

Minutes of a Meeting of the IPlantE / Operations Professional Sector Council
Thursday 4th February at 10.00am
Via Zoom

Present: Tony Robinson (Chair)
Alan Fitzpatrick
Steve Catte
Mark Hansford
Prof Lock
Steven Reece
Pat Hughes
John Platt
Matt Jenkinson
Ian Jackson

In Attendance: Daniel Moir

Apologies: Steve Tennison

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed the group and acknowledged the apologies.

2. Minutes from previous meeting

Agreed and adopted.

3. Head Office update

Daniel Moir updated the group on the following membership and registrations numbers:

Society – 15,539

BES – 3,735

Registration (IPlantE) – 2,629 (CEng – 901; IEng – 611; EngTech – 771; CEnv – 346)

It was noted that the sector has a high proportion of members registers with the Society for the Environment, it was suggested that a targeted communication be sent to our HK members promoting the recently launched REnvP registration.

Action – D. Moir

The majority of staff continue to work from home with a handful going into the office to carry out business critical activities. There is currently one member of staff on furloughed leave.

A presentation followed on the current status of the IPlantE membership, it informed the Council that:

The average age of members is 50

98% are male

Membership is split equally between UK and HK

Average length of membership is 27 years

Key employers include BAE Systems, Rolls Royce, RAF & CLP Engineering

A discussion followed on possible opportunities to increase membership and it was suggested that as a number of fellow PEI's may be struggling because of the lack of events some research be carried out to explore possible opportunities.

Action – D. Moir

4. Registration requirements (REnvP)

Prior to the meeting Council members were invited to apply for the recently introduced Registered Environmental Practitioner (REnvP). The Chair spoke about the importance of environmental considerations in engineering and his belief that this recognition would be a valuable addition to the Society's portfolio and attract new members. All in attendance were supportive of the new registration and it was requested that information on achieving it be circulated again.

Action – D Moir

5. Improvement Working Group update

The Chair gave an update to the Council on the Improvement Working Group (IWG) which has been set up to look at how the Society will function in the future. It is made up of stakeholders from across each sector and will report directly to the Trustee Board.

The Chair requested feedback on any areas of concern from the group to bring to the upcoming IWG. It was felt by the group that the focus should be on membership growth and promoting competence, a strong CPD offering and support through mentoring will be vital to the future. The Council also reflected that the IPlantE post nominal is secondary to registration and they would be content with the original proposal for the future of Society post nominals whereby there is only one available but with a descriptor where necessary.

6. Update on the paper from Ian Jackson current climate change

Ian Jackson gave an update on the climate change paper he had been working on. The Council were informed that it had now been worked into an article which will appear in the next edition of Operations Engineer and be followed by a webinar to give the membership an opportunity to feedback. It was also requested for the paper to be added to the Society website.

Action – K. Holmes

7. Board, Membership, Engineering Council Feedback, SocEnv

The Chair updated the group on the Society's current position regarding post nominals and ongoing communications with the Engineering Council in relation to the IRTE sector. A document will be circulated after the meeting setting out the case for the IPlantE sector to also be recognised through separate post nominals. Throughout the following discussion the Chair reiterated the importance of registration and the benefits of cross pollination between the sectors but for also the IPlantE to be appropriately recognised.

Action – T. Robinson

8. Webinars

The Council were informed that the Society's webinar series continues to be well received with an average attendance of over 100 members. Matt Jenkinson volunteered to provide one in the future and it was agreed this would be arranged.

Action – A. Dale

9. AOB

Mark Hansford asked for direction on registering CPD. Daniel agreed to contact Mark outside the meeting to make sure he is able to use the website.

Action – D. Moir

The Chair thanked the group for attending and closed the meeting.