

Minutes of Human Givens Institute Board Meeting

Date of Meeting: Wednesday 18 March, 2015 (7pm)

Medium: Skype

Present: Julian Penton (Chairing), Don Elwick, Cathriona Edwards, Celia Nicholson, Ivan Tyrrell, Renee Van der Vloodt, Gail Rhodes, Joe Griffin

In attendance: Ian Thomson (Human Givens Foundation), Sue Saunders (HGI Registration and Professional Standards Committee)

Apologies: Julie Lawrence, Declan Lyons,

1. Minutes & Matters arising from meeting 18/11/14:

Agreed as a true record.

Item (6): Miles Daffin is working on updating Wikipedia for free. Requests for funding by Miles for particular pieces of work may be forthcoming and if so will be considered case by case.

2. Update of business of the HGI Registration and Professional Standards Committee

Sue Saunders reported on the Annual Review Meeting held in Bristol on 13.03.15, which was attended by all committee members. Time was spent on training and considering changes required for the future PSA application, based on feedback received from the PSA, and for which the R&PSC will be responsible, such as clarification of the complaints procedure regarding sanctions.

- During the past year, the Committee dealt with four new and three older complaints from the 2013/14. There have been no new complaints received since the last board meeting.
- In the same period, 8 ethical queries have been received and responses provided. As a result of one query new guidelines for Data Protection (available on the HGI website) have been produced for registrants.
- The Committee is now using the Glasscubes programme to ensure all communication and data storage is secure. All archived material from the former Ethics and Complaints Committee will be uploaded to Glasscubes.
- Numbers of HGI members were reported: 26 Fellows; 244 Members; 83 Graduate Members; 50 Associate Members. It was suggested that it would be useful to ascertain the caseloads of registrants to give an overview of the level of HG therapy taking place.

Action: Don Elwick to draft a questionnaire for HG practitioners to ascertain caseloads and possibly other information that could be answered through Survey Monkey. To be discussed at the next board meeting.

3. HGI 2016 conference

Kathy Hardy's circulated report was helpful in advising of costs and possible issues.

Agreed that:

- The conference at Dublin Trinity College would take place over 2 rather than 3 days – the usual Sat/Sun.
- We would keep to the provisionally booked dates. It was not felt to be a problem sharing space with the counselling training organisation with whom our dates may coincide.
- Joe's suggested conference theme "The need for meaning in the modern world" was excellent.

4. HGI website update

Main body of work by ISOS yet to be started. Progress awaiting the availability of Jane Tyrrell – likely in a month or two.

5. Offer of assistance to HGI by former board member

The offer was noted with appreciation. However, given ongoing R&PSC involvement following a complaint against this person (that was not upheld) it was not felt appropriate to accept the offer for the time being.

6. Feedback on HGI draft application to the Professional Standards Authority

Received towards the end of February. Work on many of the technical changes/modifications suggested is underway – principally by Sue/R&PSC and Julie Lawrence. The most challenging "deal-breakers" – meaning the absence of which would preclude accreditation – identified by the PSA include:

- **Review process for registration decisions.** It was suggested that a panel of assessor/supervisor/tutor may be sufficient. A new procedure would need to be written advising applicants to the register of the right of review. **Action: Sue to write up.**
- **An independent external body/consultant to review the management of conflicts of interest** (potentially arising from the close relationship between the HGC and HGI). The PSA feedback had referred to three bodies (each now PSA accredited) also with close relationships between the training provider/s and professional body – in each case the solution required was such an independent/external process of oversight. Discussion/action points:
 - Might the R&PSC be considered sufficiently independent? Unlikely as not external to the HGI.
 - Could the external body established by Play Therapy UK do the same job for the HGI? **Action: Julian to pursue.**

- Might Professor Stephen Hill be able to play a role given his training expertise?

It is estimated that several more months' work is likely to be needed before a final application can be made.

Further action:

- 1. Sue Saunders to circulate a matrix displaying all the PSA feedback points and the person/committee taking responsibility for implementation**
- 2. Celia Nicholson offered to review and comment on the content of the final application in her role as lay member**

7. Finance and Audit Committee

The terms of reference circulated were agreed.

Action: Julian Penton to arrange with Lin Tyrrell (the responsible staff member) possible bi-annual meeting dates for the committee and agree with Celia Nicholson (treasurer) and Julie Lawrence.

8. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 27 May, 7:00pm Skype.

Julian Penton
19/3/15