



Engineering Professors' Council
Minutes of the meeting of the
Recruitment and Admissions Committee (RAC)
held on 16th July 2025 via Zoom

Present via Zoom

Mike Bramhall (MB), Johnny Rich (JR), Jan Kowal (JK), Simon Banks (SB), Geoff Parks (GP), Sophia Economides (SE) and Steve Bullock (SB)

With

Rhian Todd (RT), Stella Fowler (SF) and Lisa Chilcott (LC)

Apologies

Martin Eason (ME), Laura Justham (LJ), Hicham Adjali (HA) and Holly Foss (HF)

		Action ref
1.	<i>Apologies for absence</i>	
	Noted as above.	
2.	<i>Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2025</i>	
	<p>The committee introduced themselves. MB said LJ will take over as Chair of the committee later this year. SB expressed gratitude for the committee's work during his absence and indicated he would remain involved but not formally re-engage for now.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting of the Recruitment and Admissions Committee held 3rd March were approved.</p> <p>Draft watermark to be removed and final minutes to be loaded to website. Action: RT</p> <p>2503-02 – RT said HF is now on maternity leave but had investigated the possibility of the University of Birmingham hosting the Forum without success. MB asked the committee for alternative ideas. JR said we need a venue but will be willing to pay for catering (coffee/tea/sandwiches). There are generally between 30-50 people and a workshop environment works well. SF said she will contact Lydia at IMechE to see if they can offer a space. Action: SF SF to let MB know if IMechE are unable to help and he will approach Sheffield Hallam. SB said he would look into what may be available at KCL. JR can approach</p>	<p>2507-01</p> <p>2507-02</p>

	IET. JR suggested asking for hosts on the 'latest news' section of the website. Action: SF	2507-03
3.	<i>Matters arising (not covered elsewhere in the agenda)</i>	
	<p>JR told the committee about the Chi Onwurah roundtable which took place the day before Congress started. There were just over 20 invited participants who had an extremely productive discussion based around an enquiry that Chi's select committee is carrying out on growth in the regions. The following day the select committee had a hearing with Patrick Valance and Chi referenced the EPC roundtable.</p> <p>SF reported that she has had a paper accepted for the SEFI conference. John Mitchell is a co-author and will present. Also, SF made a keynote speech at the EERN event referencing the admissions data project.</p>	
4.	<i>Forum Planning</i>	
	<p>SF shared her paper on screen and explained that it is a draft schedule to start conversation. SF updated the schedule as discussion took place.</p> <p>SF expressed interest in discussing the financial impacts on the sector, including redundancies and course closures. MB suggested that he approach his senior leadership team to talk about financials. JR cautioned against focusing too heavily on redundancies to maintain the Forum's focus on access and admissions. SB agreed and said interesting questions could be asked around course closures, recruitment in wider university finances and shifts in the approach to recruitment and marketing across the sector.</p> <p>SB expressed interest in understanding the relationship between entry data and student progression. SF said she has not had the resource to do any work around graduate outcomes but may be able to before this years Forum. SF mentioned that ME has conducted extensive work on progression data.</p> <p>JK highlighted the Lifelong Learning Allowance (LLE) set to begin in January 2027, and asked if there could be anything around preparing for it. JR said we should know more about LLE by November and it would lend itself to a workshop to explain the funding changes and their impact on engineering courses. MB asked if there is a speaker that could talk to International students? JR mentioned how Herts had gone from having a local proposition to having a large number of international students so a speaker from there would be interesting. JR said with students from abroad and a shortage of engineers in the UK should we engage with immigration policy. JR asked who we could get to speak on that and suggested a civil servant responsible for MAC. JR to investigate. Action: JR</p> <p>JR said a panel would work well with a civil servant, a representative from Herts and then a third speaker. SF suggested an expert on student number planning. SF to contact Rich Puttock. Action: SF</p> <p>SF moved on to the afternoon sessions. MB suggested inviting a contact who studied at TEDI – London without traditional qualifications and excelled. JR said that sounds great and asked if there are any more traditional providers that have adopted a more radical approach. JK said Open University could probably provide</p>	<p>2507-04</p> <p>2507-05</p>

	that and he will look into it. The angle would be success is not necessarily predictable from prior performance. Action: JK JR said it might be interesting to have a speaker from a European university who have a more open access approach. SE said she will try to find someone to speak on this. JR asked if there is an access group in SEFI as the chair might be good to talk about admissions policy around Europe. Action: SE JR suggested inviting Andy Forbes to speak about how LLE works. He may suggest a civil servant or someone from OfS. Action: JR JR suggested inviting Nigel Carrington as a keynote speaker to speak about coping with financial crisis in HE, what are the challenges. MB said depending on which institution hosts maybe they could ask someone there. SF suggested the policy head at Universities UK.	2507-06 2507-07 2507-08
5.	Other business	
	SB thanked all committee members and officially stepped down. MB thanked SB for being a fantastic chair. SB said he is happy to be involved on an ad-hoc basis. JR said that this would be LC's last meeting and on behalf of the committee expressed thanks.	
6.	Date of next meeting	
	RT to create a doodle poll for the 1 st , 3 rd and 5 th September. Action: RT	2507-09

Action log

Reference	Agreed action	By
2507-01	Draft watermark to be removed and final minutes to be loaded to website.	RT
2507-02	SF to contact IMechE to see if they can host the Forum.	SF
2507-03	SF to add invitation to host the Forum on the latest news section of the website.	SF
2507-04	JR to find out which civil servant is responsible for MAC and could they speak at the Forum.	JR
2507-05	SF to contact Rich Puttock to see if her can speak on student number planning.	SF
2507-06	JK to find a suitable speaker from Open University .	JK
2507-07	SE to find a someone to speak on the admissions system in Europe.	SE
2507-08	JR to contact Andy Forbes to speak on LLE.	JR
2507-09	RT to create a doodle poll for a September meeting.	RT