

Education Sub-Group Meeting Minutes

27 October 2010

ESRC Genomics Forum, Edinburgh

Attendance

Present:

Jack Jackson (Chair)
Marjorie Smith (MS)
Sheelagh Frame (SF)
Sharon Macnab (SM)
Marit Boot (MB)

Apologies:

Lorna Sibbett

In attendance:

Steve Sturdy (Grant Holder)
Jane Wilkin (Network Officer)
James Kelly (Network Secretary)

1. Welcome and introductions

Jack Jackson began the meeting by thanking those who were in attendance for coming and conveying apologies for committee members unable to attend.

JJ also welcomed Steve Sturdy (the Gengage Grant Holder) and Jane Wilkin the new Gengage Network Officer, and James Kelly the new Gengage Network Secretary, to the meeting.

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

Minutes of previous meeting accepted.

3. Review of Gengage Conference 2010

JJ opened with a recap on the conference held in June 2010, which was attended by a mix of school pupils and teachers. Thanks were extended to all for their assistance, especially MS and SM. The mix of speakers and workshops was well received with 100% of the reviews being good or excellent. The conference had been attended by 100 participants with approximately 30 max in each workshop. This was felt to be a good number to work with that audience.

MS noted that the level was just right; the only comment was that participants would have like more time to attend more workshops. There had also been an issue in getting invites to participants,

There was a short discussion on the issue and it emerged that the CIRC network (check this spelling and details of what this is!) had been used to advertise the conference to schools but this had resulted in the message not being circulated effectively within the schools. A number of additional methods had proved effective at the last minute, such as using personal email lists and phone calls to contact teachers directly. Although it was noted that this was not effective in getting to new contacts and it was suggested that asking contacts to forward emails to their contacts would help spread the word for future events. Going through personal networks earlier was also suggested. MB recommended Stemnet as a good method for future events.

Advertising for the event had been limited to schools within reasonable travelling distance of the conference location to enable pupils and teachers to return home by 4pm on the day.

JJ highlighted that feedback on the conference had given ideas for future events, such as careers in genetics and the possibility of running a student conference. New exam topics mean that genetics is a big area of interest and growth in schools. JJ finished by saying that the conference had been an excellent day. MS echoed those thoughts.

Discussion centred on the opportunities for running future CPD events for teachers, as the raised profile of CPD within teaching councils will mean that in the near future teachers will be required to engage more with CPD. Much CPD work now, for example that done by science centres is not university accredited.

SM Glow meet (?) a facility within the network system? Was suggested as worth using for the next network conference.

4. Members update

Discussion moved to committee member's recent work with genetics. MS stated that she had applied for a grant from the Esme Fairburn foundation, to do some work to help students see RME and Science topics as mutually inclusive rather than polarised view points. A survey of schools had found that for example, RME teachers had trouble teaching stem cell work as they do not have the science background.

SM had been doing work at GSS weekend events at the science center and some work on carers in genetics. MB noted that her work had centered mostly on general healthcare and not been specifically related to genetics.

5. Gengage Workplan

SS talked through the Gengage Workplan set up with

5. AOB:

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Action:

6. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in...? It was also requested that the next meeting be held at the

Action: JW/JK to set up a Doodle poll.

6. Closing