



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 at the Royal College of Pathologists, London / Zoom 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. The Registrar expressed her frustration at the lack of progress with the application process for specialty status for forensic and legal medicine despite the hard work and efforts of the Specialty Advisory Committee. The Registrar highlighted the establishment of the Institute for Addressing Strangulation and the important work it was undertaking. The Registrar thanked the Senior Officers and FFLM Office team for their support during her term of office and welcomed the incoming Senior Officers.
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. It was queried whether opening membership to this group would impact on the application for specialty status for forensic and legal medicine. The Registrar advised that the proposal had been discussed with the Registrar of the Royal College of Physicians who had felt that it would not have an impact. It was highlighted that the application for specialty status related to medical professionals so having non medical members should not (in theory) impact on the decision process. It was queried if the sections 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



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Medicine, and Allied Healthcare Professionals. It was noted that the FFLM had not received any useful feedback as to why the specialty application had been unsuccessful.

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 list 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 Conducted Energy Device (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 highlighted that approximately there was a surplus of £100 - £120 per CED course which did not take into account course development costs or office administration time. It was queried what the overall annual income was from the CED courses, and the Treasurer enquired why the member required the information. The



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Treasurer added that the information could be provided if it was to be kept confidential and not shared elsewhere e.g. with employers/private providers etc.

The Treasurer noted that the FFLM's finances remained stable and highlighted that the Home Office funding for IFAS meant the FFLM's accounts would require a higher level of scrutiny and a full annual audit rather than an annual review.

8. Academic Dean's Report: published on FFLM website, no questions.
9. Journal of Forensic & Legal Medicine (JFLM): Elsevier Report published on FFLM website and update on the publishing landscape and JFLM performance provided by Katie Chan, Forensic and Legal Medicine Publisher at Elsevier.
10. President's Report: published on FFLM website, no questions. The President thanked the Senior Officers and the FFLM membership for their support during his term of office.
11. Institute for Addressing Strangulation Report: presentation provided by the Institute's Medical Director, Cath White, earlier in the day. Questions were invited from the floor and the membership had no questions/comments.
11. David Jenkins Chair in Forensic & Legal Medicine: Prof Cath White was appointed as the Chair for 2023-24.
12. Any Other Business:

Prof Denis Cusack, current President of the European Council of Legal Medicine (ECLM), provided 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 again to all the Senior Officers and to the Registrar and Academic Dean who were 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.