



## Minutes of the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

University of Sussex, Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Chair Martin White, Minutes Michaela Benzeval

46 members were present (see ledger for list)

1. Martin White welcomed members to the meeting
2. **Minutes of 56<sup>th</sup> AGM** held in London were approved
3. Matters arising - none
4. **Task& Finish Groups** -Martin introduced the work of the three groups on External Relations, ASM and other meetings and Capacity Building, and thanked everyone who had participated in them for their contributions.

**External relations** – the T&F group felt there was much more scope for SSM to build external profile and relations, for example by working with media, engaging with other societies, contributing to policy consultations. We could use the membership database to identify expertise and those willing to contribute in this area.

**ASM & other meetings** - the T&F group had lots of ideas about developing the variety and scope of meetings held by SSM, as well as rethinking the format of the ASM. Like the external relations group, it was felt that holding joint meetings with other organisations would be a positive enhancement to activities.

**Capacity building** – Looking into two main areas:- increasing SSM facilitation of training activities in collaboration with other organisations as well signposting training on website; and, developing a mentoring scheme, details not clear but may be possible to identify those willing etc via membership database.

Karen Dunnell – using membership to get messages across to policy makers and practitioners good idea, but if want ‘impact’ need to start at top with CEO, so need to be very confident about what going to say/do differently. Running more workshops is a good idea but lots of work, need to be sure about quality.

Nick Payne – Good to encourage NHS/LA participation in Society and conferences – need to make attending for one day cheaper.

Jenny Mindell – SSM conference dates increasing clashing with other conferences eg also now on PHE, BGS, MedSoc. Need to try and avoid.

Raj Bhopal – need to be careful about stepping on toes of other organisations. The mission of SSM is focused on research and scholarship. It will be very important for the Society to

work with Faculty of Public Health, hold joint meetings etc. Martin reassured meeting that such a collaborative approach was what was being proposed.

Kathryn Oliver – other than FPH, who are we discussing these ideas with?

Aileen Clarke – asked how the work of the T&F groups would be taken forward. Martin explained that 2 page summaries would be produced and circulated to members and put on website for feedback. Committee would hold a strategy meeting in January to discuss next steps.

#### **5. Honorary Secretary's Report.**

Michaela Benzeval reported that membership vote had been held about constitutional changes discussed at last year's AGM, and all changes were approved, including changing the title of the Society's Chair to President.

The Society had held a very successful one day meeting with BSA Medical Sociology Group in June to celebrate the contribution of Sally Macintyre to health inequalities research.

Thanked Dermot O'Reilly and Bernd Rechel for their contribution to the Committee over the least three years, and Jo Coster for participating in the main Committee as the ECR Chair.

#### **6. Honorary Treasurer's Report**

Mark Gilthorpe outlined the financial position of the Society, and asked members to approve the annual accounts.

Raj Bhopal asked by the Society required such a large balance – it was explained that this was to cover us in case a conference failed.

The reduced membership was discussed, in the main this is due to better records and administrative systems now that HG3 have taken responsibility for the membership subscription process. It was noted that a significant number of members had not paid 2013 subscription and were uncontactable at current locations. It was suggested that members may be able to provide upto date contact details for colleagues if the list of those with no address were circulated.

**Member vote: approved accounts.**

#### **7. Communication's Officer Report**

Mark Kelly thanked the communications subcommittee for all of their work. Activities had focused on two areas – the Society's visual identity – logo, branding, newsletter and developing a new website. Asked members to send good images that might be useful and warned audience that people would be taking photos during the conference for the website.

Aileen Clarke – asked if members would be consulted about the logo?

#### **8. ECR Section Report**

Jo Coster – is stepping down as Chair at end of 2013; she thanked Peter Tennant previous Chair and committee for his support. In 2014 Kathryn Oliver will chair the committee and priorities for 2014 are piloting a mentoring scheme; increasing membership and developing a workshop for next ASM. Elections for new ECR committee members will be held before the end of 2013.

## **9. Organisational affiliations**

### **a. EUPHA**

Alastair Leyland reported that as part of EUPHA members are entitled to reduced fees at EUPHA Conference. 2013 will be held in Brussels in November; 2014 will be held in Glasgow 19-22 November: **Mind the gap: Reducing inequalities in health and health care.**

### **b. EEF**

David Batty reported that the EEF meeting in Aarhus was excellent meeting. In 2014 there will be a world congress in Alaska, EEF meetings will then be held in Germany in 2015 and The Netherlands in 2016, there will be another world congress in 2017; we are investigating holding a joint meeting in 2018. We are also currently discussing reduced membership of IEA for SSM members.

### **c. UK Health Forum**

Simon Capwell reported on proposed affiliation with UK Health Forum which was broadly supported by members present.

## **10. Election**

- a) Ordinary Committee members – Kate Tilling and Shelina Visram have been elected to the committee and additionally Ellen Flint and Emily Murray have been co-opted to the committee to contribute to the growing agenda.
- b) At the earlier Committee meeting, a number of members had been identified to be invited to become honorary members of the Society as a result of their significant contribution to Society activities over the years. Once they have been invited and accepted, they will be announced in the SSM Newsletter.

## **11. Future annual scientific meetings**

- a. Oxford 1–12 September 2014 Chair LOC – Ben Cairns
- b. Dublin 2<sup>nd</sup>– 4<sup>th</sup> Sept 2015, Chair LOC Cecily Kelleher
- c. 2016 York – 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration

## **12. AOB - none**