

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at Burlington House on 16 July 2015 at 10.00am

Present: Tim Minshull (Chair), Jon Gluyas (Chair-elect), Mark Anderson (Executive Secretary)

Apologies: There were no apologies

In attendance: George Jameson (Executive Officer), Liz Pedley (Education & Communications Administrator)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies as above were noted.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Inaugural meeting

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

New members / Handover under new structure

Mark raised the point that a new system is required in order to deal with the fact that the group doesn't have biannual meetings anymore.

There was some trouble with voting as some people could not locate the vote button. Nobody raised any objections to Peter Burgess becoming a member. Tim will contact Peter welcoming him. Peter will fill the last remaining space in the makeup of the committee, taking up the remit of outreach.

Mark informed the committee that Arlene Hunter raised concerns that she may not be able to contribute properly to the committee and offered to step down. The committee agreed that, given the structure in place, it may be premature for

Actions

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her to step down. Mark agreed that he will contact her explaining the new structure in place and that she should wait and see how it progresses before stepping down.

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Mark will email the executive stating that the makeup of the committee is now complete and outlining the new roles and responsibilities that will be coming into effect from August.

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Mark will send Tim a list of the 'serial no show institutions'. The dates or venue for the upcoming November meeting may have to be changed. Nic will explore further the constraints on the availability of Burlington House.

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5. PLANS FOR NOVEMBER MEETING

Mark informed the committee that he has contacted Andy Saunders but needs to confirm dates with him. A workshop is planned for the Tuesday morning with fieldwork as the focus. Areas that may be included are: fieldwork, employability in geoscience graduates with the intention to invite an employer's panel.

Chris Bonson at SRK and Ross Gardner at PSGB have both been contacted. Chris Bonson has accepted his invitation. Mark also plans to invite Natalyn Ala. The Environment Agency and the Coal Authority were both suggested to have a representative present.

Jon made a suggestion to invite a geologist who was formerly of BGS and now works with the Coal Authority. Jon will find out his details and inform the group once he has done so. Alan Gibbs from Midland Valley was also mentioned as a possibility as was Richard Jones from Geo-Spatial Research. It was also agreed that the size of the group should be kept to a maximum of 5 as a larger number may prove troublesome.

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Mark made the suggestion of having the day recorded. If that is the case then it will be necessary to have the event chaired. It will also be necessary to have the main themes established. They will include independent thinking, health and safety, costs, why fieldwork is so important and pressures surrounding it today etc.

Jon made the suggestion of having wilderness expert Matt Illott (training-expertise.co.uk) as a potential panel member on the day. Fieldwork accessibility is another area that the committee felt needed to be included following on from the Confronting Barriers Event which took place in June at Burlington House. It was felt that these sort of issues around the perception of Geology need to be addressed. Mark suggested that Alison Stokes could give a presentation.

It was also suggested that field health and safety guidelines may need to be updated to be brought in line with current legislation.

Mark suggested that it would be useful to set an agenda for the Higher Education Network (HEN) as he feels that it would be beneficial to have CBD courses with the aim of having HEN function as a proper network.

The possibility of having an evening dinner the day before may take place. It was thought that a buffet style meal as well as a speaker giving a talk would be beneficial in attracting people to the event. Mark will discuss this further with Nic.

Mark will send an email to both Tim and Jon regarding the themes they wish to be included at the event so as to maintain a common viewpoint.

The committee felt that the talk of that evening doesn't need to be specifically linked to fieldwork. Other topics mentioned included; the geology of Pluto, fracking, radioactive waste disposal and the geology of renewables. Andrew Bloodworth was put forward as a potential speaker. Mike Stevenson from BGS could talk about their new initiative. It was decided that Mark would approach Monica about giving her talk on the geology of Pluto. *Post-meeting note: an alternative suggestion was to approach Sanjeev Gupta to talk about the geology of Mars.* The talk will take place after the buffet and drinks will follow the talk. Mark will talk with Nic about the availability of the conference facilities. Other courtyard societies will be considered if the GSL is unavailable on that day. The committee highlighted the need to develop a briefing along with confirming a chair in order to circulate to the membership. It is hoped that this will be done before the start of the new academic year.

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6. WEBSITE

Elizabeth Pedley presented the newly designed beta University Geoscience UK website to the executive committee. This new website replaces the old CHUGD website. The website will be hosted by the Geological Society and it was noted that navigation should be quite familiar to anybody who has used the GSL website before.

As the website is not yet live some details on the website will need to be updated before its launch. The executive committee agreed that they will highlight parts of the website where the content is outdated and inform Liz of new information to be uploaded.

All members

Some of the areas on the site to be updated / changed include; contact details, distributors list, the creation of a University Geoscience UK e-signature and an events box to publicise future plans.

Liz agreed to send the committee access rights for the website so that they can access and review content.

Mark agreed to send Liz all details concerning appointments of key roles as well as pdf versions of all minutes dating back to 2012. It was agreed that some files/resources will need to be password protected, similar to the old CHUGD website.

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7. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The question of whether University Geoscience UK was the right group to be promoting / driving feeder activities or if it was better done through the Higher Education Network was raised.

The AGI survey is out and Mark is planning on sending out reminders. The survey has had around 20 responses to date.

It is hoped that activities will be established in the afternoon meeting

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8. ITEMS FOR THE JOINT HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mark briefed the group of the upcoming items for the Joint HE Committee meeting. These included data gathering projects, fieldwork costs, future needs as well as an update on A-Level and GCSE reform.

Mark informed the group that he attended a meeting in April with the Department for Education and Ofqual concerning A-level reform, raising a concern with the scientific underpinning that could be delivered through geology. There is a document that Mark will share with the group covering subject content that is currently being looked at by the DFE.

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Tim raised the question of how the executive committee will keep up to date with matters such as this when Mark steps down as the executive secretary. A handover will be required to clarify these issues.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Jon briefed the committee on the "Earth Science in Society" programme. It is divided into 2 parts, both of which are team exercises. The first is titled 'Entrepreneurship in Geoscience' where a group of students go out in the field and use a combination of fieldwork and classroom learning and act as a company to carry out projects. This culminates in a major project with an external client. Students can self-assemble for this aspect of the course. Projects range from high to low technically demanding scenarios. Examples include carrying out projects from oil companies, drilling of a geo-thermal well and geological walks from the national railway museum etc.

Jon made the point that there is a need for University Geoscience UK to better market what geology can do for students / prospective undergraduates and that a brief should be developed by a group of students to potentially develop marketing materials as well as trying to look at ways to tackle this issue. This project would run from October through to March. Jon asked if the other committee members would be interested in visiting the group of students, it was

noted that this would fall under outreach. Jon will draft a short brief and circulate it to the committee members for review.

The issue of developing a logo was discussed briefly. It was decided that the design of the logo would be discussed in greater detail at the afternoon meeting of the joint higher education committee.

A new distribution list was also discussed. It was decided that this list should be expanded upon with the possibility of factoring in the University Representatives list on the Geolsoc website. It was suggested that all heads of departments should be contacted explaining how important this is. This issue was to be raised at the afternoon meeting of the joint higher education committee.

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DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed
(now confirmed as Wednesday 24th February, Burlington House)