

Minutes of Human Givens Institute Board Meeting

Date of Meeting: Thursday 10th November 2016 (7pm)

Medium: Skype

Present: Julian Penton (Chair), Celia Nicholson, Ivan Tyrrell, Declan Lyons and Jan Hurley (from item 4)

In attendance: Ian Thomson (Human Givens Foundation), Sue Saunders (Registration and Professional Standards Committee)

Apologies: Julie Lawrence, Jane Tyrrell

1. Declarations of interest

Ivan Tyrrell declared an interest in item 15 (i) in Any Other Business.

2. Minutes & matters arising:

Agreed as a true record.

Item 7: Links on HGI website to outside enterprises using HG were taken down the day after the last Board meeting

Item 12: Miles Daffin has kindly agreed to set up and manage the webinar format AGM on January 23rd 2017

3. Resignation

Cathriona Edwards has resigned from the board owing to personal circumstances. The board expressed their appreciation for her considerable work and expertise given to the Institute during her board membership.

4. Trademarking and licensing of human givens

A recent meeting with a specialist trademarking company had highlighted the need to clarify which amongst the HG brand, names of organisations and products we would want to be, and realistically could be, trademarked. How to proceed with licensing agreements with future external providers of human givens products would follow once trademarking has been completed.

Action: The sub-committee charged with overseeing licensing and trademarking would meet to draw up options for consideration by the board.

5. Nominee for the Registration and Professional Standards Committee

The CV of Monique Nauta-Musters (MNM) had been previously circulated and considered by board members following her nomination to the Registration and Professional Standards Committee.

Action: MNM be appointed as a member of the HGI's Registration and Professional Standards Committee *subject to a satisfactory interview by member/s of the Committee.*

6. Regulation of counselling in Ireland

The paper prepared by Sue Saunders and colleagues for submission as part of the consultation by the Irish government on the regulation of counselling had been previously circulated to the board and feedback received. It was agreed that the paper should be submitted.

Sue highlighted the likely need for a 3rd level (degree or Masters) qualification in human givens if the projected course of statutory regulation of counselling proceeds. To this end she, Avril Bailey and the HSE are meeting with Limerick-based ICHAS – a private college offering counselling degrees – to look at possible options for the adoption of human givens training by the college and the necessary accreditation of human givens training by the QQI (Qualifications and Quality Ireland). Professor Stephen Hill has offered to assist on a pro bono consultancy basis.

Should the accreditation through ICHAS be successful then this would open the way for accreditation in the UK by the QQA (Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education) through the European Credit Transfer System.

7. Re-licensing of Pragmatic Tracker

The Human Givens Foundation is no longer able to fund the license fee for the use of Pragmatic Tracker by human givens therapists, having done so for several previous years. Options for refunding were suggested. An immediate increase in membership fees was not considered fair given the recent large increase to cover PSA charges and given that only 30 or so HG therapists are regular users. A separate arrangement between the current HG users and the owners of Pragmatic Tracker is a possibility that Bill Andrews could explore. Bill researching grant funding was also suggested. It was agreed to canvas the membership's views on Pragmatic Tracker, including possible ways forward in relation to covering the cost of the licence fee.

Action: Don Elwick to be approached re. using Survey Monkey to solicit members views on a fee increase and to explore any perceived barriers to the use of Pragmatic Tracker and possible ways of increasing usage.

8. Criteria for Fellow and Honorary HGI membership

Agreed that criteria are necessary but that Fellowship should be awarded as opposed to being applied for. Nominations could be made by board members, for consideration by a sub-group which would then make recommendations for the award of Fellowships to the board.

Action: Celia to amend her paper and circulate for further comments prior to the next board meeting for final approval.

9. Professional Standards Authority update/reaccreditation

The Risk Matrix requires review at the next board meeting – to be informed by a report of the Registration and Professional Standards Committee on any issues of public safety or protection raised by any complaints and queries over the past 12 months or any other matters suggesting the need for additions or amendments to our risk assessment.

An initial meeting with Owen Davies and Lance Kieron – who are beginning to work on PSA reaccreditation – has taken place and a second meeting scheduled.

10. Marketing Committee update

The normal marketing undertaken by the office staff team continues. But with the departure of Cathriona from the board there is a need for director/s with marketing experience. The aspiration remains to be able to fund such work. Meanwhile, given current board vacancies it was agreed to approach members with PR experience for possible board membership.

Action: Jan to publicise in her peer group newsletter.

11. Finance update

There are current adequate reserves, though with 2017 being a non-conference year and potentially 2 PSA reaccreditation payments due before the next conference it will be useful to generate additional income in 2017. One suggestion was to hold day conferences/seminars in major cities in the UK. This requires further consideration at the next board meeting.

Detailed consideration has been given to members' requests for the option of direct debit payment of membership fees. However, owing to the extra cost and administration that would be required it's clear that the current arrangement is the most cost effective, at least for the moment.

12. HGI 2016 conference survey

Following the work of Don Elwick, Jane Tyrrell and the office team the survey has been distributed to members.

13. Peer supervision update

Jan Hurley has started a newsletter for peer supervision groups and is beginning to visit groups. The main feedback from PSG members has been:

- Appreciation for PSA accreditation. At least one HG therapist has reported being now able to work within the NHS as a result.
- Appreciation of the new HGI website.
- Appreciation of clarity of the recently published rewind protocol.
- Cost of Human Givens College courses was felt to be too high. The idea of an early bird discount was mooted, rather than what appears to be current practice of waiting for last minute discounts, only to find the course isn't running.
- The new supervision policy. There is some discontent that only accredited supervisors will be able to provide supervision for the purposes of meeting the requirements of the HGI's supervision policy. There was also a request that HG therapists who were also BACP accredited supervisors be permitted to provide supervision.

It was pointed out that the requirement was introduced as a necessary means of ensuring that minimum supervision requirements are met – last year's audit and anecdotal reports suggesting strongly that there was some non-conformance. Being a BACP supervisor does not necessarily indicate a sufficient standard for HG supervision. So long as the minimum requirement is met then there is nothing to prevent therapists also working with non-accredited supervisors. Anyone who wishes may write to the Registration and Professional Standards Committee which will always respond.

14. Organisational Risk Management policy.

This has now been reviewed and judged to be up to date.

15. Any other business

(i) Provision of HG training and the relationship between the Human Givens Institute and Human Givens College.

The College registrar Mark Thomas has held initial discussions with a legal contact about the need to clarify the relationship between the HGI and the HGC re. providing human givens training.

Action: Mark Thomas to organise a follow up meeting to include Celia, Sue, Linda Tyrrell and Jane Tyrrell

(ii) Jane Tyrrell's position on the HGI board. It was noted that having been in attendance for recent meetings of the board that Jane's full membership of the board be considered at the next meeting.

16. Date of next meeting

Thursday 12th January at 7pm

JP
12/11/16