Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare of the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists (RCOG) held at the RCOG, 27 Sussex Place, London, NW1 4RG

13:00-14:00 on Thursday 28th July 2016

The business commenced at 13:00. Dr Christopher Wilkinson, President of the FSRH read the notice of the meeting.

There were 23 members in attendance and 10 proxy forms received. One apology had been received. The President pointed out that only Fellows, Members and Diplomates of the FSRH are eligible to vote for motions but Honorary Fellows and Associates may speak to proposals. The President announced that the meeting was quorate, which means at least 20 members eligible to vote were present or have sent proxy votes. The following business was transacted:

1. Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2015

The first item of business was to receive the director’s report and audited accounts for the year ended 31st December 2015. Copies of the audited report and accounts were made available to those present. The President referred to pages 4 and pages 24 of the annual report and accounts for the Director’s report.

The President, who was demitting office at the end of this AGM, took the opportunity to briefly reflect on some of the highlights of the last years. He reflected in particular on how far the FSRH has come since a number of Members came together – including Alison Bigrigg – to identify what needed to change at the Faculty and how they could strengthen the organisation. They recognised the need for a strong organisation to support the work that the members do to ensure that our communities have the best possible SRH care. In hindsight, he reflected, this has become even more important over the last few years as the NHS faces more and more challenges and SRH has faced perhaps more experimentation than most areas of healthcare as a result of the HSC Act implemented in 2013. Dr Wilkinson stressed how important it is that the FSRH supports its members in the challenges they are facing – ensuring that they have the standards, guidance, information, training and qualifications that they need to provide an excellent service to patients.

The President reported that at the end of last year the FSRH had 15,575 paying members of whom 150 were nurse Diplomates – he was personally delighted that nurses are now able to do the Diploma and he believes the FSRH should be doing more to encourage them do it and to support them in their careers in SRH. He noted that the vast majority of FSRH members are GPs – working day in day out on a range of health and social care issues that includes 80% of the contraception delivered in the UK. Dr Wilkinson reported that he was pleased that the FSRH now has GPs represented on Council and in two of the six Officer roles and is working proactively with the RCGP.

Other highlights of 2015 he drew attention to included:
The awarding of the CEU tender to the Chalmers Centre in Edinburgh under the joint directorship of Ailsa Gebbie and Sharon Cameron – whose team had lived up to high expectations in their development of guidance, the UKMEC and responding to the questions of members.

Over 850 doctors and nurses were awarded the Diploma in 2015.
Nearly 1,700 doctors and nurses were awarded a LoC in SDI or IUT or both.

The successful pilot of a new ‘basic’ introductory course in SRH for practice nurses – SRH Essentials. Over 1,130 people attended FSRH conferences.

Launching the new vision for SRH ‘Better Care a Better Future’ with the help of the newly established Policy and Standards team. This vision has already enabled the FSRH to bring together others to ‘breakdown some barriers’ as one partner put it and to work to identify how we can – together – improve SRH care in the UK. The President reported that the FSRH had become far more outward looking – developing relationships, using its influence and communicating more with its members.

The President also commented on the need for the FSRH to be as efficient and effective as possible and the process of ‘modernisation’ of the Faculty had continued apace in 2015 with great energy and commitment from all levels of the organisation. He thanked everyone involved in this work including and in particular those members who had contributed on a voluntary basis. He recorded his gratitude to Diana Halfnight for the years of dedicated work she put in to the Faculty before she retired in spring 2016.

Finally, the President reported that he was delighted to be handing over to Dr Asha Kasliwal and the existing, extremely dedicated and talented Officers and Council to ensure that the Faculty goes from strength to strength over the coming years.

The President then invited Dr Tracey Masters, Vice President, Specialty, standing in for Diana Mansour, the Honorary Treasurer, to present the Treasurer’s report. She reported that:

Council had reviewed a draft of the annual report and accounts at their March meeting delegating the final approval to Dr Mansour who signed the accounts in June. A final copy of the approved accounts and report had been put on the FSRH website.

Dr Masters reported that these were a healthy set of accounts with a surplus in unrestricted funds of nearly 356K.

Expenditure of c.2 million was almost exactly what was budgeted for so in 2015, so this surplus was a result of an increase in income over the previous year. This is an excellent result particularly considering the expenditure made in continuing to modernise the Faculty during 2015.

She reported that c.£140K fixed assets were capitalised as assets under construction: Investment in IT for website & database.

There was a small, unrealised gain on investments.

