



## The Institute of Maxillofacial Prosthetists & Technologists

### Minute of Meeting of the Short Life Working Group for Alternative Entry Qualifications – MSc/STP Reconstructive Science

4<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023

#### Short Term Objectives; - (By 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023)

- Accept the agreed alternative qualifications that will be accepted for entry to MSc/STP (aiming for 2025 intake).
- Identify fundamental skills and knowledge required to support these students and host units.
- Maintain engagement with IMPT members.
- Collaborate with all relevant stakeholders such as the IMPT membership, STP Lead Trainers, NSHCS, and HEi's to access opportunities for shared resources.

#### Long Term Objectives; - (By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024)

- Write and review content of fundamentals programme.
- Develop an appropriate, robust programme of support.
- Enhance the overall quality and effectiveness of our training and education pathway.

#### 1. Minutes of previous meeting

N/A

#### 2. Matters arising from previous meeting

N/A

#### 3. Introduction

Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

Chair shared the SLWG objectives and timescales with the group and we noted that there were only a few participants at the meeting. Members of the group felt that there are certain

key people missing from the discussions and that it would be of benefit to approach individuals who we think will be able to make valuable contributions to the process.

#### **4. Agreed Appropriate Alternative Qualifications**

Discussion around appropriate qualifications which have been agreed. Entry degrees which are out with the boundaries of Dental Technology.

Confirmed that all the degrees identified have elements of anatomy and material science in them. Also, the degrees selected must be BSc – as opposed to BA. Bachelor of Arts for example would not be suitable as the awarding body is MSc (Master of Science) or Clinical Science.

Noted that we are adding to the pool of entry qualifications.

Discussion around potential for adding to this list as we go through the process. Tiered approach as we learn what is working and what isn't.

Discussion about addition of degree in Project Design Engineering. The addition of any further qualifications is to be explored.

The period of support prior to starting STP will be referred to as "Induction". Students will already have work-based assessment and exams which act as 'quality assurance' for the process.

Timescale – 2 months prior to starting STP may be tricky, but it is doable.

We should start approaching host units to establish which would be willing to take a non-DT student. If we can identify a few units that would be willing to take either DT or non-DT student, we can present this as a starting point. In the first intake, it's unlikely we would need more than 2 or 3.

#### **5. Funding Options**

We might need to consider other funding options – if we don't get individual funding for students, we could consider workshops etc to bridge the gap.

Lack of funding in Scotland – requires discussion with NES to establish how this could be funded in Scotland (same will apply in Wales).

#### **6. Training Material**

Group member expressed that training material is available to us.

Discussion around learning by observation and practice in the lab environment (mentoring).

Most of the students (even those with DT degree) will have minimal practical experience in dental techniques anyway – this needs to be conveyed to the membership.

Students will spend a portion of the three-year STP developing these practical skills.

Assessment process. However, we can't nationally examine the students. If students get to the point where they cannot cover competencies, it would be dealt with at that point. This 'induction' period will cover fundamentals only. Host units would be responsible for ensuring that the learning materials are imparted appropriately for the individual

### **Challenges are:**

***Where will the students go?*** If we can assure members that we already have host units who are willing to try this, we can move things forward more easily.

***What about the fundamentals?*** Needs to be agreed by members (vote) before spending the time that will be required to create the learning material. Steps must be taken to assure members that this will work, but there is no point in doing all the preparation before we have agreement in place.

***Who's going to fund it?*** We need to be clear that in order to secure funding we need to have agreement from members and make a start to the fundamentals. There are several funding routes – but things need to be in place/agreed before we start seeking money.

Managing change is inherently complex – but if we remain aware of the challenges and hurdles, we should be able to mitigate.