

Medsin August General Assembly
27-28th September
Leicester

House Keeping and Formalities

[Roll Call]

1. To adopt the minutes of the SGA 08

National committee (Helen Preston, President Medsin-UK):

We are unable to adopt the minutes of the SGA 2008 due to personal reasons that cannot be controlled. Unfortunately this is out of our control and we cannot adopt them today, once we have been in contact with the past committee, if people are happy we would like to adopt the minutes at the national conference in October.

Questions

SKIP: Can you clarify if we are voting to postpone this formality?

Liverpool: Could we adopt the minutes of the AGA

National Committee, Helen, President: We already did this in Leeds

National Committee, Jonny Campaigns: We cannot vote at a national conference, unless the issue is urgent.

NC Helen, President: We are going to put forward a procedural motion to adopt the minutes for the SGA at the next AGA

Marrow: What does this officially mean, will it mean that motions that have passed from the SGA cannot be put into place yet?

SKIP: It only means that the record of the meeting was accurate,

UAEM: Can we say we will postpone this until the next voting session

Procedural Motion:

To postpone the adoption of the minutes until available at the next voting session

Proposed by: SKIP

Seconded by: Bristol

No direct negatives

No amendments

Result: Procedural Motion passes nemo contra

2. To adopt the financial report for the year 2007-2008

[Presentation: National Committee Treasurer: Mori. Presentation outlined absolute expenditure of Medsin-UK. Due to unforeseen reasons RE handover, a full financial report will have to be postponed until National Conference 08. Presentation also included branch fees and changes to classification of some branches for grading purposes]

Chairperson: I propose that we postpone this until the National Conference

Procedural Motion:

To postpone the adoption of the Medsin-UK financial report for the year 2007-2008 until available at the next voting session.

Proposed by: SKIP

Seconded by: Leeds

No direct negatives

No amendments

Result: Motion passes nemo contra

3. To adopt the National Committee budget for the year 2008-2009

Procedural Motion:

To postpone the adoption of the National Committee budget for the year 2008-2009 until available at the next voting session

Proposed by: Liverpool

Seconded by: Crossing borders

No amendments

No direct negatives

Result: Motion passes nemo contra

4. To adopt the Branch Fee Categories for the year 2008-2009

Proposed by: National committee

Seconded by: St Georges

POI: Sexpression: Oxford are not here, can you put this forward

National Committee: They have been informed of the changes via email. They have changes classification as they have become a richer branch since they hosted the Global Health conference.

No amendments

No direct negatives

Result: Motion passes nemo contra

5. To elect Gabriella Bidwell as Medsin UK Secretary 2008-2009

Proposer: National Committee

Seconder: Southampton

No direct negatives

Result: Passes nemo contra

Motion 1 (6)

6. Medsin resolves to let the Defend Primary Healthcare campaign continue to speak on behalf of Medsin when it comes to matters concerning limits to entitlements to NHS care for vulnerable migrant communities in the UK

Rationale - The autumn may be a busy period for this campaign. The long expect Department of Health and Home Office review of access to healthcare by 'overseas visitors' is now expected in October. An important court case on access to healthcare for refused asylum seekers is being heard in mid November. The new 'Simplification Bill', which will include a section on entitlement to services for foreign nationals will be in committee in the Autumn and in Parliament in January. To be effective we need to be able to respond to developments whilst they are still newsworthy. This has been an effective campaign so far, with favourable media coverage. We would be grateful if you could trust us to speak on your behalf over this important period.

Proposed by: Defend Primary Healthcare

Seconded By: SKIP

[Chairperson explains voting procedure]

Defend Primary Healthcare: You may be aware of recent developments within DPH, we need to be able to speak promptly on behalf of Medsin, and it would be really helpful for us if we could use the Medsin name without having to approach the NC

NC: GHAP have rights to do this, and now it has become a separate campaign in its own rights.

