

Irish Council for Bioethics

Comhairle Bitheitice na hÉireann

Minutes for Council Meeting **Thursday 15th December 2005**

In the Chair: Mr. Dermot Gleeson

Present: Mr. C. Brady; Dr. A. Donnelly; Dr. D. Dooley; Prof. A. Green; Dr. L. Hogan; Dr. R. Hull; Mr. S. McMahon; Prof. C. O' Farrelly; Dr. D. O' Flanagan; Prof. R. O' Kennedy; Mr. A. Sheikh; Dr. D. Smith

Apologies for absence: Prof. J.V. McLoughlin; Dr. P. McKenna

Also present: Dr. S. O'Sullivan; Ms E. de Grae; Mr P. Ivory

1. Opening Remarks and Role of Council: Chair

The Chair, Mr. Gleeson welcomed the members of the new Council and stated that Mr. C. Brady had been appointed by the Royal Irish Academy as Vice-Chair of the Council. The Chair informed the Council that four members of the previous Council, including himself, had been reappointed to serve for a further three-year term. Council members were appointed on a non-representative basis and are participating in the Council in an independent way. The importance of attending meetings was stressed and members were asked to inform the secretariat in advance should they be unavailable. Mr. Gleeson requested that all Council members complete and return both their Register and Declaration of Interests form and their Contact Details form to Dr. O'Sullivan at their earliest convenience.

The Chair reviewed the establishment and the role of the Council and gave a short review of the activities of the Council during its first term of office including brief descriptions of the Council's three publications. The Chair informed Council members that the existing Terms of Reference of the Council would be revised by the Royal Irish Academy in February 2006, thus broadening the remit of the Council.

2. Correspondence

The Council received a request for from Dr. Heike Felzmann from the Centre of Bioethical Research and Analysis (COBRA), for funding towards a symposium on Moral Theory and Health Care Practice being organised by COBRA for March 2006. Dr. Richard Hull excused himself from the room during the discussion. It was agreed to grant Dr. Felzmann's request for funding upon the provision of a detailed breakdown of the proposed expenditure.

3. Work Programme

In advance of the meeting, members were provided with a list of potential topics and briefing notes for the Council's next work programme. The Chair solicited views from the members with respect to the topics suggested and invited members to propose additional topics for consideration. It was noted that although some of the suggested topics currently fell outside the terms of reference of the Council, none of the topics would present such difficulties once the terms of reference had been amended in early 2006. It was agreed that Dr. O Sullivan would circulate a revised list of topics to members, who would in turn select the topics they would like to see prioritised by the Council. Based on the members' views, the topics for the work programme would be finalised at the next Council meeting in February 2006.

4. Future Meetings

The next Council meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd February 2006 at 10.30am.

5. Any other business

The Chair thanked all of the members for agreeing to join the Council.
