



Engineering Professors Council
Minutes of the meeting of the
Engineering, Education, Employability and Skills Committee (EEES)
held on 22nd February 2021 via Zoom

Present via Zoom

Mike Sutcliffe, Chair (MS), Johnny Rich (JR), Catherine Hobbs (CH), Clive Neal-Sturgess (CNS), Michael Fernando (MF), Henri Huijberts (HH), Kamel Hawwash (KH), John Mitchell (JM), Abel Nyampfene, Georgina Harris (GH), Beverley Gibbs (BG) and Chike Odouza (CO)

With

Vicky Elston (VE) and Stella Fowler (SF)

Apologies

Sravanthi Sashikumar (SS) and Rinkal Desai (RD)

		Action ref
1.	<i>Apologies for absence</i>	
	Apologies were received and noted as above.	
2.	<i>Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October 2020</i>	
	<p>The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.</p> <p>Previous minutes to have draft watermark removed and reloaded to website as confirmed minutes. Action: VE</p>	2102-01
3.	<i>Matters arising not on the agenda</i>	
	<p>1811-02/03 – Regarding the action for JR to chase Jane Belfour at the DfE for a meeting to discuss Degree Apprenticeships, JR met with George Winterbourne, who is part of Jane’s team. Action completed.</p> <p>2006-07 – The action to keep a watching brief regarding the discussion of possibly creating a toolkit on Ethics is ongoing. Action: All</p> <p>2006-12 – The action for GH to draft some guidelines on suggested format of publications on the EPC website is carried forward. Action: GH</p>	<p>2102-02</p> <p>2006-12</p>

	<p>2006-13 – The action for all members to suggest relevant short videos to add to the EPC website is ongoing. Action: All</p> <p>2010-03 – Regarding the action for JR/JM to discuss with the IET the EPC's involvement in the IET digital tools conference held in November 2020, JR said that the EPC was not significantly involved in the end, but JR attended part of the two-session conference.</p> <p>2010-07 – Regarding JR's action to speak to the chair of the E4E group at their October meeting and ask whether the E4E would like to respond to the BEIS call for evidence, JR said that the E4E (now named the ESG – Education Steering Group) didn't respond to the consultation (on Internationalisation of professional standards in the wake of Brexit).</p> <p>All other actions were either completed or to be discussed on the agenda.</p>	2102-03
4.	Handover of chair	
	MSu reported that GH would take over as chair of the Committee at the end of the meeting. MSu will be vice chair until he assumes the role of EPC President or until a replacement has been found (whichever is the sooner).	
5.	Updates	
	<p>a) Emerging Stronger</p> <p>BG said that the report had been popular and caused much discussion, particularly since the January EPC event, led by Michael Barber. She said there is now a call for new case studies, ideally with evaluation, which are slowly coming in. The decision will then be made as to how to structure the new case studies into a follow-up report.</p> <p>If any Committee member knows of any colleague who has suitable case studies, they are asked to contact BG or Gary Wood. Action: All</p> <p>Also, if any Committee member is able to help BG to process the new case studies, they are asked to contact BG. Action: All</p> <p>b) Social Mobility</p> <p>JR presented the report which needs finalising to fix a few missing graphics, citations etc. It was also noted during the meeting that the full format of the EEES Committee was incorrect in the acknowledgements – it should be Engineering Education, Employability and Skills Committee. Action: JR</p> <p>JR said the report is timely as the RAEng also currently has a project running on Social Mobility with a report expected by later in the year.</p> <p>The Committee was asked to SUGGEST final edits to the report and ADVISE on the form and mode of publication (for example, whether a press release and launch event would be worthwhile).</p> <p>There was a discussion and it was agreed that a launch event would be worthwhile and the target audience (EPC members or wider audience including policy</p>	<p>2102-04</p> <p>2102-05</p> <p>2102-06</p>

