

Procedure for Co-option of members onto the Psychiatric Trainees' Committee

Background

Additional members of the PTC may be co-opted onto the Committee in two circumstances. Firstly, when divisional representation is not fulfilled by the 2-yearly elections (including vacancies that may arise between elections). For the London Division, 3 members are co-opted in addition to the 3 elected members as to ensure adequate trainee representation in this large division whilst maintaining equity of elected members across the divisions. Secondly, co-options may occur when a vacancy for a PTC representative on a specific College / external committee cannot be fulfilled within the current membership.

Historically, Non-divisional PTC co-options have been decided by the Committee following recommendation by the PTC Officers, a process that has worked without any problems. Co-options for divisional representation have been decided by the Committee following recommendation by the current PTC representatives for that division. This process has worked without any problems until a recent vacancy in the London division. 30 trainees applied for the position and the current London representatives could not reach a clear recommendation. In addition, there was criticism by some applicants who complained that the process was unclear for those applying and appeared to be based on 'who you know'.

The co-option for the London vacancy was eventually decided following a vote by the whole Committee during a PTC meeting. This prompted a review of the whole process of co-option onto the Committee.

Agreed Procedure

Following discussions at the PTC meetings of the 14 December 2006 and 16 February 2007 the following was decided:

Co-options for divisional representatives:

Vacancies will be advertised on the website and applicants will send their application (200 word statement) via email to Kate Forster (PTC contact at the College). Applications will then be anonymised and distributed via email to the Committee who will vote for their preferred candidate. Votes will be counted by Kate Forster who will then notify the successful candidate and the PTC Officers.

When voting for candidates PTC members are advised to consider the training grade (SHO / SpR) and specific locality of each candidate to ensure proportional representation for each division. However, members are free to vote outside of these guidelines should they feel that an alternative candidate is preferable.

Co-options for non-divisional representatives:

Vacancies will also be advertised on the website. The PTC Officers will continue to decide on co-option for specific committees.

Ollie White
PTC Vice Chair
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