

THE UNIVERSITIES OF HULL/YORK

Senate

HYMS Joint Senate Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2010

Present: Professor T Sheldon (**Chair**)
Professor J Greenman
Dr S Holland
Professor T Kendrick
Professor G Parker
Professor N Stafford
Professor I Watt

In attendance: Dr G Davidson
Ms K Dodd
Dr P Evans, Secretary

Apologies for absence were received from Professor G Burgess, Mr A Mersch, Ms R Royds and Dr A Wilcox.

PART A: UNRESERVED BUSINESS

10/1 Membership/Terms of Reference

The Committee **noted** its membership and terms of reference and welcomed the new Dean, Professor Tony Kendrick, to his first meeting.

10/2 Minutes

The unreserved minutes of the meeting held on 6 May 2010 were **approved**.

10/3 Intercalated PhD

The Committee **noted** that, following consultation with members in August, the Chair had approved the request for a HYMS student to intercalate a PhD. It was **noted** that a proposal would be brought forward to ensure that the student in question could maintain clinical skills and have an intensive 're-entry' programme before returning into her 5th year.

10/4 Progression/Ethnicity

Further to M10/ 18, the Committee **considered** a report from Jean McKendree (Senior Lecturer in Medical Education) which analysed Year 1 and 2 examination data for cohorts entering 2004-2007 in order to ascertain whether

there were differences in outcome among ethnic groups. The Committee **noted** the overarching conclusion that, without further research, there were too many other factors (e.g. age, gender, nationality) to establish a clear picture.

During discussion the following points were **noted**:

- There appeared to be relatively poorer performance from students classified as Black and Far East/ Asian but this was not statistically significant. It was thought that the apparent pattern of non-progression previously identified by the Committee was common across UK medical schools.
- The key factor was the support provided to all students irrespective of their demographic characteristics.
- There was one more entry year which could be added into the data-set.
- HYMS had consulted Professor Karl Atkin (Health Sciences/ York), a specialist in ethnicity and health, who had suggested that there might be scope to apply for research funding to explore the issue more thoroughly. Further data and research studies on this matter might also be available through the Medical Schools Council.
- There might be some difficulty in establishing causality due to the relatively small numbers involved, although qualitative research (e.g. focus groups or interviews with supervisors) might shed light on areas where student support could be more sharply focused.

It was **decided** that HYMS should continue to monitor and analyse the relevant data and to consider, with advice from the Medical Schools Council, whether to commission a fuller study into the issue of non-progression among ethnic minority students.

10/5 Joint Learning & Teaching Committee

The Committee **considered** a report from the meeting of the Joint Learning & Teaching Committee (JLTC) held on 17 June 2010, noting that at its forthcoming meeting it would consider:

- the results of NSS 2010;
- a revised paper regarding awards to students exiting the MBBS at the end of Year 3.

The Chair raised a query about the scheduling of the JLTC in relation to the Joint Senate Committee and it was suggested that this might be considered as part of the proposed governance review (M10/ 7 below refers).

10/6 Report from Dean of HYMS

The Committee **received** a report from the Dean of HYMS, noting in particular:

- developments in the Undergraduate School, including a review of the process for managing the quality of clinical placements;
- the intake for 2010 (154 students);
- growing numbers of PGR and PGT students and further development of the Postgraduate Training Scheme;
- research developments in respect of the Centre for Immunology and Infection, the HONEI (Humber Obesity Nutrition Education Innovation) Project, clinical trials support, review of Hull research centres and budget for the Research Strategy Committee;
- recruitment including new starters and leavers.

10/7 Review of HYMS Governance

The Secretary **reported** that it had been agreed in discussion between the two universities that there should be a review of the governance arrangements for HYMS, to be undertaken by a small group comprising the Dean, the Registrars of both universities, the Head of HYMS Administration, Professor Sheldon (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, York) and Professor Burgess (Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Hull). Arrangements were in hand to schedule a preliminary meeting of the group.

10/8 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was **noted** as 20 January 2011 (2.00pm).