Amendments:

KCL: I would like to propose a clause, like this should be re-voted on every 6 months.

Chairperson: If this situation changed I would suggest that you changed the original motion, rather than having a policy to re-vote.

UCL: I think that all campaigns should be able to speak on behalf of Medsin not just DPH.

Amendment proposed by KCL:

Medsin resolves to let the Defend Primary Healthcare campaign continue to speak on behalf of Medsin when it comes to matters concerning limits to entitlements to NHS care for vulnerable migrant communities in the UK **until the AGA 2009**

Direct Negative to amendment: Leeds

Alternative motion: The original

Vote

Original motion: 20

Amended motion: 4

Neither: 0

Abstain:

POO: National Committee: We decided at the SGA that we did not need to count votes

Result: original motion passes relative majority

Motion 2 (7)

7. 5 alternative names for Medsin will be shortlisted from a selection of names suggested by members of the Medsin network. These 5 names will be publicised to the network until the Global Health Conference 2009 in Manchester. At the voting session at the Global Health Conference the new name of Medsin will be decided. Medsin will be in the shortlist of 5 names.

Rationale - A guidance statement exists that states that the Medsin network will vote for an alternative name. At the SGA 2008 a decision was made to change the name of Medsin. By selecting a short list and publicising the short list members will be able to make an informed decision in March.

Proposed by: National Committee

Seconded By: Crossing Borders

No amendments

Results: Motion passes nemo contra

National Committee: We want to allow people to suggest names, have an e-vote to make a shortlist of 5 names (including medsin) from there it will be publicised and from the GH conf it will be decided what the name will be.

St Georges: What is the point of changing the name Medsin
NC: [summarises points in favour and against name change]

No amendments
No direct negatives
Result: Motion passes nemo contra

Motion 3 (8)

8. To separate the recognised branches of Medsin-UK into regions as follows:

Midlands Region: Birmingham, Cambridge, Leicester, Nottingham, Warwick, University of East Anglia

Northern Region: Durham, HYMS, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Northumbria, Preston, Sheffield

Northern Ireland Region: QUB

South West Region: Bristol, Cardiff, Peninsula, Swansea

South East Region: Barts, BSMS, Imperial, KCL, LSHTM, Oxford, Southampton, St George's, UCL

Scottish Region: Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, St Andrews

Rationale: To make organising Regional conferences easier for both the hosting branch and the VPB. Regions can support each other and can make contact with each other if they have any interesting events coming up.

Proposed by: National Committee

Seconded By: Brighton Sussex Medical School

National Committee: This is a formal procedure to make things like regional conferences formalised.

Question: How would Cambridge feel to be in the midlands?

National Committee: All branches have been informed of these regions

Amendments:

KCL:Oliver: Medsin London has been working in a region for a while, and I would like London to have a separate group. Where Medsin London is grouped into the bracket then followed by the other Southern branches.

Proposer does not accept amendment

KCL: Oliver: I have already spoken to the co-president for Brighton Sussex Medsin, who has accepted the changes.

Proposer accepts amendment

Direct Negatives: Liverpool

Alternative Motion: It should read South East and London

KCL Amendment:

South East Region: Medsin-London (Barts,, Imperial, KCL, LSHTM, St George's, UCL) Oxford, Southampton, BSMS

Proposer accepts

Seconder accepts

No direct negatives
Result: Amended Motion passes nemo contra

Motion 4 (9):

9. To remove the text "for fundraising purposes" from bylaw 2.4.6 (role of VPE) to read:

Maintain a database of externals

Proposed by: National Committee

Seconded By: Edinburgh

NC: We think we should maintain a database for all externals

BMA: Is the externals defined somewhere else

NC: Yes, in the constitution

No amendments

No direct negatives

Motion 5 (10):

10. To change the status of GHAP from a project to a campaign

Rationale:

