22 June 2018

PAPER CLASSIFICATION: OPEN

Minutes of the Meeting of the
COUNCIL
held on Thursday, 14 June 2018 at 15.00 hrs
at Savoy Place, London WC2

Present:  Dr Michele Fiorini (Chair)
          Professor Ian Bitterlin
          Mr Colin Davis (Deputy Chair)
          Mr Joe Dunn
          Dr David Evans (champion for strategy and direction)
          Mr Gary Hayes
          Miss Justina Ho
          Miss Abbie Hutty
          Mr R Jananthan
          Dr Frank Johnson
          Mr Yew Kee Lim (Council Board representative for Knowledge Services Board)
          Ms Amy Longo
          Eur Ing Patrick Mason (Council Board representative for Membership and Professional Development Board)
          Mr Allan McCabe
          Mr Edwin Morton (champion for monitoring governance)
          Professor Ian Phillips
          Mr Jon Ratcliff
          Mr Alkis Spyrou (Council Board representative for Volunteer Engagement Board)
          Dr Kate Sugden
          Mr Peter Ward
          Mrs Grazyna Whapshott
          Mr Nick Winser (President)
          Ms Teresa Wong

By invitation:  Mr Guy Bertrand (Knowledge Services Board)
                Mr Andy Bevington (Trustee)
                Dr Peter Bonfield (Trustee)
                Mr Mike Carr (Trustee)
                Mr Rob Edmunds (Knowledge Services Board)
                Dr Simon Harrison (Trustee)
                Eur Ing Tom Hlaing (Trustee)
                Mrs Virginia Hodge (Trustee)
                Miss Samantha Hubbard (Trustee)
                Mr David Parr (Membership and Professional Development Board)
                Ms Alyssa Randall (Trustee)

In attendance:  Mr Ed Almond (Director of Finance and Planning)
                 Mr Richard Best (Head of IT and Digital Services)
                 Ms Fiona Dew (Online Community Platform Development Manager)
                 Mr Nigel Fine (Chief Executive and Secretary)
                 Ms Sandra Godman (Head of Volunteer Support)
                 Mr Mike Harding (Business Performance and Planning Director)
                 Mr Giles Grant (Director of Knowledge)
1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting of Council.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Miss Yewande Akinola, Mr Iain Murdoch, Ms Dawn Ohlson, Mr Mike Prewett and Col Matthew Ware.

3. Conflicts of Interest

The Chair reminded the members of Council of the requirement to state any conflicts of interest that were pertinent to their contributions to the Council meeting.

4. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2018 (CO(18)M2) were approved and signed as a correct record.

5. Actions Taken or Outstanding

Council noted a report on actions taken or outstanding since the previous meeting of Council (CO(18)13).

6. Report on Previous Breakout Session

Council noted a report on the breakout session held on 27 March 2018 (CO(18)14).

7. Reports to Council

7.1. Council noted reports from the Committees and Working Parties that report to Council:

7.1.1. Council Agenda Team, chaired by Dr Michele Fiorini (CO(18)15);


7.2. Mr Morton introduced the report from the Monitoring Governance Working Party and explained the reasons for making a series of proposals to Council.

7.3. During discussion the following comments were made:

7.3.1. Professor Phillips commented that the proposals in the paper appeared to require more attention than Council could give to them during the meeting.

7.3.2. Mr Hayes commented that he believed there was a lack of democracy in Council and suggested that the paper should be considered further by the Monitoring Governance Working Party and then at a face-to-face meeting. Dr Fiorini replied that he found Mr Hayes’ comment on lack of democracy to be offensive and he disagreed with it completely. Dr Johnson commented that the paper had already been considered by the Monitoring Governance Working Party.
7.3.3. Dr Evans commented that the paper did not seem to take into account the actions that had already been taken with items such as the External Governance Review and Office 365.

7.3.4. Professor Bitterlin commented that there had been minimal discussion of the paper on Engineering Communities, but it was impossible to compel Council members to participate in such discussions.

