

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 13:30 on 10 March 2021 via Zoom

Present: Nick Koor (Chair), Sian Davies-Vollum (Executive Secretary), Mark Anderson, Andy Aplin, Peter Burgess, Graham McLeod, Amanda Owen, Rebecca Williams

Apologies: Kevin Taylor

In attendance: George Jameson (Geological Society)

	Actions
1. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS	
There were no declarations of interest.	
2. APOLOGIES	
Apologies as set out above were noted.	
3. IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
There were no other items identified for any other business.	
4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING	
The minutes were approved.	
5. MATTERS ARISING	
Pete informed members that not much progress has been made with the Education and Outreach Network. He intends on organising a meeting with Rose to take this forward.	PB
George will re share the industry perspectives survey after the meeting.	GJ
<i>Sustainable Development Interactive poster project</i>	
The Society has granted UGUK permission to carry out their sustainable development poster project. Pete added that there are a number of contacts on the shared google doc to invite to the project. There will be a common format to all videos interviews/presentations.	
<i>Geoscience A-level mapping project</i>	
Amanda highlighted that UGUK may be unable to contact career advisors directly	

unlike the Society who are seen as neutral. It may be the case that local authorities are approached as an alternative.

There has been lots of progress on the mapping exercise. One teacher has expressed their keenness to be involved in the project through the Scottish Geology Trust, who've put out a call to academics. Amanda added that ESTA may have done something similar but can't seem to get hold of it. When it has been completed the next step would be to circulate to teachers for comment. Plans on how best to promote it are being considered.

Potential EDI / Students project

Rebecca's initial plan was to have carried out the demographic project in time for the June meeting. However, with mat leave over she hopes to have this ready for the November thematic meeting.

Rebecca highlighted the RGS/IGB landscape of geography report and suggested that we should consider carrying out something similar. This would be an EDI audit of geoscience and could be linked to the global goals. The Committee were supportive of this proposal. Nick added that industry may have funding for this. The project would take at least 9 months.

The Fieldwork Statement

It was agreed that the fieldwork statement should be sent out as soon as possible given students worries. Pete stated that he hopes to have a draft ready by the end of the week. Once drafted, he will circulate to the Committee for comments. He hopes to have it released to HOD's before the Easter break.

PB

6. MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE

Vice Chair vacancy

The vacant Vice-Chair position has not been advertised yet. Sian and Nick have discussed this as Sian would be happy to carry out the role while remaining as Executive Secretary as there is no additional work.

Sian added that she is happy to remain in post as Executive Secretary for an additional year. Graham stated that he may be interested in taking on the role but won't be able to commit until August. He should have a clearer idea by the June meeting.

Treasurer Role

Members felt that if interaction remains low it may be worth considering identifying someone who may be more involved. Members were unsure if dues have been sent. Sian volunteered to circulate an email to the membership. Nick added that he would arrange a meeting with Kevin to discuss this matter further.

NK

EDI Officer

Rebecca pointed out that the Executive should have a role that focuses on EDI issues. The Committee agreed with this. Rebecca added that she is happy to take

RW

this role on.

Institutional memory

It was suggested that some form of succession planning should be in place in order to avoid a loss of institutional memory. Nick stated that he would look into this. In addition, members agreed that new appointees do not necessarily need to be HOD's as enthusiasm and ability to interact are equally as important. It was suggested to approach the new HOD at Leicester as Sarah has stepped down.

NK

7. REPORT FROM JOINT HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE (JHEC)

Sian provided the Committee with an overview of the main topics of discussion at the JHEC meeting earlier today. Mark will continue to attend while the accreditation review is ongoing. The Geoscience Education and Outreach Network is almost ready to go live. An email informing HOD's about it will be circulated.

Accessibility will be a topic at the AGM in November. While Alicia Newton is organising a stakeholder meeting to help advance actions identified from the student enrolment summit.

Two of the Society's standing committees have requested a UGUK representative to sit on the committees. Nick agreed to sit on the Professional and Chartership Committee while Rebecca agreed to sit on the External Relations Committee.

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RW**

8. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Nick provided a brief overview of a presentation he is making to the Construction Industry Council (CIC). Nick added that he may look into arranging a short meeting to chat about this with some members.