The accounts had been produced in the new format for FRS102 compliance:

- Included a cash flow for the first time
- Accrual for holiday days not taken £2.5K
- Declared key management employment costs (in total) – CEO plus 3 heads of department
- Accounted for pensions deficit: £1K charge for 2015 but historic adjustment for £56K of costs.

A new restricted fund had been established by Council after receiving money from an SRH research fund being wound up – restricted to spend on the contraception Priority Setting Partnership.
Acceptance of the report and accounts was proposed by Dr Kate Armitage and seconded by Dr Janet Barter, and carried unanimously by those present

**Accepted unanimously.**

2. **To re-appoint BDO LLP as auditors and to authorise the directors to fix their remuneration.**
   The second item of business was the proposal to re-appoint BDO LLP as auditors and to authorise the directors to fix their remuneration.

Acceptance of the report and accounts was proposed by Dr Fenella Powell and seconded by Dr Anne Lashford, and carried unanimously by those present

**Accepted unanimously**

3. **To adopt the annual subscription rates as from 1st January 2017**
   The third item on the agenda was the proposal to adopt the annual subscription rates as from 1st January 2017. The trustees, on the advice of Council, recommended the following rates:

   - £210 (Full rate) for Fellows and Members
   - £99 (Full rate) for Diplomates
   - £85 for Associates

   with a reduction of £5 for those paying by direct debit and a continuation of the reduced subscription for those Fellows, Members and Diplomates earning less than £22,000 from ALL medical activities.

   The subscription rates were proposed by Dr Tracey Masters and seconded by Dr Kate Armitage and were carried unanimously by those present.

**Accepted unanimously**

4. **To elect Council members in accordance with the ballot.**
   The fourth item on the agenda was to elect Council members in accordance with the ballot.

   This year there was one vacancy for a Member/Fellow seat.

   From the 4 nominations received for the vacancy a ballot of Members/Fellows was held and Dr Helen Munro duly elected as a Council representative of the Members/Fellows.

   This year there were 3 vacancies for Diplomate seats on Council. From the 10 nominations received for the vacancies a ballot was held and Dr Judith Aston, Dr Jayne Kavanagh and Dr Anne Lashford were duly elected as Council representatives of the Diplomates – Dr Lashford was a re-elected for a second term.

   The President congratulated all the successful candidates and thanked those who took the trouble to apply, hoping that they would try again and/or get involved in the work of the Faculty in other ways.

   The President then invited the President Elect, Dr Asha Kasliwal, to receive the Presidential medal and to address the meeting.
Dr Kasliwal expressed sincere gratitude to Dr Wilkinson for everything he had achieved as President of the FSRH over the last 5 years. She explained that he had been part of the Faculty since 1998 and had been involved in nearly all aspects of the Faculty’s work. She pointed to a few key highlights among the many achievements he had made as President including:

Having the foresight to commission Dr Alison Bigrigg (former President) to write the 2020 vision document, which brought about the modernisation at the Faculty and Jane Hatfield’s appointment as CEO.

More recently the vision document and the successful vision dinner.

Ensuring that the FSRH had become more inclusive and more outward facing including ensuring that more GPs were involved in the work of the Faculty and introducing the Nurse Diploma.

As well as these major achievements, he had exerted considerable influence, ensuring that SRH was taken seriously at Public Health England and elsewhere.

Dr Kasliwal described Dr Wilkinson as a warm, approachable and supportive person, his ideas, his capacity for hard work and his passion had all helped the Faculty have impact in many different ways. She hoped that he would continue to contribute to the work of the FSRH.

Dr Kasliwal said she was very honoured to be taking on the role of President. She stated that it is an exciting time for the Faculty, with a better structure, with Jane’s contribution in a short time at the Faculty, the new website, the rebranding, and the nurse diploma. At the same time she acknowledged the many challenges facing members including fragmentation of services and commissioning, budget cuts and tendering. And the continuing shortage of SRH consultants. Dr Kasliwal said that she hoped to carry on the work started by Chris Wilkinson, to remain outward facing and to drive the vision forward.

Dr Kasliwal said that she hoped to encourage involvement from the membership – particularly GPs and nurses - in Faculty work, including in committees - and to involve more lay members in the future.

Dr Kasliwal finished by talking about her own motivation to work in SRH – having trained in O&G but choosing to do additional training because she was interested in being an SRH consultant despite being told this was not necessary! She thanked the ‘fantastic’ team of Officers and the Chief Executive at the FSRH and said she was looking forward to working with all members to improve women and men’s health.

5. AOB

Dr Wilkinson thanked everyone he had worked with in his time as President, said that it had been an honour to serve the FSRH as President and felt it was in a good position to go from strength to strength.

THAT ENDS THE FORMAL BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.