GHAP's primary focus is campaigning and having a political voice and these attributes seem to better fit the definition of a campaign rather than a project. Also recently GHAP's aims seem to have been rather at odds with the rest of the projects especially in regards to its views relating to the IFMSA.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines a campaign as "an organised course of action to achieve a goal". This description better describes ghap, and the actions of the other campaigns, than the term project and the activities undertaken by Sexpression, TBH etc achieve a goal". This description better describes ghap, and the actions of the other campaigns, than the term project and the activities undertaken by Sexpression, TBH etc

Proposed by: Sheffield

Seconded by: Liverpool

POI:Sheffield: The Sheffield president has changed since this motion was submitted, the new president has not yet arrived at the AGA, can we postpone this motion until the next voting session when the new president arrives.

Procedural Motion

To postpone motion 10 until Sunday's voting session

Proposer: SKIP

Seconder: Bristol

No direct negatives

Result: Passes Nemo Contra

Motion 6 (11)

11. To add bylaw 6.2.1.3 and renumber accordingly:

Priority Campaigns are voted in at the SGA, and come into force on the 1st September that year.

Rationale: The constitution and bylaws don't specify, but we came to understand that they take over at the opening of the AGA following their election at the SGA.

Proposed by: National Committee

Seconded By: Bristol

NC: we vote in priority campaigns at SGA, there is no defined time in constitution about when they have to take over handover, so there is a state of flux with handover

Question: KCL: Do we not need to say when the other committee finishes

Amendment: KCL: at which time the past year's Priority Campaigns cease to be a Priority Campaign.

Proposer accepts amendment

Secunder accepts amendment

No direct negatives

Result: Motion passes nemo contra

Motion 6 (12)

12. To add the following text to Bylaw 13.4:

"to the Medsin-UK Secretary"

To read:

13.4 Candidates for the National Committee positions must submit a candidature form to the Medsin-UK committee, signed by their member branch president and a 500 word statement of their motivations. In the case of the candidate being the current president it must be signed by two other members of that member branch committee.

Rationale: Candidatures should be as fair and anonymous as possible. Therefore the less people who have access to them before they are sent out to the Network, the better. Sending applications to the Medsin-UK Secretary alone, rather than the whole National Committee, would mean that only one person would be able to read the applications. The Secretary could still update the existing National Committee as to how many applications have been received for each position.

Proposed by: National Committee

Seconded By: TBH

Amendments:

National Committee: "to the Medsin-UK President and one other person who is not running for office be nominated who is not standing for a National Committee position"

Amendment rationale: When people candidate for NC positions, the candidatures are sent to the national committee, this gives an unfair advantage to NC as they can see the statements that they are running against. So we thought it would be a good idea to send to one person. We want the NC to make an amendment to this to say president and one other national committee person. As the Medsin president will probably not be running again, and there is a possibly the Medsin secretary may want to stay on again

POI: SKIP – I think you should specify that the one other person who is not running for office, not just one other NC committee

Proposer accepts amendment

Seconder accepts amendment

Motion passes nemo contra

Motion 7 (13)

13. To add bylaw 11.1.4 : Branches must update their section of the website prior to the deadline for Motion Submission to each General Assembly in order to maintain voting rights

To add bylaw 5.3.6: Projects must update their section of the website prior to the deadline for Motion Submission to each General Assembly in order to maintain voting rights

To add bylaw 6.2.1.2.3: Priority Campaigns must update their section of the website prior to the deadline for Motion Submission to each General Assembly in order to maintain voting rights.

Rationale: Up to date contact details and activities for each activity and branch will:

Make the site more member-friendly

Make Medsin look more professional to external organisations

Proposed by: National Committee

Seconded by: SKIP

National Committee: This is a formal way to make sure everyone knows what is on the website, and having a not update website cold look unprofessional when people are searching for things. There are three changes here which relate to branches, campaigns, projects

SKIP: how do you know when it was last updated

NC: It says on the bottom of the website page

Chairperson opens speaker list:

Sexpression

Marrow

StopAIDS

KCL

Newcaslte

SKIP

Sexpression: If you do not have anything to update, can you just leave it unchanged and click update.

