FGDP(UK) Governance Review 2013

Background

FGDP(UK)'s governance structure has been the same since its establishment in 1992. The Faculty's Board currently comprises 29 members, consisting of one member elected from each of the 21 geographical divisions, and 8 members elected nationally.

There has been a move to smaller Boards across other organisations. The aim has been to facilitate more effective decision making within a smaller group of members. Many professional regulators have moved to this type of model. The Royal College of Surgeons of England is also considering reducing College Council from its current size 24 to 15 members.

Effective decision making and clear lines of responsibility are the main reasons behind the Faculty's review. An additional benefit will be reduced costs associated with a smaller Board.

Overview of Changes to Governance Arrangements

1. Roles of the FGDP(UK) Faculty Board and Executive

   (i) Faculty Board
   The Board will act as the governing body and professional forum for the Faculty. It will delegate authority for the delivery of the organisational objectives to the Dean's Executive Committee, which will be selected from the Board, and which will act as the management committee of the Faculty.

   Specifically, the Board will:

   a. provide the strategic input and direction for the Faculty;
   b. act as a forum for professional issues;
   c. delegate responsibility for the delivery and management of operational objectives of the Faculty to the Executive Committee and the Director of FGDP(UK).

   (ii) Executive Committee
   The Executive will:

   a. oversee the implementation of the annual business and strategic plans and act as the decision making body on operational issues.

   Delegated levels of authority for the Faculty Board, Executive, committees and staff will be developed to accompany the standing orders.

2. Size and composition of the Faculty Board

   The Board will reduce from 29 to 14 seats. It will comprise:
   • 13 regional seats; plus
   • the Dean.
The Dean will be elected from within the Board but once elected will resign his/her constituency seat. This will initiate a by-election in that regional constituency. As at present, the Dean will stand for election annually and will hold the post for a maximum of three years.

The regional seats will replace the divisional and national seats. Each regional Board member will represent up to two divisions as part of a regional constituency (see table 1 below).

Table 1: Divisions represented by regional constituencies

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3. Election of Regional Members

Elections will be held within each regional constituency to elect a representative from that region to sit on the Board. All eligible members from the Division(s) within a constituency can both stand for election as a regional representative and vote for a regional representative.

The voting will be carried out on an alternative vote system so that the regional representative is elected on a majority of the votes cast.

4. Terms of Office

(I) Dean
The Dean's term of office will remain as a maximum of three years subject to annual re-election by the Board.

The Dean will leave the Board at the time of demitting office. If the Dean were eligible for a further period of office, it would be open for them to stand for election to the Board again.

(ii) Vice Deans
The Vice-Deans' term of office will remain as a maximum of two years, subject to annual re-election to the Board. The vice-deans' seats will not be protected from re-election during their term of office.
(iii) Board Members
Board members will have a maximum term of office of nine years which can be served either continuously or separately. Each term of office can be up to three years, and a maximum of three terms can be served.

There will be an exception to this clause for the transition arrangements from the old to the new Board. All those Board members who have accrued nine years or more service by June 2014 will be allowed a further three year term, subject to re-election in May 2014.

5. Co-option to Committees
The Dean and the Revision Committee will have the power to co-opt divisional officers and other experts, both internal and external to the Board, to serve on Faculty Committees.

6. Service on other Faculty Boards
Members who wish to put themselves forward for election to the FGDP(UK) Board must not already be serving on the Board or Council of another Dental Faculty of a Royal College in the UK or Republic of Ireland.
A member who has served on another Dental Faculties’ Board or Council is only eligible to stand for the FGDP(UK) Board after 12 months have elapsed since standing down from the former Board or Council.

7. Conflicts of interest
Faculty members holding paid consultancies with the faculty will not be eligible to serve on the Board.
This will apply to members who hold paid, on-going contracts with the Faculty. It will, for example, include course directors and course tutors but will exclude those who receive one off payments or honoraria for occasional lecturing.

8. Register of interests
A register of interests will continue to be maintained for all members of the Board in order to promote openness and accountability. The register of interests will be made publicly available.

9. Attendance at the Board
A register of attendance will be maintained for Board and other committees. The responsibilities of an elected Board member include:

- Attendance at all Board meetings. Normally three meetings per year;
- Attendance at all appointed committee meetings.

Non-attendance at two or more consecutive Board meetings and / or committee meetings without approval of the Dean will normally trigger a by-election in that member’s seat.
(i) Implementation of new arrangements - transition arrangements

The new Board will be elected during the first half of 2014 and become constituted from the end of the June 2014 Board meeting.

It is envisaged that continuity will be maintained at a minimum by the Dean being elected by the existing board and serving in that office at the commencement of the new Board.

Terms of office on the new Board will be staggered to avoid the whole board becoming eligible for re-election at the same time, three years down the line. The following terms of office will be applied:

Of the 13 regional Board members:
- 6 members serve a two year term, from June 2014 to June 2016
- 7 members serve a three year term from June 2014 to June 2017

Thereafter, all members will serve a three year term as per 4(iii).

Lots will be drawn to determine which regional seats serve which length of office.