

Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine

Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2007 which have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993 and the Statement of Recommended Practice 2005 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities.'

Structure, Governance and Management

The Faculty was constituted by the Royal College of Physicians of London, which, under the Bye-Laws deriving from its Royal Charter, can create faculties. The Faculty's specific governing document is its Standing Orders, approved by the College. The Faculty is part of the College, but is free within the terms of its Standing Orders to manage its particular business.

The Trustees are the members of the Board. The officers of the Faculty are elected by and from the Faculty and become ex-officio members of the Board. Four members of the Board are elected by and from the Faculty membership. College representatives are nominated by the Royal College of Physicians of London, and the lay representatives are recruited via the College's Patient and Carer Network.

Objectives and activities

The Faculty has the following objects:

- To promote for the public benefit the advancement of education and knowledge in the field of forensic and legal medicine in all its classes ("Forensic and Legal Medicine").
- To develop and maintain for the public benefit the good practice of Forensic and Legal Medicine by ensuring the highest professional standards of competence and ethical integrity.

The activities the Faculty is allowed to pursue are;

- To set professional standards for admission to membership of the Faculty.
- To promote training and research in Forensic and Legal Medicine for the public benefit.
- To conduct examinations and award certificates and diplomas.
- To establish lectures in Forensic and Legal Medicine and award prizes and scholarships.

Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine

Trustees' Report (continued)

Objectives and activities (continued)
--

- To disseminate, in any appropriate way, information on matters affecting Forensic and Legal Medicine.
- To hold such meetings and courses as may be desirable in order to promote the work of the Faculty.
- To advise on matters affecting Forensic and Legal Medicine.
- To represent the specialty of Forensic and Legal Medicine on appropriate councils and committees.
- To secure and maintain recognition as the body responsible for professional standards in Forensic and Legal Medicine.
- To provide a forum for registered medical practitioners working in Forensic and Legal Medicine who are not eligible for membership of the Faculty.
- To liaise with other bodies concerned with Forensic and Legal Medicine.
- To promote international communication in the field of Forensic and Legal Medicine.
- To undertake and execute any charitable trusts which may lawfully be undertaken by the Faculty.
- To invest the monies of the Faculty not immediately required for its purposes.
- To accumulate income for as long as the law allows.
- In furtherance of the objects of the Faculty to establish, support and aid any charitable associations or institutions and to subscribe and guarantee money for their charitable purposes.
- To borrow and raise money for the purposes of the Faculty.
- Subject to such consents as may be required by law, to operate bank accounts, buy and sell land, take leases, enter into contracts, employ staff or agents, effect insurance policies, provide pensions and generally conduct the affairs of the Faculty.

Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine

Trustees' Report (continued)

Achievements and Performance

In 2007 the Faculty:

- Held its first Annual General Meeting on 20 April 2007.
- Was granted charitable status.
- Established the Faculty's own premises, close to the College.
- Invested in the development of a new website both to provide information to the public and to members, and to streamline operational processes.
- Appointed the inaugural David Jenkins Professor, Ian Wall.
- Appointed a manager to work specifically for the Faculty.
- Continued to be consulted by a number of governmental and non-governmental bodies.
- Continued the process of identifying core competencies in forensic and legal medicine, and made a first stage application for specialist status.
- Commenced the process of setting up the Membership examinations.
- Commenced the process of developing procedures for licensing and re-certification.

Reserves Policy

The Faculty aims to hold a level of 'free' reserves equivalent to approximately six months operating expenditure. In the opinion of the Trustees, this level of reserves is sufficient to enable the Faculty to fulfil its obligations. At 31 December 2007, the level of 'free' reserves held is in line with this policy.

Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine

Trustees' Report (continued)

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities
--

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue to operate.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf

Trustee
3 June 2008