NC: If you have nothing to change on the website you can literally put roles of your committee and contact details, and the url for your own website.

Sexpression: One, will you send out reminders this must be updates, Two, this will mean you have to update twice a year which is not relevant is not necessary if your committee only changes once a year

Marrow: Why does this have to be necessary twice a year

NC: I think this was more we were assuming activities going on, and we wanted a brief update, and redirection to the website, twice a year would enable people to be more up to date.

StopAIDS- withdrawn

KCL: One of the reasons for lack of updates is that it is quite hard to update, can NC make a commitment to make the website more accesible

NC: The front page is soon to change, meaning that you can get to places in one click. We will be providing info in the branch presidents meeting, I have emailed you instruction and I also have a printout of the instructions ofr updating the branch presidents section of the website. We will also be running a website session at the national conference 08.

Newcastle: My point seconds Ceilidh with the reminders

SKIP: I backup about publicity, your best bet is at the next AGA.

Leicester: Can we do this with the branch handover document, I would like to define updates

NC: It is not applicable to just branches

St Georges: Is it necessary to have in order to maintain voting rights

NC: I take your point that sometimes there is nothing to say, we could say that if there is nothing to update you could inform the NC that there is nothing to update. This could be a possible amendment to the motion.

BMA: May I suggest this is not a useful thing to your constitution and could be better served for a job description for your executive board not branches. I think that one of the NC should take executive responsibility, if you find out that half of your voting members have not updated their section of the website.

NC: If you access your website page, or even log on then it will say you have updated it

Leicester: Having one person do all of this is too difficult

[Chairperson opens a debate]

Against: St Georges, Imperial, BMA

For: National Committee

[Chairperson: The debate will run as one speaker against, followed by national committee speaking for]

Imperial: I think it would be easier if we did not have responsibility to update and it would be better if someone in the NC had to take responsibility to remind us. I have been unable to log in for the last year, and we have our own website that we keep updated

St Georges: I think that we should all keep it updated, and if you have info for the website you should go and update it, but to use exchanges as an example, we do the same thing every year so it seems unnecessary for us to have to do this, but I agree we should have to take the initiative itself.

BMA: This is not a useful place to have this amendment, I think the loss of voting rights is too severe a penalty for this, it is a more sensible plan to have the responsibility with an executive board

Marrow: I think it is far too harsh a penalty to remove voting rights for that crime, some of us do not need to update twice a year. Perhaps Medsin NC has to send a set number of reminders before they remove voting rights

NC: We agree with reminders, we all here have a lot of work to do and I understand that you may not have a lot to update, this is a relatively simple thing that is going to keep us more updated. For an EB who is already stretched for time to have to update it themselves, and add this to add this the constitution would be a stretch. But yes we agree that the penalty is huge.

POI: Leicester: Is there any other penalty that we can do bar remove voting rights

Exchanges: I dont think it was suggested that a NC updated it themselves and it should be our responsibility

SKIP: Perhaps this should be postponed until a redraft has happened
The AGA gave the general consensus this comment was not to be acted upon

BSMS: Can you have a strike system

KCL: amendment

POI Liverpool: We only have 5 minutes left of voting session

Amendments:

Southampton: Can we please put 'Medsin website'

Proposer accepts

Secunder accepts

KCL:

To read

Motion 7 (13)

13. To add bylaw 11.1.4 : Branches must ensure that their pages of the Medsin website are up to date prior to the deadline for Motion Submission to each General Assembly in order to maintain voting rights

To add bylaw 5.3.6: Projects must ensure that their pages of the Medsin website are up to date prior to the deadline for Motion Submission to each General Assembly in order to maintain voting rights

To add bylaw 6.2.1.2.3: Priority Campaigns must ensure that their pages of the Medsin website are up to date prior to the deadline for Motion Submission to each General Assembly in order to maintain voting rights.

