

DRAFT MINUTES OF BASES EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING
UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON, WALSALL CAMPUS, ROOM WT104
WEDNESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2004 AT 2.00PM

Attendees:

C Mahoney (Chair), C Williams, E Winter, R Davison, C Palmer, J Bairstow, D Weigand, K Thompson, I Maynard, A Nevill, J Tantawy, K Van Someran, P Hayes, E Partington, S Partington, C Dodd, L McNaughton, V Cox, J Buckley, R Godfrey, C Karageorghis, L Burwitz, V Baltzopolous, A Lane, T Devonport, E Fletcher, R Thatcher, A Brady, T Lycholat, G Whyte, K George, A Jones, M Deighan, N Fellows, M Price, A Toogood, C Allen, C Pheasey, R Tong, A Miles, P Cabral, J O'Hara, A Burden, S Biddle, K Tolfrey.

1. Apologies

A Daley, A Smith, C Sellars, G Howatson, C Brewer, P Bromley, J Brewer, G Hughes, C Sharp, A Dyer, A Penguilly, J White, V Vleck, D Scott, M Lauder, N Fowler, D Peters, R Hall, M Smith, A Harrison, N Mutrie, M Sellens, O Karger, H Matheson, M Miller, S Drane, G Lovell, M Murphy, R Muir, J Dabinett, S Jowett, D Kingsbury, R Shave, L Johnston, C Harwood, M Rayson, L Duffy, A Kerr, T Woodman, S Edwards, J Bradley, K McLeish, G Peters, W Andrews, S Cotterill, J Dymond, M Hughes, C Brackenridge, D Lynch, J Welsman, K Fox, P Dent, A Duncan, T Cable, D Crone, R Eston, P Boyle, A Balsdon, W James, S Rowell.

2. Introduction to the Agenda by Prof Craig Mahoney

Prof Craig Mahoney (CM) explained that this meeting was an extension of the recent AGM. Prior to the EGM, members were invited to submit suggestions for consideration at the EGM to explore the way in which the Association might restructure to support its Mission and Corporate Plan and optimise its potential to: attract more members; be financially viable; become more influential with policy makers in key bodies; build upon its positive benefits to members and the sport and exercise world; and encourage more proactive members.

Proposals were received from Profs Andy Smith and Les Burwitz and Drs Dr Costas Karageorghis and Dr Chris Sellars. CM provided a brief overview and thanked those members who had presented their suggestions via Email. He explained that he was looking for positive ways forward for the Association.

3. Presentation by the BASES Executive Committee

Prof Edward Winter, Honorary Secretary, gave a short presentation based on the proposal presented at the 2004 AGM for restructuring the management of BASES by establishing two groups (a Strategic Management Team (SMT) and a Council) to replace the Executive Committee. The streamlined strategically focused SMT would comprise the Executive Officer, 3(4) elected officers (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Chair Elect when appointed), the chair/rep from the Council and approximately 2 co-opted members. The role of the SMT would be strategic management, representing the interests of BASES, decision-making, etc. The Council would comprise chairs/ reps from the other main BASES committees to ensure a holistic approach and its role would be to advise and support the SMT in line with the Association's Mission and Corporate plan.

Action: It was agreed that all those present were in favour of this proposal.

Dr Richard Davidson (RD), Honorary Treasurer, gave a brief an overview of the proposed changes to BASES membership fees. Three main reasons for increasing membership fees were identified:

1. To return to the previous staffing level in the BASES Office
2. To build up reserves
3. To prepare for the withdrawal of the UK Sport grant, £20,000 per annum.

RD explained that he had negotiated with Taylor & Francis and Human Kinetics for a new BASES membership package to include full electronic access via the BASES website Member Area to the *Journal of Sports Sciences (JSS)* and access to 30 full articles from 18 Human Kinetic journals.

It was reported that the membership services have greatly been enhanced over the past year. The news services included an updated website, www.bases.org.uk, containing a Member Area and an external examiner finder, a weekly Email newsletter, and a quarterly publication, *The Sport and Exercise Scientist*.

Prof Les Burwitz requested information regarding the initial report from the Membership Working Party. Dr Claire Palmer reported that the initial report had been positively received by the Executive Committee and feedback had been given to the Chair of the Membership Working Party and the Executive Committee was now awaiting a final report from the Working Party.

4. Presentation by Prof Andy Smith

Paper presented to the floor – no presentation given as Prof Andy Smith was unable to attend.

5. Presentation by Prof Les Burwitz

Prof Les Burwitz (LB) presented his proposals, which were designed to facilitate the repositioning of BASES in order to support the BASES Mission and Corporate Plan:

- Sustain financial viability
- Attract more members
- More members need to be actively involved in BASES
- Influence policy makers
- Attract more external income streams
- Contribute more positively to society.

