

FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE

of the Royal College of Physicians of London



The 10th Annual General Meeting of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine, held on Friday 05 May 2017 at the Hilton Hotel, Belfast.

MINUTES

1. Apologies: No apologies for absence had been received by the Registrar.
2. Minutes of the last meeting: these were approved as a correct record. There were no matters arising from the minutes not included on the agenda.
3. Installation of the President: Professor Carol Seymour was installed as President for 2017 to 2019, by the outgoing President, Dr Jason Payne-James.
4. Award of Diplomas to newly elected Honorary Fellows and Fellows, and to successful candidates in the FFLM examinations: Diplomas had been awarded to the recipients listed on the Appendix to these minutes. Those in bold were present to receive their diplomas.
5. Registrar's report: The Registrar also expressed thanks to the FFLM office team members for their considerable efforts in managing an increasing workload. Membership of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, the work on application for specialist status, the effective running of our main committees - the Board, Senior Officers/Vice-Presidents meeting, Academic Committee, Fellowship Committee, Chief Examiners Committee - and managing the finances of the Faculty and the FFLM examinations all represented a very significant body of work for a team of three. The Registrar gave a presentation on membership figures (attached to these minutes), and called attention to an increase in affiliate and associate applications, but a fall-off in doctors wanting to become members of the FFLM through examination. This reflected a reduction in the number of doctors working in police custody healthcare, but also reflected the fact that providers were not making it a requirement for their doctors to acquire FFLM qualifications as a requirement to work in police custody.
6. Changes to Standing Orders: The AGM approved a change to the standing orders with regard to Affiliate to the effect that "Affiliation with the Faculty is open to those who are medically qualified and are working or intending to work in Forensic and Legal Medicine, either full-time or part-time, **and who hold a UK license to practise or its equivalent.**" The AGM also approved a change to the examination regulations to the effect that "**both the MFFLM Part 1 and the MFFLM Part 2 examinations are offered once a year, in October and March, respectively. The validity of the Part 1 was**

increased to four years from June 2016". Finally, the Registrar proposed a change to the standing orders with respect to auditing of the accounts to allow an **inspection, rather than a full audit**, to be undertaken. This change was recommended by the Faculty's accountants, and was approved.

7. Treasurer's report: The Treasurer presented the Accounts and Report for the year. These are attached as an appendix to these minutes.
8. Academic Dean's report: The Academic Dean gave her report, which has been published in full on the FFLM website.
9. Editor's report - Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine: The full report is available on the Faculty's website.
10. Award of David Jenkins Chair in Forensic and Legal Medicine: the recommendation that the 2018 lecture should be given by Dr Priya Singh was approved.
11. There were no items of any other business.
12. President's report: The outgoing President gave a valedictory report, covering the past year, and his hopes for the future of the Faculty. A notable event was the admission of the FFLM to the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges. This placed the Faculty at the same level as the medical royal colleges and faculties, and provided the opportunity both for the wider involvement for the FFLM in general medical educational and political matters, but also ensured that the weight of the Academy could be brought to bear in the Faculty's aim of achieving specialty status and a reversal of the decision by the Government to cancel the transfer of police custody healthcare to the NHS. Under his Presidency, strong relations had been established between the FFLM and the Forensic Science Regulator, the custody inspectorate and the UK Association of Forensic Nurses and Paramedics, and more visible media profile had been built. Joint guidance with the Royal College of Emergency Medicine and the Royal College of Paediatrics had been published, and a move towards specialist status for Forensic and Legal Medicine had begun. With regard to the management of the Faculty office, weekly meetings between the Senior Officers and the office team continued to take place, ensuring a smooth running of day to day issues. For the future, concerns about the police custody healthcare workforce, the need for more university-based departments in forensic medicine, and the issue of adequate funding for the care of a vulnerable population would be very much to the fore. The outgoing President thanked the enormous contribution made to the FFLM by Charlene Campbell, Tessa Lewis and Jay Barton-Costa. The quarterly meeting of regular Senior Officer/Vice-Presidents meetings had been continued, allowing the officers of the Faculty to be kept up to date with the many initiatives being taken forward. The FFLM had begun to take on a revalidation role, with Dr Nigel Callaghan being appointed as its Suitable Person.
13. The date of the 2018 AGM was given as May 11th 2018, at the Royal College of Physicians of London.