made to the Wellcome Trust Strategic Fund. A

decision is expected in February. If the outcome is positive, the Centre will be in a much stronger position to make a high level appointment.

Finances of the NMR Centre - The NMR Centre was the subject of a wider discussion. The finances of the NMR Centre are complex and interwoven with costs of support for other NMR instrumentation in the Chemistry Department. The two 'facilities' are differently supported, the latter is part of the core equipment base in Chemistry, while the former was constructed on a business model. The view was expressed that the NMR Centre Management Group must produce transparent accounts which should form the basis for reviewing the performance and future development of the Centre. DFS said she would discuss cost transparency with RJKT and this issue should be raised again at the next BCPG meeting.

DFS/RJKT

11/16 **Any Other Business – None**

Next Meeting: To be scheduled in September/October in Biology

Tony Wilkinson
Belinda Wade
27th July 2011