



Social Services Research Group

... The network for research information planning & evaluation in social care & health services

www.ssrq.org.uk

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

University of Leicester

Tuesday 8th April, 2003, 9:00am

Attendees

Joyce Phillips, Andy Bekenn, Nigel Nicholds, Jenny Wilding, Mark Barton, Nick Miller, Chris Russell, Paul Waddington, Mary Acton, Faye McNiven, Colin Kelsey, David Henderson, Terry Davies, John Pearce, Alan New, Jill Manthorpe, Hazel Qureshi, Margaret Cooney, Paul Dolan, Elijah Collins, Paul Hambleton, Graham Allen, Patricia Walker, David Allan, Rebecca Johnson, Martin Stevens, Paul Kiff

AGM 1/03 Apologies

Sue Simmons, Nikki Stanley, Brian McClay, Alan Bunting

AGM 2/03 Minutes of the last AGM

Agreed as a true record.

AGM 3/03 Annual Report

The Chair highlighted the many achievements of SSRG in 2002 and thanked EC and SSRG members who have been actively involved over the last year.

It was noted that the annual report should have made more reference to the fact that SSRG celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2002, which was a major achievement. It was also raised that some regional reports should have been incorporated into the report. In particular, the London region had had 2 events during 2002.

The annual report proposed a membership fee increase of £9. The group expressed concerns about this, especially in relation to personal/independent membership.

A counter proposal was put forward of a £5 increase (proposed - Jenny, seconded - Joyce). This was put to a vote and agreed. The group discussed the need to make future considerations for the unwaged, retired, etc. Paul proposed an unwaged rate of £35.

For next year people want to see what comparable organisations are charging and explanation on what grounds the proposed increase has been decided.

The annual report was accepted.

AGM 4/03 Adoption of 2003/2004 Action Plan

The Chair went through the proposed action plan. It was agreed that the revised membership strategy and equal opportunity policy need to be publicised with members, possibly through the newsletter and website.

The group discussed the fact that activity within regions has been falling away of late and needs to be supported more. It was agreed that financial support should be made available for events in the regions. It was also stated that SSRG events need to be more accessible to people with disabilities.

The group discussed that the work of SSRG, as reported in the newsletter, has become very technical. The point was made that SSRG has always been about looking at bigger picture issues and research and that we should not lose sight of that as an organisation.

Incorporating these 3 points, the action plan was accepted for the coming 12 months.

AGM 5/02 Election of Officers

David Allan was elected as Chair for his third term. David expressed his delight at the appointment but stated that this would be his last year as chair.

Other members of the EC were elected as follows:

Vice Chair	Jill Manthorpe
Vice Chair	Colin Kelsey
Treasurer	Alan Bunting
Secretary	Rebecca Johnson
Membership Secretary	Margaret Cooney
Marketing/Communications Officer	Sue Simmons
Elected Representative	Jenny Wilding
Elected Representative	Martin Stevens
Elected Representative	Patricia Walker
Elected Representative	Paul Hambleton
Co-optee	Mick Bonds
Co-optee	Elijah Collins
Co-optee	Dianne Gwyn Smith
Co-optee	Paul Kiff
Co-optee	Terry Davies

The floor thanked the EC members and welcomed the new members.

AGM 6/03 Any issues which SSRG members wish to raise

Research Governance

It was raised that SSRG need to consider their role in Research Governance. Do we support training? Do we extend out publications to students and first time researchers? Do we state our position and promote standards? What can we do to promote ethical practice? What capacity does SSRG have? It was decided that the EC needs to pick this up at their next meeting.

User Involvement

SSRG are committed in response to Peter Beresford's comments around this issue.