Proposer accepts

Secunder accepts

Queens University Belfast: 'After receiving a reminder from the NC in order to maintain their voting rights'

SKIP: 'email reminder'

To read:

Motion 7 (13)

13. To add bylaw 11.1.4 : Branches must ensure that their pages of the Medsin website are up to date prior to the deadline for Motion Submission to each General Assembly after receiving an email reminder from the National Committee in order to maintain voting rights

To add bylaw 5.3.6: Projects must ensure that their pages of the Medsin website are up to date prior to the deadline for Motion Submission to each General Assembly after receiving an email reminder from the National Committee in order to maintain voting rights

To add bylaw 6.2.1.2.3: Priority Campaigns must ensure that their pages of the Medsin website are up to date prior to the deadline for Motion Submission to each General Assembly after receiving an email reminder from the National Committee in order to maintain voting rights.

Proposer accepts

Secunder accepts

StopAIDS: could I add in other campaigns are encouraged to update their website

To read:

To add bylaw 6.2.1.2.3: Priority Campaigns must ensure that their pages of the Medsin website are up to date prior to the deadline for Motion Submission to each General Assembly after receiving an email reminder from the National Committee in order to maintain voting rights. Other campaigns are encouraged to keep their pages updated.

Proposer accepts

Secunder accepts

GHAP: Minus 'in order to maintain voting rights'

To read:

Motion 7 (13)

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To add bylaw 5.3.6: Projects must ensure that their pages of the Medsin website are up to date prior to the deadline for Motion Submission to each General Assembly after receiving an email reminder from the National Committee .

To add bylaw 6.2.1.2.3: Priority Campaigns must ensure that their pages of the Medsin website are up to date prior to the deadline for Motion Submission to each General Assembly after receiving an email reminder from the National Committee .Other campaigns are encouraged to keep their pages updated.

Proposer does not accept

Marrow: Our amendment was the same as GHAP

NC: This changes the meaning of the bylaw

NC: The reason why did not accept this was due to the first amendment to make sure it was updated – the first argument was there is nothing to update, to keep this as a voting right would mean that it was a lot easier to do, by making the first amendment this made it easier to you to do.

SKIP: It is reasonable as if you want a voting right in this organisation, then you should have a responsibility to update the website

Mustafa: It could just be contact details, and a link to the external website

POI: The issues are not with how the website is updated, but the consequences of not updating it

NC: Voting rights are what we all have to be part of the network and to input into it, we cannot think of other options, this is a relative procedure to keep voting rights during the year

Original motion and amended motion goes to vote

[Chairperson: This is a bylaw change so will need a simple majority]

There are 4 choices:

Amendments with provision of losing voting rights
Or GHAP's amendment ('Minus in order to maintain voting rights')
Abstain
Neither

First round of voting (this is voting on which amendments will go through to the voting round, not which amendment will ultimately pass):

Third amendment (With losing voting rights): 18
Fourth amendment (without losing voting rights): 7
Abstain: 4

Second round of voting

Direct negative: Marrow
No alternative motion

In favour of adopting policy proposed by NC (with amendments): 17
Against: 9
Result: Motion passes simple majority

Voting session closes

Chairperson: Please hand in your voting cards

Sunday 27th September

Voting session 2

[Roll call]

Item 10

Motion 5 (10):

10. To change the status of GHAP from a project to a campaign

Rationale:

GHAP's primary focus is campaigning and having a political voice and these attributes seem to better fit the definition of a campaign rather than a project. Also recently GHAP's aims seem to have been rather at odds with the rest of the projects especially in regards to its views relating to the IFMSA.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines a campaign as "an organised course of action to achieve a goal". This description better describes ghap, and the actions of the other campaigns, than the term project and the activities undertaken by Sexpression, TBH etc achieve a goal". This description better describes ghap, and the actions of the other campaigns, than the term project and the activities undertaken by Sexpression, TBH etc

POO: Sheffield has withdrawn item 10, the deadline has passed for proposing motions so this cannot be re-proposed by someone else today.