	<p>makers?) and potential speakers (professional institutions and/or employers?) were discussed.</p> <p>The discussion also covered the Augar report and Foundation years. Should they be called Conversion years and how do they relate to Access courses at FE colleges?</p> <p>It was agreed that some reference to Foundation courses could be made in a press release with the publication of the report. Action: JR</p> <p>After discussion, it was agreed that the speakers involved in the event were more important than the actual audience as it could be videoed and then viewed by a wider audience later, so the launch event should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - consist of those with real life experience rather than ‘experts’ in the field such as the professional institutions, so we should have employer(s) and engineering graduate(s) ideally from a disadvantaged background who has been through a Foundation course. - Be brief (less than an hour long) to encourage policy makers to take notice <p>It was agreed that GH would discuss with JR preparation plans for the event. MSu and BG volunteered to also be involved. If any other Committee member would like to help, they should contact GH/JR. Action: All</p> <p>All Committee members were asked to contact the EPC Executive with contact details of anyone they can suggest as potential speaker. Action: All</p> <p>CH to send contact details of ex UWE student to JR. Action: CH</p> <p>c) Engineering Ethics toolkit</p> <p>JR said that the idea of producing a toolkit arose at the EPC Board Retreat in January 2020. Due to resource restrictions, the project has been on hold. He said he had recently spoken to Dr Rhys Morgan at the RAEng and they have agreed to fund a set of case studies that could be used as part of a toolkit. They are happy to transfer part of the funding to the EPC to lead on the work. JR said the EPC Executive does not currently have the resources, but it may be possible to find other organisations/contacts who could be contracted and paid to lead on the project.</p> <p>JR has agreed to send Rhys a 1-page proposal by the end of the week, so he asked Committee members for ideas. Rhys will then use the proposal to sign-off on the funding.</p> <p>JR’s initial suggestions of who to approach were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IDEA team at University of Leeds who have done a lot of work on ethics - Prof Raffaella Ocone at Heriot Watt University who several years ago led an EPC Working Group in conjunction with the RAEng to produce an ethics curriculum map (although ideally JR would like her to revisit the curriculum map if possible) - Prof Mike Bramhall who is on the EPC Board, but not an ethicist 	<p>2102-07</p> <p>2102-08</p> <p>2102-09</p> <p>2102-10</p>
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	<p>JR said the person to lead the work should have sufficient time to commit to the project. They would be tasked in sourcing further case studies and bringing them together to obtain consistency across maybe 20 case studies, so they should be in a position to know who to approach for the case studies.</p> <p>It was agreed that it is important that the toolkit is in an interactive format and needs to be embedded in the curriculum.</p> <p>Both BG and CH suggested colleagues (BG suggested Sarah Hitt who has done a lot of work on teaching engineering ethics and is an excellent teacher and CH suggested Matthew Studley who is an Associate Prof of Ethics and Robotics at UWE so they should send contact details to JR. Action: BG/CH</p> <p>SF suggested a colleague of Rich Morgan - Dr Nik Whitehead PhD, MSc, BSc(Hons), PGCE(PCET), MBCS, MRI. Athro Cysylltiol / Professor (Associate) who has a long standing interest in engineering ethics and currently sits on UWTSD's Research Ethics Panel.</p> <p>Any other suggestions to be sent to JR before 25th February. Action: All</p> <p>MSu thanked JR for his work so far.</p> <p>d) Professional recognition post-Brexit</p> <p>The paper was missing in the meeting papers, so JR circulated it amongst the members at the start of the meeting and SF presented the paper.</p> <p>The Committee was asked to NOTE the report and CONSIDER whether there are any actions we could or should be pursuing independently or with the Engineering Council.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to not take any further action for now and SF would keep a watching brief.</p> <p>e) Degree Apprenticeships</p> <p>SF presented her update report and the Committee was asked to NOTE the QAA degree apprenticeships in Wales review, NOTE the DfE meeting and START to formulate its views prior to the formal launch of the consultation in Spring 2021.</p> <p>There was a discussion and it seems that there is lack of clarity around the timings and scope of the pending formal consultation.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Committee would 'keep watching the space'.</p> <p>MSu thanked SF for her work.</p> <p>MF asked if anything more needed to be done regarding Wales (MF is the EPC Board Wales representative), but SF thought not at the moment.</p>	<p>2102-11</p> <p>2102-12</p>
6.	Possible EPC publications	
	<p>MSu said that the call was still open for Committee members to suggest any publications to be posted on the EPC website. Action: All</p>	2102-13

