

Cross Party Group on Science & Technology
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 3 October 2018, Dynamic Earth

1. Attendance

MSPs: Clare Adamson MSP (Convener); Patrick Harvie MSP

Non MSPs: Liz Lakin (University of Dundee/RSB); Alison McLure (IoP); Nicola Jordan (RSC); Alistair McGregor (SSERC); Svea Miesch (ScotlandIS); Keith Seymour (Geological Society); Stuart Fancey (SFC); Katherine Duncan (Microbiology Society); Iain Hunter (SSAC/University of Strathclyde); Simon Andrews (Fraunhofer UK); Fred Young (PSTT); Liz Bardell (MSP Staff); William Duncan (PSC); William Hardie (RSE); Craig Denham (Secretariat/RSE).

Apologies received from: Ian Gray MSP; Liam McArthur MSP; Annie Wells MSP.

2. Minute of previous meeting

The minute of the 20 March 2018 meeting on Women in STEM was confirmed.

3. Consideration of draft Annual Report

The draft Annual Report was confirmed. It was noted that the Report did not need to be submitted until 30 days after the AGM was held, and so if any members did notice anything they felt needed altered over the next few days this would still be possible.

4. Appointment of Office Bearers

Clare Adamson MSP agreed to continue as Convener of the CPG. Her nomination was put forward by Craig Denham (RSE) and seconded by Patrick Harvey MSP. She was elected unopposed.

Iain Gray MSP had communicated in advance of the meeting that he would be happy to continue as Vice Convener of the CPG. His nomination was put forward by Craig Denham (RSE) and seconded by Clare Adamson MSP. He was elected unopposed.

The RSE agreed to continue in its role as Secretariat to the Group. Craig Denham (on behalf of the RSE) was nominated to serve as Secretariat. The nomination was seconded by Patrick Harvey MSP and Stuart Fancey (SFC). He was elected unopposed.

As the CPG does not ask for membership fees from members, no Treasurer was elected.

5. Dates and topics for future meetings

Those in attendance were informed that the next two meetings of the CPG would be held in the Scottish Parliament on 5 December 2018 and 8 May 2019. The topic of these meetings would be on the Fourth Industrial Revolution and Big Data respectively.

6. Any other business

Topics for future meetings of the Group were discussed. This included potentially holding sessions on the impact of Brexit on science and research in Scotland. There are various important aspects to this issue which could be examined, for example the significant new regulation that will be required between the various governments of the UK. It was queried whether the necessary scientific advice on how best to develop such regulation and frameworks is reaching those that it should.

William Duncan informed the Group that he had taken on a role with the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee at Westminster and would be happy to facilitate engagement between the groups.

7. T.B Macaulay lecture on Sustainable Development

The Group was reminded that Prof Jacqueline McGlade would be delivering the 41st annual T.B. Macaulay lecture on “The Challenge of Sustainable Development: from Global UN Policy to Local Community Survival in the Face of Climate Change” directly following the meeting.

Meeting close 5.50pm