Motion 8 (14)

14. To change bylaw 10.2.3, which currently reads as:

"A one hour meeting for member branches to make decisions, elect the next conference host, vote on bylaw changes and conduct any other business raised by the National Committee one member branches submitted to the National Secretary one week in advance."

To read:

"A one hour meeting of member branches, projects and campaigns, to elect the next conference host and to deal with any motions deemed urgent, submitted to the National Secretary one week in advance."

Rationale: Having bylaw changes twice a year rather than four times a year, will increase our stability as an organisation. Bylaw changes should not be proposed during the extraordinary meetings at conferences as this is not an appropriate time for sufficient discussion and is not in keeping with the mood of the conferences.

Proposed by: National Committee

Seconded By: BSMS

No amendments

No direct negatives

Result: Motion Passes Nemo

Motion 9 (15)

15. To add the following text to bylaw 10.10:

The transferring of profit, and any necessary sharing of accounts or budgets with the treasurer of Medsin-UK, should take place no more than 6 months after the date of the conference.

To read:

10. Conference events should aim to break-even or make a profit. The first £250 (to be reassessed year on year) of any profit made should be donated to the following year's conference budget. This should create two revolving funds, one for National conferences and one for Global Health Conferences. Any monies received in a similar manner from previous conferences should also be forwarded to the following year's conference. Any subsequent profit made, following the two types of deductions made above, should be shared between the Member Branch and Medsin-UK equally (50% each). The transferring of profit, and any necessary sharing of accounts or budgets with the Treasurer of Medsin-UK, should take place no more than 6 months after the date of the conference.

Rationale: Conferences should have their accounts completely finalised and the money transferred across to Medsin-UK and the hosting branch account no more than 6 months after the conference date, to aid the Charity and its treasurer in keeping accurate and current accounts. Sharing accounts with the Treasurer is not mandatory, but it contributes to Medsin's learning and would increase transparency. Any extensions after the 6 months would have to be negotiated with the Medsin-UK Treasurer.

Proposed by: National Committee
Seconded by: Brighton Sussex

National Committee: There are 4 bylaw changing sessions per year, 2 at conferences and 2 at Gas. We feel it is not appropriate to hold a voting session at conferences as it is not in keeping with the rest of the conferences. We also think that changing bylaws so often is unnecessary, to change the constitution so often is not necessary. At the GHC if we need a referendum eg for name change then we have added a referendum. Bylaw 10 gives further information about what should happen at a conference.

No amendments

No direct negatives

Result: Motion passes nemo contra

Motion 9 (16)

16. Changes to role of secretary so that bylaws 2.2 reads:

Secretary:

2.2.1. Be responsible for the administration, correspondence and archives of Medsin-UK.

2.2.2. Produce the minutes of the National Committee meetings and make them available to the network

2.2.3. Update the Constitution and Bylaws with the changes decided upon at the General Assembly and make it always available to the network

2.2.4. Prepare and send out invitations, provisional agenda, and other relevant information concerning General Assembly meetings.

2.2.5. Assist the Vice President Branches in maintaining the contact between the members and the National Committee.

2.2.6. Maintain an updated database of Medsin-UK members (removed externals)

2.2.7 Update the News and Events sections of the website

2.2.8. Produce a regular newsletter relevant to Medsin members

Rationale: Since the website changed round there isn't an international page, no such thing as a unireps pack and nothing about the keeping the news and events bits up to date on the website in the current bylaws.

