

MINUTES

SCHOOL OF POPULATION HEALTH AND CLINICAL PRACTICE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday 2nd August at 9.00
Room 1-23 Eleanor Harrald Bld

Present: Neville Marsh (Convenor), John Moss, Cate Howell, Jonathan Newbury (videoconference), Greg Bussell and Felicia Matthews (Minutes).

By invitation: Anne Tonkin, Carole Gannon, Tiger Leaton and Stuart Matthews

1. Welcome and apologies

Apologies: Judy Magarey

N Marsh thanked Jonathan Newbury for Acting Head during his absence.

N Marsh welcomed Anne Tonkin, Carole Gannon, Tiger Leaton and Stuart Matthews to the meeting and explained that the Medical Learning and Teaching Unit (MLTU) staff had been invited to attend the meeting to discuss their involvement with the School and that Stuart Matthews had been invited to join the meeting on behalf of the Faculty to explain the background of the MLTU joining this School.

2. Minutes of previous meeting (19/7/06)

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as true and accurate and will be made available on the School website.

3. Matters arising from previous meeting

Prof Sandy McFarlane is available to attend the SEC meeting on 30th August.

Ass Prof Bhupinder Singh and Greg Hampson will represent AVMED at the School Planning Day.

School planning day structure and issues to be address discussed under item 5.

MLTU to be discussed under item 4.

Space issue to be discussed under any other business.

4. Medical Learning & Teaching Unit

N Marsh welcomed the MLTU staff once again explaining the open governance policy in this School and some of the Committee's concerns over the process of the MLTU's inclusion to the School. Stuart Matthews gave a background on academic programs within the Faculty, and noted that the MBBS course was mostly coordinated by the MLTU. The Faculty had looked at all options in the Faculty structure including the most appropriate management of the program and believed that the best fit for the MLTU would be our School.

N Marsh conceded that there had not been a full and open discussion about the decision to include the MLTU in the School. This caused some concerns to be raised mainly over the future of the School and its growth. S Matthews said that the Faculty considers that this School has progressed more rapidly in comparison with other Schools which was another reason why the MLTU should join but in regard to continued growth and expansion, this was not considered likely.

N Marsh asked Anne Tonkin to address the questions raised by the Committee:

Would you be interested in expanding to provide your services to health science and nursing courses?

In terms of expanding to provide services to other programs, staff were already doing as much as they could with current resources, but were definitely interested in contributing to other programs, providing the resources are available. S Matthews added that the Faculty plans to build a new clinical skills lab and have in mind that this could be available for both health science and nursing students, depending on funding, and shared resources will be encouraged.

The committee agreed that it was important not to duplicate tasks and resources within the School. A Tonkin clarified the role of the Associate Dean of Teaching and Learning (A/Prof Maree O'Keefe) which had been unclear to the committee: A/Prof O'Keefe is responsible for all programs within the Faculty, and is not associated with one School in particular; the MLTU has been largely MBBS specific.

What might your contribution be in a RQF sense?

The MLTU staff carry out research in medical education, supervise PhD students, present at conferences and publish. The Unit would be in a position to do contract work and have been asked by other universities to provide services, ie. MacMaster. J Newbury said that they had done some evaluation around medical education. The MLTU might not be strong on RQF in terms of high quality publishing but N Marsh thought they could make great contribution with high impact research and this will be a good incentive to publish.

What is your financial position and what will you contribute to the School costs?

The financial position is unclear with some changes to budget anticipated. This might impact on teaching provision as a large part of the budget is for salaries and casual teaching staff. The Executive Dean has in mind to change the model of funding.

N Marsh noted that the MLTU would join the School as cost neutral and without debt.

What do you think the advantages are of joining the School?

A Tonkin tabled a paper providing background to the activities of the MLTU. To be able to collaborate with rural and general practice and it is important that they collaborate with public health and nursing. MLTU staff foresaw themselves fitting in a positive sense with programs better managed at a school level rather than faculty. The MBBS program has always been privileged because it was the core of the faculty and thus other programs may have suffered. These programs should be treated equally.

The MLTU would be recognised as equivalent to a discipline. It currently is recognised as an Academic Organisation Unit (AOU) and thus can have PhD students enrolled. The MLTU has never been a “department”, but recognised as an independent group with responsibilities and management.

T Leaton looked forward to being in the School and J Moss said that they would be very happy to see Public Health taught at this level.

J Moss asked about the MLTU answering administratively to the Head of this School, in line management terms which N Marsh confirmed. In terms of policy and curriculum, the Faculty Curriculum Committee governed how the MLTU structured and delivered the course. If, for example, the HOS of Medicine wanted to change the structure or way the course was being delivered, the HOS would need to go through the Curriculum Committee.

N Marsh thanked MLTU staff for a positive discussion and asked A Tonkin to join the meeting on a regular basis.

5. School planning day structure– Wednesday 9th August

J Newbury had briefed Mark Douglas and organised interviews. The structure of the day would include an introduction by HOS, sessions to examine a vision for the School, problems and issues relating to the future direction of the School etc. Mark Douglas would prepare documentation as the day to which ownership by the whole School would be sought. The question was raised as to whether we are producing a strategic plan or a “living” operational document over, say a 12 month period. The latter was preferred to which individuals need to contribute and have ownership and which was updated on a regular basis.

6. Reports from Disciplines

Public Health – John Moss

There were no new milestones to report. J Moss has sent the first six months of planning milestones to the Executive Dean.

J Moss was delighted that Dino Pisaniello has obtained a PHERP innovation grants in relation to biosecurity. G Bussell commented that Dino will need help with the work coming up.

Regarding space, it was noted that Public Health will not now move from Level 9 of 10 Pulteney Street. The University Facilities Committee will meet to free up more space on level 9, currently taken by the Centre for Internet Research, which would meet their needs in the short term.

General Practice – Cate Howell

C Howell reported that Nigel Stocks had been appointed the Chair of General Practice. This was good news and some certainty will mean that staff can start to look forward. N Stocks wants to take SSL leave in October and C Howell will assist with Assistant Dean (Teaching) duties.

Alan Crockett has received confirmation a contract with the Victorian fire department. The impulse oscillometer had been purchased.

Rural Health – Jonathan Newbury

J Newbury is undertaking a RIS study with A Crockett and has received ethics approval. Collection of data will take place in Port Lincoln.

J Newbury is writing a 5 year report on the rural clinical school.

The Associate Professor (Research) will be appointed via UniSA and this was advertised on Saturday's *The Advertiser* and on both University's websites: some interest has been generated already. The closing date will be 18th August and as JN while he is away in the USA in September for 3 weeks, interviews may have to be held in his absence. Dee Whitford will be acting Head of SGRHS.

The date of the next JVC has yet to be confirmed for 4 September. The Monday evening could be utilised for the premier of *Ten Canoes*.

Nursing

No formal report. 10 computers have come up for lease renewal and so a decision has to be taken about future IT requirements.

7. Report from Sub Committee – Apologies

8. Any other business

G Bussell noted that Farmers' Federation building in Frome Street is up for sale. A number of space issues were under consideration including a School meeting room and video conference room.

9. Next meeting

Wednesday 16th August at 9.00 in the Discipline of Public Health

Outstanding items from previous meeting:

Action	Responsibility
Organise a user pay system for Disciplines to use storage space at Thebarton Campus.	G Bussell
Investigate funding etc for the Georgina Dowling and Hilda Farmer Fellowship (Faculty fellowship).	G Bussell & N Stocks