



Spine Society of Australia Executive Meeting

Location: Teleconference

Date: 10th February, 2010
8pm Eastern Summer Time

Present: P.McCombe (President), W.Sears
(Treasurer), G.Brazenor (Secretary),
R.Carey, M.Johnson, G.Malham,
R.Stanford, K.Singer, O.Williamson.

Apologies:

Agenda:

1. Present
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of previous meeting 20/6/2009. **pp 1-6**
4. **Business carried over from previous meeting**
 - 4.1 MSAC Cx disc arthroplasty application **pp 7-14**
 - 4.2 Digital Imaging RACS Working Party:scout views **pp 15-18**
 - 4.3 Constitutional Reform **pp 19-54**
 - 4.4 SSA/AOA affiliation **pp 55, 56**
 - 4.5 PFET **pp 57-59**
 - 4.6 Tenders for Christchurch 2010 **pp 60-75**
 - 4.7 Directors and Officers insurance **pp 76-79**
 - 4.8 De Puy Fellowships **pp 80-87**
 - 4.9 SuB. to Health Technology Assessment Review **pp 88-90**
 - 4.10 4th Asia Pacific Cervical Spine Society Meeting **pp 91-100**
5. **New Business**
 - 5.1 Christchurch ASM **p 101**
 - 5.2 Lumbar disc arthroplasty **pp 102-110**
 - 5.3 Draft Financial statements 2008/2009 **pp 111-118**
 - 5.4 Spine Society website **pp 119-121**
 - 5.5 Scoliosis Australia website **pp 122-137**
6. **Correspondence**
 - 6.1 Incorporated in foregoing items

Itm	Comments	Required action	Person/s to do	Due by	Carried over
3.	Previous Minutes accepted	Proposer: M.Johnson Seconder: P.McCombe Passed unanimously.	-	-	-
4.	Business carried over from previous meeting				
4.1	MSAC cervical disc arthroplasty application: K.S. reflected upon the possibility of the Society making further MSAC applications requiring utilization of considerable Society resources, and wondered if some members might disagree with such allocation of resources.	KS and GB to write draft protocol for future MSAC applications, for consideration in the AGM in Christchurch.	KS, GB	April	Yes
4.2	RACS Digital Imaging Working Party: scout views. The final report of this working party is available on the College website. GB felt that the WP was a toothless tiger, with no power to influence government or radiologists. It was noted that the AOA is to wage a campaign of reform in the provision of radiological services to surgeons and patients.	It was resolved to form a subcommittee of PMcC, MJ and WS to work on supporting the AOA in this matter. PMcC to represent SSA at the AOA.	PMcC, MJ, WS		Yes

<p>4.3</p>	<p>Constitutional reform: This evoked prolonged discussion, on the bases of two alternative drafts submitted by KS and RC. The first choice to be made was whether a one-business-meeting model or a two-business-meetings model should be adopted. General approval of the single business meeting concept had been indicated at the Brisbane AGM by a show of hands. It was resolved to adopt the single business meeting model. After long discussion it was resolved to adopt the changes suggested by RC and KS, including: abolition of the Site Committee; creation of an Education Secretary/Committee Chairman; designation of Surgical and Non-Surgical Active members; and abolition also of the Nominating Committee, replacing it with a call for nominations 14-50 days before the AGM, during which meeting contested elections could occur for posts for which there was more than one nominee. The Rules Committee Chairman would be the only Chairman appointed rather than elected. There was debate on whether an Active Surgical member needed to have an FRACS, and this was decided in the affirmative.</p>	<p>It was resolved unanimously that KS and RC would prepare the final version of the revised Constitution, to be presented to members more than 14 days before the Christchurch AGM. Mode of presentation to be by posting on the website, with an email bulletin to members.</p>	<p>End of March at latest.</p>		<p>Yes</p>
<p>4.4</p>	<p>SSA/AOA affiliation: Page 56 of agenda papers was noted.</p>				

4.5	PostFellowship Education and Training: It was noted that the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia has unilaterally petitioned the College to conduct PFET in spinal surgery without reference to the AOA or the SSA, and it was agreed that this attitude goes against the spirit and aims of the PFET program.	It was decided to appraise Ian Dickinson and Simon Williams of the College of the situation. A letter from SSA to the College thereafter was thought likely.	PMcC		Yes
4.6	Tenders for the 2010 ASM in Christchurch: The history of SSA's recent separation from Taylored Images was noted in the agenda papers..				
4.7	Directors and Officers' Insurance: In the hands of AOA.	WS to check on status.	WS	ASAP	Yes
4.8	De Puy Fellowships: Running smoothly.				
4.9	Submission to Health Technology Assessment Review: PMcC was congratulated on the SSA submission.				
4.10	4th Asia Pacific Cervical Spine Society Meeting: This has been funded without liability to the SSA.	It was resolved that the Christchurch ASM handbook would contain a half-page advertisement for the APCSS meeting, free of charge.	WS to arrange with Dianne Crebbin.	WS	Yes

5	New Business:
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5.1	Christchurch ASM: RS submitted the latest draft of the Christchurch program and was congratulated and thanked for his sterling work.				Yes
5.2	Lumbar Disc Arthroplasty: The President's letters to the MSAC Secretariat recommending spinal surgeons for MSAC's expert panels were applauded.				
5.3	Draft Financial Statements: Noted.				
5.4	Spine Society Website: PMcC outlined the recent upheavals in website functioning, following change of ownership of the host. It was generally agreed that the website needs a revamp, but this is a huge task, requiring much thought and discussion prior to action..	To be discussed at next meeting.	-		Yes
5.5	Scoliosis Australia website: There was concern voice over the views and language/tone on this site which is co-badged with the SSA.	It was resolved to ask Professor Taylor to report on the activities of the scoliosis website at the next AGM, and further to ask his group to draft a position statement on the treatment of scoliosis.	GB to reply to Prof. Taylor's email with these requests.		Yes

6.	Correspondence: Incorporated in foregoing items.
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