Proposed by: National Committee

Seconded By: Exchanges

National Committee: There is a list of what the secretary does, but the bottom 2 things are not things that we do any more so it does not make sense for them to still be in the constitution. There have also been some things added like the newsletter. This is to be more in line with what secretary does.#

No amendments

No direct negatives

Motion passes nemo contra

[Chairperson: We have reached the end of the timetabled agenda]

POI: Brighton Sussex: Can I submit a motion

NC: Motions have to be submitted two weeks before the assembly, you can submit a guidance statement

NC: We missed out a guidance statement which was close to the heart of one of our NC members, this was submitted before the motion deadline, and as this was a mistake of the current NC, this should be open to be voted on.

Guidance Statement

Brighton Sussex

'Medsin conference organisers should endeavour to calculate the total environmental impact of their conference based on CO2 emissions, travel miles or other applicable methods.'

Rationale: Healthy Planet was voted as one of Medsin's priority campaigns and the environment is an issue that many in the network feel strongly about. Progressive NGO's and businesses are beginning to attempt to calculate their impact on the environment and Medsin should be doing the same. This move would increase constant awareness of the issue and force Medsin to reflect on it's own impact. Hopefully this will make the organisation more environmentally conscious; a first step to being Carbon Neutral.

Secunder: Exchanges

Questions

Newcastle: Does this mean NC, GHC or all projects conferences

NC: This refers to all conferences, including General Assemblies and project conferences

[Chairperson: This is a guidance statement, not a bylaw]

[BMS: Reads rationale aloud]

Secunder: Exchanges

Speaker List:

Leeds

Liverpool

Liverpool: I agree with the sentiment, and it is very important, but the conference organisers have such an amount to do, and it is difficult to calculate how much their carbon print is, when you consider all of the aspects involved in organising a conference

NC: Yes this needs to be defined and refined, I agree with the sentiment but I am neutral on this, but we should be encouraging people to use more carbon friendly ways of hosting conferences, but not by emissions

Leeds: I think we all agree with the statement, and this is a guidance statement, through Medsin we are asking our medical school to offset their footprint, and we need to set an example of this in our own organisation.

Leicester: Can we reopen speaker list

Manchester: My points have already been covered, but we have limited resources and we are not a professional organisation. The thought of introducing this is going to cause a real issue in the future as this guidance statement will then be passed as a bylaw. Seeing our goal is health education

POI: Leeds: Our goal is not health education, it is one of our goals

NC: A lot of our speakers are flown into the UK and we need to question whether this is really worth it. We need to address where the resources are coming from.

Speaker list

Liverpool

UAEM

Sexpression

Leicester

[UCL entered room]

In favour
Campaigns Team
Leeds
KCL
NC

Liverpool: I agree with Erica who is speaking on behalf of the national committee, we should ask conference organisers to endeavour to minimise their carbon footprint not calculate it. We should be attempting as an organisation to do this.

KCL: From my experience of organising GH in KCL and in London, we are thinking about and endeavouring to do this anyway and it is not extra work, and it will fall to someone who feels passionate about this issue. It is not an big extra burden, it does not have to be accurate, but the utmost effort should be made to represent our beliefs through our events

UAEM: Some people have highlighted how this is only a guidance statement, and how we do not have to agree or perhaps even follow it. This is not correct, we should endeavour to follow guidance statements

Sexpression: This is good that you want to do this, but I think you should use this for the core conferences like GHC and NC, if we asked the Sexpression conference organiser to do this, we are asking them to do something that is not in their core ideas and they may not feel passionate about. Some of our national conferences are organised by only one person eg HOMED, and this is a massive extra burden for one person.

Campaigns Team: I sympathise with you, but I don't think we should give up in the face of difficulty, think of Nelson Mandela in a prison cell trying to fight apartheid -he did not give up when faced with difficulty. This issue is one of the most difficult ones we face, we are here to change the nature of the world and improve the wellbeing of people in other countries, we are seeking to minimise and I do not think that people will do this, if we publicise which conferences are using a lot of carbon then people will endeavour to reduce their footprint. National committee could help with this job.

