

ECSITE-UK not full COMMITTEE MEETING

26 July 2002, Observatory, Herstmonceux, 10.10-12.30

Present: Colin Johnson (CJ), Melanie Quin (MQ), Gillian Pearson, Ian Simmons

1 Apologies

Apologies received from the majority of the Committee, and – as agreed in Birmingham – this was not held as a full business meeting.

2 Minutes of meeting held on 27 May 2002

The minutes were not commented, and will be discussed at the next Full Committee Meeting.

3 Matters arising not covered below, or already superseded

Matters again to be referred to the next Full Committee Meeting.

4 Executive Director's report

MQ reported:

- on the 22nd July meeting for CEOs and Chairs with the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, and the announcement of the Millennium/Wellcome/Wolfson £33 million ReDiscover fund
- a date has been secured for a first meeting with DfES officials in August
- Science Year has been extended to June 2003; a continuation bid for the sciZmic science clubs project has been submitted
- 'Meet the Scientist' events have been held with considerable success at At-Bristol; a second training workshop has been run in Cardiff; a report on this pilot phase is being prepared for EPSRC
- the e-Newsletter attracts regular feedback; a website survey has been conducted, and constructive comments implemented.

Action

MQ to arrange a meeting with Geoff Moore, EPSRC, prior to his retirement in September, to progress 'Meet the Scientist'

MQ to explore the html option for the e-Newsletter

MQ to express the Committee's thanks to Ros Mist, sciZmic project manager, and Martin Glancy, webmaster

5 Treasurer's report

Further to the Treasurer's report:

Alistair is chasing the outstanding 'start up' funders

MQ to thank **John Gagg** (BA) for the spreadsheets' clarity, following the Committee's discussion in May at ThinkTank.

6 Reports from Committee Members on devolved tasks; allocation of next tasks

Deferred to the next Full Committee Meeting.

7 Operational plan: update and next steps

The plan is underway, to be reviewed and revised on an annual basis.

Gillian Pearson commended the achievement in 51 weeks (since MQ's interview for the post of executive director) of both the ReDiscover Fund and the initiation of dialogue with the DfES.

8 Financial sustainability of ECSITE-UK itself

Actions to be considered, late 2002, before the situation gets urgent: scoping exercise of potential funding sources by the Admin Manager; extension of the notion of 'start-up' donations, to 'supporting' donations; discussions with NESTA and with the Wellcome Trust/ Millennium Commission/ Wolfson Foundation.

9 AGM

Mailing to go to all ECSITE members in the UK in advance of the meeting on 10 September at the National Space Centre, Leicester.

Due to Paul Smith's departure from GSC and Alistair Flett's retirement from Satrosphere, two positions are available on the Committee. Other committee members have the option of standing down, but otherwise need not stand for re-election to the AGM of September 2003.

Following the business of the AGM, Gillian Pearson will chair a session on the theme of science/theatre.

Members gain free entry for the day to the NSC; free tickets to a planetarium show at the end of the afternoon; and an invitation to the Institute of Physics' reception at NSC that evening.

10 Any other business

Peter Briggs leaves the BA at the end of the BA festival (13 September). ECSITE-UK committee members have been invited to his leaving party at the Royal Society, 4 September.

It was agreed that the Committee would not contribute to the general pot for a leaving present, but that:

Colin will collect £5 from each Committee Member to buy a book, to be presented to Peter on our joint behalf

MQ will write words of appreciation, to be displayed at the Royal Society on 4 September.

11 Date and location of meetings through 2002

During the BA festival, Leicester, on 10 September at the National Space Centre, 12noon to 5pm.