	<p>Kel Fidler's report</p> <p>MSu said the publication of Kel Fidler's report was still being considered. An event to launch it was originally planned for March 2021, but will now be held over the summer when a series of EPC online events is planned as well as Congress 2021 which will now be online rather than a physical event. Congress at UWE has now been put back to 2022. The Congress 2021 online events will be stand-alone (all on the theme of a Better World, ie. ethics, sustainability and recovery) as this format has proved more popular in the past as stand-alone events do not require as much of a commitment from a delegate as a series of events would.</p> <p>JR has had responses from many of the previously invited Congress speakers so will discuss with CH which should be scheduled for the 2021 online Congress and which for the 2022 UWE Congress.</p> <p>MSu said that the Kel Fidler report event will be in the format of a roundtable discussion and it is hoped that it will instigate further discussion amongst members as did the Emerging Stronger report event.</p> <p>There was then a lengthy discussion on the increasing number of engineering degrees now being offered that are not accredited. Committee members were worried that we are in a very changing world.</p> <p>It seems that many engineering students are able to satisfy a university's own internal standards, but are not always able to satisfy those of the accrediting bodies. So, how is it best to deal with these students? Give them an unaccredited degree?</p> <p>It was agreed that a survey on this matter should be run for our membership. SF will design a 1-page survey, with help from JM in drafting the questions. The aim will be to send out the survey to the full membership before the end of term (mid-March?) and that we should aim for fairly specific questions to minimize time spent on analysis of the replies. Action: SF/JM</p>	2102-14
7.	<i>Horizon Scanning and Scope of Work</i>	
	Not discussed.	
8.	<i>Any other business</i>	
	<p>MSu said that the RAEng had sent an email to EPC President Prof Colin Turner information about practice in sustainability. JR agreed to send the details to SF to include in the next EPC Bulletin. Action: JR/SF</p> <p>MSu then formally handed over the chair of the EEES Committee to GH. He thanked all Committee members for their support while he has been in the role. GH then thanked MSu for all he has done as the Committee has been very busy over the last three years.</p>	2102-15
9.	<i>Date of next meeting</i>	
	<p>VE to set up a Doodle poll to find a suitable date/time in June for the next meeting. Action: VE</p>	2102-16

Action log

Reference	Agreed Action	By
2102-01	Remove draft watermark and reload confirmed minutes of 2 nd October meeting to website	VE
2102-02	Keep a watching brief regarding the discussion of possibly creating a toolkit on Ethics.	MS/JR
2006-12	Draft some guidelines on suggested format of publications on the EPC website.	GH
2102-03	Suggest relevant short videos to add to the EPC website.	All
2102-04	If any Committee member knows of any colleague who has suitable case studies for the Emerging Stronger project, they are asked to contact BG or Gary Wood.	All
2102-05	If any Committee member is able to help BG to process the new Emerging Stronger case studies, they are asked to contact BG.	All
2102-06	Update the Social Mobility report to correct the full name of the EEES Committee. It should be Engineering Education, Employability and Skills Committee.	JR
2102-07	Make some reference to Foundation courses in a press release with the publication of the Social Mobility report.	JR
2102-08	GH to discuss with JR preparation plans for a Social Mobility report launch event. MSu and BG to also be involved. If any other Committee member would like to help, they should contact GH/JR.	GH/JR/MSu/BG and All
2102-09	Contact the EPC Executive with contact details of anyone they can suggest as potential speaker for the Social Mobility launch event.	All
2102-10	CH to send contact details of suggested ex UWE student to JR (regarding Social Mobility report launch event)	CH
2102-11	Send contact details to JR of Sarah Hitt at NMiTE and Matthew Studley at UWE, regarding involvement in the Engineering Ethics project.	BG/CH
2102-12	Any other suggestions of people to be involved in the Engineering Ethics project to be sent to JR before 25 th February.	All
2102-13	Any suggested publications to be posted on the EPC website to be sent to the EPC Executive.	All
2102-14	SF to design a 1-page survey on universities awarding unaccredited degrees, with help from JM in drafting the questions. The aim will be to send out the survey to the full membership before the end of term (mid-March?) and that we should aim for fairly specific questions to minimize time spent on analysis of the replies.	SF/JM
2102-15	JR to send SF details of an email sent by the RAEng to EPC President Prof Colin Turner with information about practice in sustainability. SF to then include in the next EPC Bulletin.	JR/SF
2102-16	Set up a Doodle poll to find a suitable date/time in June for the next meeting.	VE