



Principal Executive Committee

8 February 2018

Report to country councils and standing committees

Summary

The Principal Executive Committee (PEC) met on 8 February 2018. This report contains a summary of the issues discussed.

Membership of PEC

We welcomed our new member John Edwards. We also took the opportunity of expressing our deep appreciation to Stephen Shimberg, who left the PEC in December.

Election of Officers

The following officers were elected for the year 2018/19:

Chair: Mick Armstrong

Deputy Chair: Eddie Crouch

Chair of the Education, Ethics and the Dental Team Working Group: Alison Lockyer

Strategy

Peter Ward facilitated a session, prioritising themes and issues for the PEC's new strategy in 2018/21. The PEC were joined by Henrik Overgaard Nielsen (Chair of the General Dental Practice Committee), Giles McCracken (Chair of the Central Committee for Dental Academic Staff), Charlotte Waite (Vice Chair of the England Committee Dental Services Committee), and Rajdeep Banga and Ahmad Nounu from the Young Dentists Committee.

The themes from this day, and the summary of conclusions from a staff day devoted to the new strategy, will inform the PEC's continuing work on the new three year programme.

Statutory accounts

We received the statutory accounts for 2016/17, following the meeting between the auditors and the Audit Committee last month. The auditors had presented a very satisfactory report on the Association's financial management and governance in the last financial year. Last year we reported that our positive financial performance had been masked by liabilities in regard to the

closed defined benefit salary pension scheme. This year there is a pension fund surplus, producing a bottom line surplus in our accounts. The ebb and flows of market conditions that affect the pension scheme are of course considered in the context of long term liabilities over many years, and prudent financial planning.

The full statutory accounts will be published in the BDJ on 23 March, and discussed at the Annual General Meeting in May.

Annual Performance Review

The PEC is obliged by the Articles of Association to deliver an Annual Report to the United Kingdom (UK) Council. A process for facilitating this was agreed by the PEC and the UK Council. This entails members of the UK Council's Scrutiny Committee meeting with the PEC and the Senior Management Team (SMT) to discuss the Annual Report, providing a confidential setting to allow the Scrutiny Committee to ask any appropriate questions and to satisfy itself that the report provides a full and accurate description of the year's activities. A summary of the discussion, with the conclusions and comments of the PEC and Scrutiny Committee, is then sent to the UK Council.

The PEC, SMT and Scrutiny Committee met on 1 February. The Scrutiny Committee will report on this process to the UK Council on 21 April.

Important themes from the Annual Report this year were as follows: a changed environment for the profession brought into even sharper focus by a range of factors, including declining incomes, the lowest ever proportion of dentists having an ownership share in the practice in which they work, the advance of corporate ownership, student debt, harsh regulatory regimes, and uncertain economic conditions; a successful start to the new communications strategy; the value of gaining data from members about how the Association serves different needs, and gaining information about the experience of other professional associations at home and around the world; that no options must be left off the table as the Association seeks to reshape its membership offer; associates must remain a major operational and strategic priority; the development of the corporate market, and the challenges this presents for many BDA members, must remain a priority in policy and service development; stress in the profession, and the need to build on the research undertaken by the Association and the introduction of the new online course; the need for regulation to remain an operational and strategic focus; and the ability of the Association to carry on enhancing its educational offering to members, non members, and dental care professionals based on the very high standards of its current activity.

AGM Notice

We approved the notice for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be published in the BDJ on 23 March. The AGM will be held at 3.45pm on Thursday 10th May at 64 Wimpole Street.

Reports

As usual we received a comprehensive report from the Chief Executive on activities across the Association since the last meeting of the PEC; and reports from the President, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

Investors in People

We received a report on the recent assessment of the BDA undertaken by Investors in People (IiP). The BDA had been successfully reaccredited for another three years. The assessment report covered both strengths and areas for development, and the

latter would provide the basis for more work to strengthen the BDA in regard to all aspects of the IiP criteria. This is the only external audit of 'people issues' that the BDA was subjected to, so the report was useful information for the PEC. We congratulated the staff on a successful outcome.

PEC training

We devoted the previous day to an external trainer covering the responsibilities of Directors and the application of these responsibilities in the context of the BDA. This was a refresher course we undertake each year, but it was also invaluable for our new member.

Mick Armstrong
Chair, Principal Executive Committee

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