

Northern branch AGM Minutes

Date: Thursday 28 October 2021

Zoom

20:00 BST

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Caroline Austin (Chair) welcomed everyone. The meeting was attended by 12 Northern Branch members (and was therefore Quorate), two RSB colleagues and Professor Nigel Brown OBE CBIOL FRSB, Chair of the College of Individual Members and Member of Council.

Apologies for absence were received from Ros Roberts, Helen Page, Shaun Nicholson, Eve Maguiness, Stephen Todryk.

2. REVIEW OF NORTHERN BRANCH EVENTS OF 2020-21

2020-2021 activities have been on Zoom and have been varied and well attended:

3. FUTURE EVENTS

A programme of confirmed events for November and December 2021 was presented.

Discussion of other potential events was deferred to item 7.

It was agreed that we should continue to use Zoom for talks, and these would be about monthly up until the summer.

It was agreed that a mix of speakers from different locations was ideal on Zoom.

Members were asked to suggest other ideas for talks.

4. BRANCH ACCOUNTS

The branch accounts have been submitted and were presented.

Nothing was spent in 2020-2021 due to the pandemic.

The 2021-2022 budget has been approved. The Committee proposed that the branch subsidise members' entry to proposed visits in 2022 to widen participation and accessibility. This was agreed by the membership.

5. CONFIRMATION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The committee membership was voted on and approved.

Chair: Caroline Austin

Secretary: Ros Roberts

Treasurer: Helen Page

Education Liaison Officers: Stephen Todryk; Keith Lindsey; Barbara Murphy



Industry Liaison Officer: Tom Simpson

General Committee Members: Shaun Nicholson; Paul Beetham, Patrick Randolph-Quinney, Catherine Stephenson, Ethan Hack

Student Liaison Officer: Eve Maguinness

Co-opted member: Leonid Nikitenko

Caroline is currently the Northern Branch's rep on the RSB Branches group. She'd welcome a volunteer who might want to take over from her.

5. MEET THE COMMITTEE

Each committee member present introduced themselves saying who they are and their role on the committee.

Other attendees were invited to introduce themselves too.

6. RSB HEAD OFFICE AND COUNCIL UPDATES

Professor Nigel Brown OBE CBiol FRSB, Chair of the College of Individual Members and Member of Council, gave an overview of the RSB council.

He reminded us that:

- He'd attended all Branches' AGMs.
- He showed how Branches are represented to Council.
- Most RSB colleagues are WFH and they deserve our praise.
- Face-to-face meetings are approved from April, with mask wearing and social distancing. Online talks will continue until at least January.
- RSB are developing a three-year plan and want Branches' involvement.
- Women are under-represented at Fellowship level.
- CBiol qualification is being made more professionally recognised and accepted.
- The RSB Policy team has been very busy recently.
- Contact Nigel if you wish to pass anything on to council (nigel.brown@ed.ac.uk).

Members thanked Nigel for his input.

7. SPEAK EASY DISCUSSION

Involvement of schools: The December 2021 'Policy careers' talk might be a useful introduction via personal links to teachers.

Important to engage younger people: Agreed to aim for alternate monthly talks involving Careers in different areas of biology. There was a suggestion that we ask other speakers to do a 5-10 minute section during their presentation about how they got into their careers.

Student reps: Suggestion that University reps try to find a student rep (to become a committee member or at least someone to put forward ideas). Could ideally be involved with Social media role for the Branch.

Agreed that e-publicity for talks be sent to university and school reps to circulate.

Suggestions were made and noted for other talks and possible visits. Members were encouraged to email the Chair or Secretary with ideas.



Some links were shared on the Zoom chat.

How does RSB represent itself to Career fairs, science festivals etc.? How can we engage more? RSB was represented at some large event, pre-pandemic. Could the Branch have a bigger local presence once fairs etc restart?

In person events: We have 4 pencilled in for the summer. This was thought to be a good way to engage members and only by putting them on would be gauge interest.

8. AOB

There was no other business. The Chair thanked everyone for their support and suggestions and she and the secretary were also thanked for all their work.