

GUILD OF HEALTHCARE PHARMACISTS – UNITE

Notes of the General Meeting held on May 15th 2010 at the Queen's Hotel, Leeds

Annual Report

Dave Miller, The NPC Chair (President), welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through the report with those present taking questions and queries as he went along.

Professional Secretary

The continued lack of a professional secretary was raised by Bill Brookes who expressed extreme disappointment with the situation and asked if there would be any money available to fund the post in the future.

Karen Reay, Head of Health for Unite, said that there were professional teams based at Holborn who should be able to support GHP in professional matters and Kevin McAdam would be available to work on the industrial agenda. The post of a specialist GHP professional secretary will not be replaced under the current financial climate.

Richard Cattell (Immediate Past President) said that the membership felt that there was a justification for the post and that over the past year he had worked very hard with the current President to try and be creative about how to take this forward. However, he reminded members that being part of Unite gave access to services which would otherwise be lost.

Ron Pate stated that the union was there to support its members' needs. GHP members have specific needs and would like that information to be available on the website. Karen Reay stated that the website could become part of the Unite Health website if that better met the needs of the membership.

International Committee

There was concern raised by Ron Pate that the RPSGB, and not Unite, had agreed to fund the annual EAHP membership. Colin Hitchings said that it was the GHP and not the RPSGB who belonged to EAHP and wondered if the RPSGB would require a seat at the table if they were paying the subscription.

Steven Curtis asked if the Guild was doing anything about the FIP practice statements.

Terms and Conditions

Karen Reay told the meeting of the current situation regarding on-call. The current on-call arrangement will come to an end in March 2011. It has been suggested that local arrangements will be the way forward. Currently, Staff Council is meeting 2-3 times a week to try and resolve the issue... There may be a national definition of on-call with a menu of options from which local agreements could be made. They will try and set up an on-call agreement that is professionally and not consumer led for work of an unforeseeable nature. Karen also spoke about pensions. The pension choice programme was ongoing. She felt that those who were in the NHS pension scheme now were probably OK but that the future

of those joining the scheme was unsure. Both the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats had said that public service pensions were not affordable. With regards to Recruitment and Retention Premia, the union would continue to look at ways to try and get this implemented. Unite would also look at the outsourcing of pharmacy services because of the VAT anomaly.

Any Other Business

Kevin McAdam asked those present to encourage pharmacy technicians to join Unite.

Before the end of the meeting The President asked for a minutes silence in the memory of Margaret Benfield, ex Guild Council Member, and Walter Smith, ex Guild President, who had passed away in the previous year.

Everyone was thanked for their attendance

Vilma Gilis