7.3.5. Dr Fiorini commented that some of the proposals in the paper were outside the scope of the meeting. Given the range of opinions on the subjects and the lack of consensus he proposed that there should be further discussion of the paper on Engineering Communities to determine whether any of the proposals had general support, before final discussion at the next Council meeting.

7.3.6. Mr Morton commented that the discussion of the paper on Engineering Communities was already open, however, there had been decline in the number of Council members using Engineering Communities, which was particularly regrettable.

7.3.7. It was agreed to defer a decision on the proposals from the Monitoring Governance Working Party until the next meeting of Council.

8. Main Boards

8.1. Dr Harrison gave an oral report on matters discussed by the Knowledge Services Board. He drew attention to discussion of the Knowledge Strategy, the Content Strategy, Inspec Analytics, the Eighteenth Edition of the Wiring Regulations, Eng Talks and the Teacher Building.

8.2. Mr Bevington gave an oral report on matters discussed by the Membership and Professional Development Board. He drew attention to discussion of performance, strategic KPIs, an external audit of the membership pipeline and the annual report on safeguarding.

8.3. Mrs Hodge gave an oral report on matters discussed by the Volunteer Engagement Board. She drew attention to discussion of mandatory policy sign-up, Social Media Strategy, the removal of bias from IET elections and the delivery of strategy for 2019.

9. IET Elections

9.1. Mr Wilson introduced and Council noted a paper on the operation of the IET elections discussion forum (CO(18)17).

9.2. It was noted that the discussion forum had been introduced on the recommendation of Council in 2016 and followed an unsuccessful experiment in 2008 and 2009. The contributions to the Forum by candidates and other members had been very low in number in 2008-2009 and also since 2016. It had been agreed in 2016 that the discussion forum should be reviewed after three years. Council had therefore been asked to review the value of the Forum and to consider whether to propose any changes to the Board of Trustees.

9.3. Following discussion and a vote it was noted that equal numbers of Council members favoured keeping and closing the elections discussion forum. It was therefore agreed that discussion should continue on Engineering Communities and that a decision should be taken at the next Council meeting.
10. Council Elections

10.1. Mr Davis introduced and Council noted a paper on the arrangements for Council elections (CO(18)18).

10.2. During discussion it was commented that it would be helpful to reduce the number of separate elections and the overall time for the election process.

10.3. Following discussion and votes it was agreed:

10.3.1. to pilot and introduce single form nominations and single form voting for 8 Council positions in the 2018/19 Council Elections, ie excepting the positions of Chair and Deputy Chair of Council;

10.3.2. to defer consideration of the proposal to amend clause 18 of the Council Regulations to allow the introduction of single form nominations and single form voting for 10 Council positions in the 2019/20 Council Elections, until the outcome of the 2018/19 Council Elections had been assessed.

11. Public Image of Engineering Professions

Professor Phillips introduced and Council noted a paper on Raising the Public Image of Engineering Professions and Professionals (CO(18)19).

12. Breakout Session

12.1. Council divided into two groups to discuss in parallel, World Café style, the Role of the IET in the Post-truth Era (CO(18)20).

12.2. It was noted that a written report would be made to the next meeting of Council.

13. Report to the Board of Trustees

Council agreed that the decisions taken by Council during the meeting should be reported to the Board of Trustees.

14. Votes of Thanks

14.1. The Chair proposed a Vote of Thanks to the retiring members of Council.

14.2. Dr Evans proposed a Vote of Thanks to Dr Fiorini, as retiring Chair of Council.

15. Dates of Next Meetings

15.1. Thursday, 4 October 2018 at 3.00 pm, at Savoy Place, London WC2.

15.2. Thursday, 21 March 2019 at 3.00 pm, at Savoy Place, London WC2.

15.3. Thursday, 6 June 2019 at 3.00 pm, at Savoy Place, London WC2.