

Summary of Council Meeting

The Council met on 19 June 2017 from 10.00am to 2.00pm. There were 11 items on the agenda and there were 5 items of correspondence.

The Council considered reports from the Audit and Finance Committee, the Legislation and Ethics Committee, the Practice Premises Committee, the Veterinary Nursing Committee and the Veterinary Education & Training Committee.

Audit and Finance Committee (AFC)

The AFC met on 24 April 2017 from 10.30am to 1.30pm. There were 11 items tabled on the agenda and there were no items of correspondence.

The AFC reviewed the three months accounts, January to March 2017, together with the first quarter figures and the budgetary comparisons and it also discussed Income and Expenditure forecasting.

The AFC also reviewed the internal audit reports on three areas of expenditure and reviewed presentations in respect of the Council's Communications Contract, Legal & Professional expenditure and the Council's Investment Portfolio.

The Council achieved 100% compliance with its prompt payments obligations in the first quarter of the year.

Legislation and Ethics Committee (LEC)

The LEC met on 11 May 2017 from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. There were 9 items tabled on the agenda and there was one item of correspondence.

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine has consented to the making of professional indemnity insurance regulations, per section 59 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005, as amended. The LEC agreed to communicate the new regulations to registrants in the newsletter and to advise them that they will be asked on their Annual Registration Form to confirm that they are covered by a policy of indemnity insurance which provides appropriate cover for practising as a veterinary practitioner or veterinary nurse.

The LEC agreed to promote AMR awareness to the veterinary profession via the newsletter. It also agreed to include a statement on clinical governance in the Code of Professional Conduct.

Other ongoing matters discussed included, tail docking and dew claw removal, corporate ownership of veterinary practices and draft regulations on procedures that may be carried out by non-registered persons.

Practice Premises Committee (PPC)

The PPC met on 11 May 2017 from 10.30am to 1.30pm. There were 11 items listed on the agenda.

The PPC agreed to grant certificates of suitability to six new premises and to propose granting certificates of suitability with conditions to three new premises. The PPC agreed to revoke certificates of suitability in respect of seven premises.

The Council has spent a number of months reviewing the PAS Standards to ensure that they fulfil the required function for patients, the public and the veterinary professions, as well from a regulatory perspective. A consultation on the revised PAS Standards issued on 30 May 2017 and was

communicated to stakeholders via email, the website and the newsletter. The closing date for the consultation is 23 June 2017.

Veterinary Nursing Committee (VNC)

The VNC met on 24 May 2017 from 9.30pm to 11.00am. There were 10 items tabled on the agenda and there were two items of correspondence.

The VNC considered two strategic items - Review of VN Benchmarks and Competencies, and the CVE Regulations Review.

In relation to Benchmarks and Competencies, it was agreed to undertake a comparison on the existing standards from ACOVENE, RCVS and the Council and draft a proposed new version of Council Benchmarks and standards for the next meeting. On a related matter, the minutes of the March ACOVENE Board meeting, attended by the Registrar, were considered. The committee urged Council to bear in mind the importance of a Council representative attending ACOVENE meetings in person, and the influence of the Council on that organization.

The proposed new draft of the CVE regulations was discussed, and the responses to the consultation. No response had been received from the IVNA.

Two letters had been received from veterinary nurses, both expressing concern on the status, career structure and remuneration of the profession. It was agreed that a response to both letters would be drafted, outlining the work of the veterinary nursing working group, and an article in the newsletter outlining the value veterinary nurses bring to practices was also proposed.

In consideration of routine matters, the dates for visitations to SJCC and AIT were confirmed. Correspondence with Coláiste Chiaráin – Croom, who are exploring the possibility of setting up a veterinary nursing course, was noted.

The Committee agreed that the VNC should be chaired by a veterinary nurse, and that the arrangement for an Interim Chair should cease as soon as practicable.

Veterinary Education & Training Committee (VETC)

At its meeting on 24th May 2017 the VETC considered two strategic items – CVE Regulations Review and Draft Regulations in respect of non-registered persons (VPA Section 54 A, B and C).

The meeting with Veterinary Ireland on the proposed new regulations was reviewed. Veterinary Ireland had raised concerns on the treatment of maternity leave and CVE requirements, and how the “Rolling Average” of CVE points would be applied to new graduates. The VETC suggested a FAQ section on the Council’s website to deal with these and other queries arising. The Committee agreed to propose the new draft Regulations, as written, to Council. Karen Bonner provided a demonstration of the new online CVE interface.

The Committee considered papers provided by Aideen Neylon, on matters relevant to equine dental technicians and animal physiotherapy. The Committee agreed that consulting appropriate persons with expertise in these matters, and in the standards of education available/required, would be appropriate.

In its consideration of routine business, the Committee noted:

- A proposed joint AVMA, VCI and EAEVE visitation to UCD in late 2020
- Correspondence on concerns re practices and policies of providers of pet insurance
- Queries on eligibility of some activities/courses for CVE
- Correspondence from AIT in relation to a BSc in Veterinary Biosciences

Changes to the Registers

The Council confirmed the changes to both Registers which had taken place since the last meeting.

Register of Veterinary Practitioners - It was reported that there are 27 new entries to the Register and 7 names restored to the Register under section 49 (2) of the Act. It was agreed to remove from the Register the names of the 31 veterinary practitioners who had made application to do so under section 49 of the Act. In addition it was agreed to remove the names of a further 51 veterinary practitioners who are not renewing their license to practise for 2017 and who are in the process of submitting an application to remove their name under section 49 of the Act. The names of 9 veterinary practitioners were erased from the Register under section 33 (4) for the non-payment of the 2017 Licence to Practise fee.

Register of Veterinary Nurses – It was reported that there are 2 new entries to the Register under section 95 of the Act and 3 names restored to the Register under section 49 (2) of the Act. It was agreed to remove from the Register the names of the 22 veterinary nurses who had made application to do so under section 49 of the Act. In addition it was agreed to remove the names of a further 151 veterinary nurses who are not renewing their license to practise for 2017 and who are in the process of submitting an application to remove their name under section 49 of the Act. The names of 5 veterinary nurses were erased from the Register under section 33 (4) for the non-payment of the 2017 Licence to Practise fee.

It was reported that there had been two deaths since the last meeting: Professor Kevin Dodd (25/64) and Mr Michael Cawdery (9/55). A minute's silence was observed in their honour.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 13 July 2017 @10.00am.