

## **PUBLICATIONS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of the meeting held at Burlington House on 18 November 2010**

PRESENT: Dr J. P. Turner (Chair), Professor D. J. Vaughan, Mr N. R. G. Walton, Dr M. G. Winter.

APOLOGIES: Dr N. MacLeod, Prof A. J. Fleet, Dr R. J. Pankhurst, Dr R. A. Strachan.

In attendance: Sarah Gibbs, Angharad Hills, Neal Marriott, Edmund Nickless (for part of meeting).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies as above were noted.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING CONDUCTED BY EMAIL 28 JUNE-2 JULY 2010

These were agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

4. REPORT FROM THE PUBLISHING HOUSE

Paper PMC/08/10 was noted. There is a mistake in the section on 'Performance against budget 2010'. The revenue actual and budget figures are transposed.

AH reported that initial response from EGU commissioning was encouraging.

The Proceedings of PGC7 was with the printers and the DVD was pressing. There would be three advance copies at Petex. The Lyell Collection files were due to be loaded the following week, and QC should be complete and the site live by early December. The external project managers had been very effective.

The Society was in negotiations with the marketing agents for Brazil (DotLib) for the rest of South America, and plans would be developed in China, India and the Middle east in 2011, meaning that most of the key territories in the world would be covered.

It was suggested that the marketing agents and/or the Society could engage more with local geological societies and surveys. However, it was noted that the agents are cost-effective because they use their existing databases of research institutions. They do try to make contact with individual faculty members as well as librarians, and also have some contact with national geological surveys. The Publishing House sends regular marketing material to all European geological surveys and NM said he would gladly receive any more recommendations for new targets for promotional activity. It

was also noted that GSL is a member of the European Federation of Geological Societies.

It was suggested that the Publishing House should ensure that copies of relevant titles are on display at conferences in Burlington House. AH and NM reported that plans were in hand to improve co-ordination with GSL meetings.

The Committee noted that recent books were no longer prominently displayed in the reception area and JT agreed to investigate further.

The Committee noted that the Publishing House produces a regular stream of high-quality volumes.

5. ONLINE-ONLY JOURNALS FOR FELLOWS AND LIBRARIES

Paper PMC/09/10 was noted. The evidence from early renewals suggests that the number of Fellows taking print copies would be slightly higher in 2011.

6. DISCLAIMER

Paper PMC/10/10 was noted. Some changes to the wording were suggested and EN would now consider whether lawyers needed to be consulted. AH would ask John Cox, a copyright expert to check the final section.

EN  
AH

7. COLOUR PRINT CHARGE - IMPLEMENTATION

Paper PMC/11/10 was noted.

MGW reported that members of the Engineering Group, in particular the Hot Deserts Working Party, were very unhappy that EGSPs were excluded from the free-colour deal.

It was reiterated that the free-colour figure policy was an investment by the Society to try to halt the decline in the number of Special Publication proposals. EGSPs and Memoirs have not been affected in the same way and do not have the same implications for survival of the Lyell Collection and the considerable revenues it generates for the Society.

MGW said that the Society should aspire to full colour throughout all its publication, as other publishers have done. It was pointed out that there are significant extra costs associated with colour printing and that commercial publishers recoup those costs in other ways, most notably by very high prices. However, it is good aim in the longer term.

AH would send MGW more information on the colour charges for the Hot Deserts Working Party Report. [This has been done and the price quoted is lower than if they benefited from the SP charging mechanism, i.e. 3 free figures per chapter + all additional figures in colour @ £100 each.]

AH

8. BOOK CITATION INDEX

Paper PMC/12/10 was noted.

9. GEOFACETS

Paper PMC/13/10 was noted with enthusiasm by the committee.

Although it will be based on the Lyell Collection, it will not be accessible from within the LC. NM will provide and update and a demo for the next meeting.

NM

10. GEOSCIENTIST PUBLISHING ARRANGEMENTS

Paper PMC/14/10 was noted. The Committee looked at some mock-ups for the new design and were impressed with it.

11. PUBLISH AHEAD OF PRINT

Paper PMC/15/10 had been circulated.

MGW suggested that the Society should start with journals as they are more straightforward. NM pointed out that the procedure for journals was well established by HWP and will be very straightforward to implement. It would not address the special problems associated with books. Also books have a more pressing need for this.

Some of the key issues were addressed:

- (a) Should there be a single pot of PaP articles or several smaller pots corresponding to individual books. There could be in the region of 200 papers waiting for print publication at any given time. The Committee thought that a separate pot for each book was preferable.
- (b) MGW thought that it was important that links to the books should be maintained after the book was printed (because people add them to their favourites). This could be achieved by assigning the volume number when the first papers for a book were posted. This might lead to gaps, but they could be back-filled. It would certainly lead to volumes being published out of sequence, which has issues for librarians.
- (c) At what point do papers get posted – as soon as they are ready, when there are enough to make an 18 mm spine or some intermediate stage? RJP (Books Chief Editor) had suggested by email that hardly any books fail after papers have been accepted, so this wasn't a key issue. However, authors of the early papers are likely to ask 'what happens if there are not enough papers?' and the Society needs to have an answer. It was suggested that a minimum number of papers, say 6, could be set as the minimum requirement, and if not enough papers materialise to make a hard copy volume, it could be online only (or printed in soft back). The committee favoured that option. In that case, the title could be finalised and the volume number assigned when the first 6 papers are posted. Editors can be asked to start the draft of their introduction when the sixth paper is accepted. Posting early prevents the efficient authors withdrawing their papers because the book is moving too slowly, but it might take the pressure of editors to chase the slow authors.

NM

- (d) There were some concerns about how PaP would affect ISI citation. NM would meet Thomson Reuters' representative on 1 December to discuss this.

The Committee considered that the Publishing House understanding was sufficiently advanced to draft a paper outlining procedures for implementation of PaP after discussions with HWP and ISI (Thomson Reuters), which should circulate to BEC and PMC for further discussion.

AH  
SG

PaP for Special Publications was included in the 2011 budget. No budget had been set for journals, but it is highly likely that it will be in 2012.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) AH reported that a review of copyright issues (mainly how we deal with requests from third parties and the agreement with authors) had been commissioned. The report had been received, but not yet fully considered. A paper will be tabled at the next meeting.

AH

- (b) AH requested that the date for the November 2011 be considered provisional, and confirmed in September 2011, when members have a better idea of their diaries.

- (c) EN requested that PGC7 Board, Technical Committee and Editors be invited to the Annual Publications Reception. This was agreed.

EN/  
AH

- (d) MGW reported that he was due to stand down as QJEGH Chief Editor next year. However, the Editorial Board's favoured replacement would be busy in the latter half of 2011 and early 2012, and MGW had agreed to continue for another year.

PMC would welcome a recommendation from the journal editorial board, but the formal appointment would be made by PMC, with a letter from the Publications Secretary.

MGW

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 2 March 2011 in the morning. The Annual Publications reception will be in the evening.

There will be a virtual meeting starting on 27 June 2011.

The afternoon of 23 November 2011 has provisionally been booked, but please do not make any travel arrangements until it is confirmed nearer the time.