The main proposals of consideration were:

- Establish three Divisions focused on the areas of Sport Performance, Physical Activity and Health and Higher/Further Education.
- Empower these three Divisions to raise BASES profile e.g., position statements provided by special interest groups.
- Encourage members to establish special interest groups with a membership of no less than 20 members. Encourage sections to consider whether they should remain intact and become a special interest group. Empower all special interest groups to shape BASES membership services plus change and influence systems.
- Establish a small working group to consider the implications of any proposals and prepare appropriate constitutional changes.

LB recommended that these proposals should be formalised and voted on at the next AGM.

It was highlighted that the Higher and Further Education area could target new members and would be an important Division.

CM asked if members could highlight our services and sell membership to their institutions and be proactive with their students. It was noted that the Association should focus on the recruitment of the large number of sport and exercise science students.

6. Presentation by Dr Costas Karageorghis

Dr Costas Karageorghis (CK) presented his proposals. The main points of consideration were:

- *Thematic Groups versus Sub-Discipline Groups*

CK considered sub-discipline groups to be both a strength and weakness and that themed groups and sub-disciplines can co-exist. It was important to have a structure that embraced other disciplines, e.g., Physical Educationalists and Social Scientists.

- *Inclusive versus Exclusive*

CK thought that BASES had become a cathedral to a dying religion and highlighted the need for a radical policy to increase inclusion and active members.

- *Membership Fees: Less is More?*

CK reported that his perception of members' thoughts regarding membership was that apart from accreditation, members thought they got very little for their money. He thought that JSS should be included in the subscription. It was acknowledged that an increase in fees may have a highly detrimental effect given the number of non-active members.

- *Conference Spectacular*

CK thought that the Annual Conference should be the window to the Association. The scope of the Conference must be broadened e.g., to include a vibrant daily social programme, top keynotes, themed days, workshops pre and post. The Conference should be advertised in Europe, and a merger of the Annual Student and Annual Conferences considered.

It was recommended to make one presentation compulsory for those on supervised experience and for accredited members to make one presentation compulsory every 5 years.

BASES should consider joint conferences and offer rewards to institutional BASES reps to promote attendance.

It was recommended that a conference organisation committee should be established to share the responsibility with the host institution in the planning.

- *Market BASES Publications*

CK reported that he thought the rich talent in BASES was largely untapped by the Association. BASES should consider monographs, books, professional publications marked to sports, health and fitness industry.

In Summary:

- Re-organisation should not ignore the benefits derived from sub-discipline structure (i.e., sections)
- A radical change is needed to increase inclusiveness
- Increasing fees to save the Association may prove counterproductive without careful information management
- The Annual Conference must be spectacular
- Use the expertise within BASES to generate additional income streams through publications.

5. Presentation by Dr Chris Sellars

Paper presented to the floor – no presentation given as Dr Chris Sellars was unable to attend.

6. Presentation by Dr John Buckley

Dr John Buckley (JB) presented his paper on developing an accreditation route for Exercise for Health Practitioners, with the applications being processed through the Interdisciplinary Section and also setting up a physical activity forum group that has an interest in physical activity and public health.

These proposals may make BASES more relevant to the world of physical activity, exercise and health and provide huge potential.

Phil Cabral reported that there were over 1,000 physiotherapists who could be members of BASES, with these individuals tapping into the exercise accreditation scheme, which could be offered as a service to them via CPD.

JB suggested links with BACR and the Exercise Referral Scheme as more than 50 individuals working in Cardiac Rehab. The Register of Exercise Professionals work with Skills Active and have 20,000 members. Dr Greg Whyte emphasised that BASES should be realigning themselves with other external agencies outside of BASES and providing CPD/Accreditation for these people.

Action: Members present were in favour of the proposals. JB to produce a pilot scheme for Exercise Practitioners.

7. Summary of proposals made by the assembled membership

The key proposals were to:

1. Establish three Divisions focused on the areas of Sport Performance, Physical Activity and Health and Higher/Further Education (names to be finalised) and empower them to actively recruit additional members by offering them the opportunity to shape BASES membership services to meet their specific needs within the context of the BASES Corporate Plan.
2. Encourage members to establish special interest groups with a membership of no less than 20 providing they can make a case that they can:
 - justify their existence on the basis of the BASES Corporate Plan and either:
 - act as a stimulus for new members, or
 - raise BASES profile, or
 - make a contribution to society through BASES.

The proposal is that the existing four Sections will be encouraged to consider whether they should remain intact and become Special Interest Groups or seek dynamic and forward thinking Chairs for a series of Special Interest Groups from the membership within the current Sections.

3. Establish a small Working Group to consider the implications of these proposals on the core business and financial position and will prepare appropriate Constitutional changes to be voted on by the membership at the next AGM or an EGM.

8. Any other business

There was no further business.