

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held at 16:00 on 19 November 2020 via Zoom

Present: Nick Koor (Chair), Sian Davies-Vollum (Executive Secretary), Peter Burgess, Amanda Owen, Rebecca Williams

Apologies: Mark Anderson, Graham McLeod, Andy Aplin, Kevin Taylor, Sarah Davies

In attendance: George Jameson (Geological Society)

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 of the previous meeting were approved.

5. MATTERS ARISING

It was agreed that the membership list on the website requires updating.

6. MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE

Nick has been officially appointed as the Chair of University Geoscience UK with Mark becoming the Treasurer. It was pointed out that there is now a requirement to seek out a nomination for the Vice Chair vacancy. It was agreed that a call would go out asking. Sian added that she could take on the role in addition to her current position should no one come forward. The Committee agreed to adopt this proposal in the event no one is nominated.

Actions

NK

7. REPORT FROM THE JOINT HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Joint Higher Education Committee met yesterday. With some recent staffing changes in the Society, Rose Want will be the new representative from the Society's Education department. The Society's education committee has appointed a new Chair with Nick Sampson replacing Pete Loader.

The Society has successfully bid on two streams of funding from the European Federation of Geologists and the British Science Association.

The Society is in the process of developing a new Education & Outreach Network (EON), this is a joint project with JP Morgan. Pete intends on speaking with Alicia Newton to discuss this.

PB

The Government has changed some of its focus in recent weeks with a move away from the spending review to the area of the energy transition. This is now a key policy area in Government and the Society are directing their activities and attention towards this.

Next year, the Society's themed year will focus on Space, with several outreach activities and events being planned.

The Society are in the process of appointing a university ambassador to oversee activities to improve links.

The strategy document was discussed and agreement on the need for collaboration to advance it. Alicia is setting up a Jamboard for all participants to work from.

The academic accreditation review panel has seen a new chair appointed with Mark replacing Nick Rogers. A recent survey was sent to gather industry perspectives on the current system and what they would value in the future. George agreed to share an anonymised version of the findings.

GJ

8. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR & THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

i. ***Outreach***

A discussion took place on the most effective ways to improve the outreach capabilities of the group. Developing materials to have on the recently created UGUK website was identified as one of the most important tasks to take forward.

ii. ***Geoscience for the Future Poster project***

The Geoscience for the Future was identified as something that teachers seem to really like. With this in mind, members thought

that developing an interactive version of this would be extremely beneficial.

The interactive version would have the ability to contain information and links providing all the necessary context around each aspect of geology and how they all relate to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It was suggested that short videos from people representing all the different specialisms and industries could briefly explain what they do and the careers prospects on offer. It was agreed that the group would seek involvement from as wide a range of people spanning the breadth of the community rather than just focusing on the academic community.

The Committee agreed to pursue this proposal and plan on identifying people to participate in the interview process. Although it was flagged that UGUK may require permission from the Society before being able to make the necessary additions. George will enquire about this.

GJ

Pete added that he will try and develop a common format for all those participants to use. This format should be finalised before a request is circulated to the wider membership asking for nominations.

PB

iii. Career Guidance

It was acknowledged that the Committee doesn't have the capacity to share all of the available resources highlighting geology to a broad audience. There is a real need to be able to signpost to the geology contained in other subjects such as chemistry, physics etc.

One way of addressing this would be to canvass Career Guidance advisors and ask them what the most effective manner of signposting would be. Amanda volunteered to enquire with her uncle who happens to be a career guidance advisor.

AO

It was agreed that developing branded material marketed directly to career advisors would be an excellent strategy. The material should map out all the geology spread throughout the curriculum, especially in the STEM subjects.

It was agreed that an exercise would be carried out for England and Wales. A working group will be established and should be made up of geology teachers. This could be overseen by ESTA but 1-2 members of the Executive should be involved in its development.

A similar exercise was carried out for the Scottish curriculum and Amanda stated that would circulate a link to their report. In addition, Amanda intends on approaching the project lead and enquiring if

AO

they would like to be involved. Nick added that he knows some teachers based in England that may be interested and will enquire with them. All members were asked to forward any suggestions to Amanda.

NK
All

iv. Apprenticeships

The positive impacts of apprenticeships were discussed with members feeling that there is untapped potential in this area, especially with exposing people not previously familiar to the science. Nick and Sian have scheduled a meeting with Simon Kelly to develop this idea. Nick added that he is very keen to see this progress given the potential benefits.

v. Accessibility

Rebecca outlined her plans to undertake a review of the HESA data with the intention of producing a briefing note to highlight the issues surrounding fieldwork and lab work environments. It is hoped that this will help in the development of a strategy and guidance document to remedy them. A toolkit for fieldwork is also in consideration. She hopes to have this finished in time for UGUK's next thematic meeting.

RW

Rebecca added that she is involved with one OFS funding bid that focuses on improving access and participation for BAME students in postgrad research. A number of organisations are already involved, and she suggested that this would be a great opportunity for UGUK to come on board. Rebecca will send the details to Nick as he intends on writing a letter of support.

NK

She enquired about the potential of hiring a research assistant to carry out many of the project tasks. If funding allows an RA would probably be hired through the Society.

Nick pointed out that he made a call for funding recently however industry did not seem particularly interested. It was agreed that a call for funding may be best if it was from the Geological Society's President. The FutureGeo project is seeking funding and this was seen as an opportunity to get in touch with them to see if there's opportunity for collaboration.

In addition, Nick highlighted a NERC fellowship has been established. It will track students for a period of 3 years and monitor their perception of the science over time. This will hopefully identify the things that attracted them to the science and could be beneficial in shaping future UGUK activities.

Many members are planning on attending the EDIG Conference taking place in mid-December. Rebecca stated that she will reach out to them in the coming days.

RW

vi. *Virtual Fieldwork / Mapping*

There was a brief discussion on the topic of virtual fieldwork and mapping activities. It was recognised that it has been a difficult period with the transfer from physical to virtual teaching. There have been a number of improvements in recent times with the tech becoming easier to use and readily available. These new methods allow students to develop data as they would have, and it was felt that this new direction may be more appealing to a wider range of students who may have been put off by the fieldwork requirements.

It was agreed by members that these new methods need to be incorporated into the accreditation review allowing for more flexibility.

9. REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

There was no Treasurer report at the meeting.

10. REPORTS FROM OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

There were no reports from other members of the Executive.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was highlighted that the equality, diversity and inclusion statement is not on the website. This should be added as soon as possible.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The following dates have been set:

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

ACTION LIST

Item	Action	For when	By whom
6.	Advertise Vice Chair vacancy throughout wider membership	Nov	NK
7.	Discuss the Education and Outreach Network with Alicia Newton	Nov	PB
7.	Share recent accreditation / industry perspectives survey with Committee	Nov	GJ
8. ii	Seek permission to use GSL Poster	Nov	GJ
8. ii	Develop a common format to use when interviewing participants	Nov	PB
8. iii	Contact Career Advisor to understand best way to engage with them	March	AO
8. iii	Approach teacher who carried out mapping exercise in Scotland	March	AO
8. iii	Members to send teacher suggestions to Amanda	March	All
8. v	Produce briefing document and guidance document before next thematic meeting	March	RW
8. v	Write a letter of support for OFS funded project	Nov	NK
8. v	Contact the organisers of the EDIG Conference	Nov	RW
11.	Place the EDI statement onto the website	Nov	