NK

9. REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Sian began by reminding members that ES³ is up for review and that she is chairing it. Expressions of interest deadline is this Friday. This information has been shared with the membership. The benchmarking will be quite broad as there are 5 PSRB's involved in it. An initial meeting is scheduled for next week. It Sian and Mark will discuss potential overlap between this and the accreditation review.

**SDV,
MA**

10. REPORT FORM THE TREASURER

No report was submitted for the meeting.

11. REPORTS FROM OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

Accreditation Review

Mark informed the Committee that a draft has been submitted to Council detailing the new approach. It would see a move away from hours based and focus more on learning outcomes. The panel are in the process of refining the draft documents. They are working on developing learning outcomes that would work in tandem with the new QAA benchmarking.

Mark added that there is a move away from mapping and opening this area up to allow for more choice. Although it has been recognised that this may impact funding in some departments so the panel are working on how best to approach this issue. It was suggested that minimum number of days could be one way to approach this. The new scheme should be in place for the 2022 academic year.

Website

Pete stated that Geoweb has migrated from the BGS site. Google analytics is showing a recent increase in traffic to the site. He added that he is looking at ways to increase the traffic even further. He believes that the website could be used as a way to help UGUK advertise to career advisors.

Amanda highlighted a video produced by a colleague that could be placed on the site although she will need to confirm this with them.

Pete asked members should they have any links they feel could be helpful to add to the site they should get in touch to share them with him.

It was highlighted that not all accredited degrees are included on the UGUK list.

Geoweb

Sian informed members that Chris King had been in touch with her to say that Geoweb is taking place in May and asked for volunteers. It was pointed out that May is an extremely difficult time to find time to help. Sian intends on circulating to the membership just in case.

NERC Review - scientific support and facilities

Andy highlighted the recently announced NERC review and wondered if UGUK should look to submit a statement on behalf of the community. Andy stated that he would take this forward. While Nick agreed to share the email asking members' thoughts on the matter.

12. DATES, FORMAT AND THEMES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS AND PROJECTS

Rebecca is coordinating on the November thematic meeting where EDI will be the focus. She hopes to identify ways to help bring the conversation forward and identify actions that would achieve this.

The Committee agreed to placing this as an item for discussion at the June meeting. A suggestion was put forward to see what individual departments are doing in this space and see if UGUK could adopt any of these activities. Nick suggested contacting someone at the Royal College of Art to discuss the topic of decolonization.

It was agreed that the AGM should be a full day in order to properly focus on EDI. All members were encouraged to think of EDI topics to suggest as well as the formatting of the AGM.

AO

SDV

AA

NK

SDV

NK

AI

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no additional items raised under this section.

14. DATES OF NEXT MEETING

The following dates have been set:

- 9 June 2021
- 10/11 November 2021
- 10 March 2022

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION LIST

Item	Title	Action	For when	By whom
5.	Matters Arising	Arrange GEON meeting	June	PB
5.	Matters Arising	Re-send employers perspective survey	June	GJ
5.	Matters Arising	Finalise and send Fieldwork Statement	June	PB
6.	Membership of the Executive	Arrange meeting to discuss Treasurer role	June	NK
6.	Membership of the Executive	Take on EDI responsibilities	June	RW
6.	Membership of the Executive	Look into ways to avoid institutional memory loss		NK
7.	Report from JHEC	Accepted roles on Society standing committees		NK, RW
8.	Report form Chair	Arrange meeting to discuss CIC presentation		NK
9.	Report from Executive Secretary	Discuss potential overlap of Accreditation and Benchmarking		SDV, MA
10.	Reports from other Members	Enquire if video can be uploaded onto new website	June	AO
10.	Reports from other Members	Circulate Geoweb info via email	June	SDV
10.	Reports from other Members	Make submission to current NERC review	June	AA
10.	Reports from other Members	Canvass members views towards NERC review	June	NK
11.	Future Meetings	Include EDI as an item of discussion at next meeting	June	SDV
11.	Future Meetings	Contact person from Royal Academy of Arts RE: Decolonisation work	June	NK
11.	Future Meetings	All members to consider EDI issues to discuss at next meeting	June	ALL