Leiceseter: How accurate will measuring be

Leeds: Is this going to make a difference – if this tells us how much of an impact we are having as an organisation then yes it affects us. We want to have hard concrete evidence to say we have come this far. Guidance statements should be something that we do try to follow. I strongly encourage amendments for this statement.

Manchester: I agree

NC: Calculating the carbon footprint is not a perfect science, but provides a reflection. At Leeds SGA we had one speaker who was local, all of the fruit and food came no further from Sheffield, and our printing was on recycled paper and eco ink. This proves that we are making these steps anyway and will encourage more conferences to.

Southampton: We should place the impetus on minimising not offsetting

Proposer: Brighton Sussex: Everyone agrees on the sentiments, but disagrees on the wording.

[SKIP and Bristol entered room]

Amendments

Leeds
UAEM
Exchanges
Southampton

Edinburgh
Sexpression
Campaigns Team
Marrow

Amendment 1: Leeds
To Read

Medsin Conference organisers should endeavour to calculate and to minimise the total environmental impact of their conference, including Carbon Dioxide emissions and travel miles.

Proposed accepts
Seconder accepts

Amendment 2: UAEM:

add 'to set up a SWG to explore the ways we can calculate and minimise the total environmental impact.'

Proposer does not accept

POO do we vote on each one
[Chairperson: We will collate the amendments, and vote on which ones we want to vote on]

Exchanges and Southampton: Withdrawn

Amendment 3: Edinburgh
To read:

Medsin Conference organisers should endeavour to minimise and calculate the environmental impact of all their conferences. This should be based on Carbon Dioxide emissions and travel miles.

Amendment 4: Sexpression:
To read

Medsin national conference and general assembly organisers should endeavour to minimise and calculate the environmental impact of their conferences. This should be based on Carbon Dioxide emissions and travel miles.

Proposer does not accept

POO: NC: We have more things to discuss about the network so can we speed up this voting session

Amendment 5: Campagins Team:
To read

Medsin Conference organisers in collaboration with the National Committee should endeavour to minimise and calculate the environmental impact of all their conferences. This should be based on Carbon Dioxide emissions and travel miles.

Proposer accepts
Seconder accepts

Amendment 6: Marrow:
To read

Medsin Conference organisers in collaboration with the National Committee should endeavour to minimise the environmental impact of all their conferences. This should be based on Carbon Dioxide emissions and travel miles.

Proposer does not accept

Chairperson: There are 4 different guidance statements, we now need to vote which of the 4 motions you need to vote on.

POI: Marrow: Will this have to come into force for the marrow conference, which is taking place in one week?

NC: No

(enter motions)

GA reads amendments

2 4 5 6 being voted on

we will eliminate the one that gets the lowest votes

2 = 1

4 = 1

5 majority

6 - ++

now voting on

5 and 6

simple majority – the one your favour will then be voted on

5 17

6 6

motion 5 chosen – this was acceptable to the proposer

DN – liverpool

motion 5 passes simple majority

discussion:

BMA presentation

Proposer: BSMS

Seconder: Exchanges

Amendments

Vote (on which you want to vote on:)

Amendment 2: UAEM :1

Amendment 4: Sexpression: 1

Amendment 5: Campaigns: 18

Amendment 6: Marrow

Abstain:

Vote :

Amendment 5 passes to be voted on.

Campaigns: Amendment 5:

Medsin Conference organisers in collaboration with the National Committee should endeavour to minimise and calculate the environmental impact of all their conferences. This should be based on Carbon Dioxide emissions and travel miles.

Direct negative: Liverpool

No alternative motion

Vote:

For amended motion

Against amended motion

Abstain

Result: Amended motion passes two thirds majority

Closes of voting session 2 of the Autumn General Assembly, Leicester 2008.

[Hand in voting cards]