

National Assembly for Wales

Cross-Party Group on STEMM

Annual General Meeting

Meeting at 6.30pm, Tuesday 3 March 2020, Conference Room A, Ty Hywel

MINUTES

Present: Nick Ramsay AM (in Chair), Dai Lloyd AM, Jack Sargeant AM, and the following external members: Dr Robert Hoyle (Welsh Government), Geertje van Keulen (Microbiology Society), Wendy Sadler (Science Made Simple), Sonny Singh (Welsh Government), Tom Addison (Physiological Society), Ian Wells (IET), Ken Evans (ICE), Charles Tracy (IoP), Mike Edmunds (Royal Astronomical Society), Mike Charlton (LSW), Helen Lee (Open University), Rob Janes (Open University), Dave Jones (Geological Society), Helen Obee Reardon (Cardiff University), Cerian Angharad (Association of Science Education), Faron Moller (Technocamps), Ross Christodoulou (Royal Society of Chemistry), Helen Taylor (IFST), and Niall Sommerville (Secretariat, Royal Society of Chemistry).

Apologies received: David Rees AM, Keith Smith, Dayna Mason (Royal Society of Chemistry), Stephen Been (Royal Society of Biology), Prof Paul Harrison (University of South Wales)

Welcome

Nick Ramsay AM (in Chair in absence of David Rees AM) welcomed members, in particular Sonny Singh, Curriculum Assessment Division, Welsh Government, our external speaker for the evening.

Minutes of the meeting held 5 November 2019

Minutes were circulated. Geertje van Keulen and Mike Edmunds added to attendees. Minutes agreed.

Matters Arising

At the previous meeting it was agreed to invite the Minister for Education, Kirsty Williams AM, to the next CPG meeting to discuss the new curriculum and STEM. An invite went to the Minister and agreed to send officials to today's meeting on her behalf.

Presentation: Welsh Government – Curriculum for Wales and STEM

Sonny Singh, Curriculum Assessment Division on behalf of the Welsh Govt, talked through details of the new curriculum, context, and the steps that had been taken to get to the current stage. There was a particular focus around STEM aspects of the reform. It was noted that the new approach required whole school level system change.

The presentation was followed by a range of questions from the floor on topics including how to support teachers in this new approach, qualifications, specialist teachers, experiential learning, and funding.

Action: Chair and Secretariat to consider possible Written Questions/further correspondence with the Minister to clarify points raised at the CPG.

Scientific Societies and Professional Bodies Updates

Representatives updated the Group on current and future activities.

The Group congratulated Cerian Angharad, Association of Science Education, on being awarded an MBE in the 2020 Queen's New Year Honours List.

Action: Members will be invited to submit short written updates to be shared as part of a group newsletter following the meeting.

Report from the Welsh Government Office for Science

Dr Robert Hoyle, Office of the Chief Scientific Adviser for Wales, gave a presentation on current and future developments, including in Wales' 'strengths' workshops, UK Govt/BEIS, and Ser Cymru 2.5. Following questions the Chair thanked Dr Hoyle for his presentation.

Topics for future meetings

Members were offered the opportunity to raise topics for future meetings. Topics carried over from previous meetings included: cyber security, industry/academic collaboration and fake news. Further topics should be sent to Niall Sommerville

Any other business

Geertje van Keulen raised concerns around 'predatory' fake awards ceremonies. She asked the members watch out for suspicious invites to unknown academic awards ceremonies as some have been shown to be scams. Members were encouraged to raise awareness with colleagues.

Date of next meeting

The Group will next meet on Tues 30 June, 6.30pm, Conference Room A, Ty Hywel.

The group were reminded that prior to this will be the Royal Society of Chemistry's 16th annual Science and Senedd (formerly Science and the Assembly) which will take place on Tues 19 May. Members will receive details in due course.

Close of meeting