

FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE

of the Royal College of Physicians of London



Registered Charity No 1119599

The 17th Annual General Meeting of the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine
held at the Principal Hotel, York / Zoom on 05 May 2023 at 16:00 hours.

Minutes

1. Introduction: The President welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and noted that there were attendees joining online as well as in person. The President advised that the meeting was being recorded for the purposes of the minutes.
2. Apologies were received from Peter Green, Clare Healy, Mary Nichols, Roy Palmer and Shiraz Qamaruddin.
3. Minutes of the 16th AGM held virtually on 06 May 2022 were received and accepted as an accurate record.
4. Award of Diplomas to newly elected Honorary Fellows, Fellows and successful FFLM examination candidates: Diplomas were awarded to the recipients listed in Paper 3 of the AGM paperwork.
5. Registrar's Report: published on FFLM website, no questions. Upset by lack of progress with application process for specialty status for forensic and legal medicine. Continuing to work on it. Very pleased about the establishment of IFAS. Welcomed incoming Senior Officers and thanked the Senior Officers/FFLM Office staff for support during her term of office.
6. Amendments to the Standing Orders: published on the FFLM website. The Registrar highlighted that no questions had been submitted prior to the AGM regarding the proposed amendments and invited questions from the floor.

It was queried whether Legally Qualified Coroners, Procurators Fiscal and Procurators Fiscal Depute were currently able to join the FFLM as Members. The President advised that they could only join as Associates at present. Michael Freeman queried if it might impact on the application for specialty status for forensic and legal medicine. John Gall expressed this concern also. HT advised that she had discussed the proposal with the Registrar of the Royal College of Physicians who had felt that it would not have an impact. Michael Powers commented that if any non medical professional worth of being admitted to Membership it would be Legally Qualified Coroners due to their role in investigating deaths. Denis Cusack queried if the Medically Qualified Coroners section of the FFLM would need to be renamed and the Immediate-Past President advised that the three sections had been amended at the previous AGM to Forensic Medicine, Legal Medicine and Allied Healthcare Professionals. John Gall noted that the FFLM had not received any helpful information

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yet as to why the specialty application had not been successful yet. Jason Payne-James noted that the RCP would not play a role in approving the application for specialty status and how the FFLM's membership would impact the application. Denis Cusack highlighted that the application for specialty status related to medical professionals so the fact the FFLM had non-medics as members should not (in theory) impact on the decision process. The President highlighted that it had not impacted on other Royal Colleges/Faculties with non-medical members.

The AGM approved the following changes to the Standing Orders:

- Legally Qualified Coroners, Procurators Fiscal and Procurators Fiscal Depute to be eligible for membership on the basis of equivalent qualification as currently exists for forensic pathologists, forensic psychiatrists and forensic odontologists.
- Addition of the closing date for the intake of Foundation Members and Fellows (DLA).
- Addition of a Special Board for rejected Membership applications.
- Amendment to allow voting in the Presidential, Vice-Presidential, Treasurer, Registrar and Ordinary Board Member elections via the FFLM website through a secure voting page.
- Removal of the preparation of the FFLM bulletin and liaison with CRM and website teams from the responsibilities of the Assistant Registrar (tasks carried out by FFLM office).
- Addition of Assistant Registrar to the list of Senior Officers and Vice-Presidents.
- Addition of Assistant Registrar to the membership of the Membership and Fellowship Committee.
- Addition of a Clinician working in Secure and Detained Settings (SDS) to the membership of the Membership and Fellowship Committee.
- Amendment of the Chair of the Membership and Fellowship Committee to the appointed Vice-President and alternative chair from the committee if the Vice-President is unavailable.

7. Treasurer's Report (including Trustees Report): published on FFLM website, approved unopposed. The Treasurer answered a question submitted prior to the AGM:

- I would like to ask the Treasurer once again about the income that the Faculty has received from the CED courses. I will not be put off by the excuses of last year about resources etc.. I do not believe for one minute that the Faculty does not know how many CED courses it has run and how many attendees there have been at each course. Therefore, I shall expect an answer to this question on this occasion.

The Treasurer advised that the income from the CED courses was included within the overall figures for the FFLM's educational activities. It was noted that it would be an

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inappropriate use of FFLM office staff time and members' subscription fees to separate this out.

The Treasurer highlighted that prior to office/staff expenses, a surplus of £100 was received per CED course. It was queried what the overall income was from the CED Courses. The Treasurer queried why the information was required and if it was being asked for on behalf of a private provider or out of interest as a concerned FFLM member.

The Treasurer noted that the FFLM's finances remained stable and highlighted that the biggest change to the FFLM's finances was the introduction of IFAS which brought with it a higher level of scrutiny of the FFLM's accounts as it was funded by the Home Office. Higher income level means a higher level of scrutiny.

8. Academic Dean's Report: published on FFLM website, no questions.
9. Journal of Forensic & Legal Medicine (JFLM): Elsevier Report published on FFLM website.
10. President's Report: published on the FFLM website.
11. David Jenkins Chair in Forensic & Legal Medicine: Prof Cath White has been appointed as the Chair for 2023-24.
12. Any Other Business:

Prof Denis Cusack, current President of the European Council of Legal Medicine, provide an update on the work of the ECLM and mono-specialty recognition of Forensic and Legal Medicine at European level.

The President expressed his thanks to all of the Senior Officers and in particular to the Treasurer who was demitting office after the AGM.

13. Date of the next AGM: Friday 10 May 2024 at the Royal College of Pathologists in London.

Meeting closed.