

Education, Training and Policy Committee Report

The ETP committee is chaired by Professor Robert Freedman and the following members have been approved by Council:

Dr Sue Assinder
Professor Sue Brain
Professor Peter Goodfellow
Mr Ian Harvey
Ms Liz Lakin
Professor Ottoline Leyser
Professor Chris Pollock
Professor Jim Prosser
Dr David Reynolds
Professor Robert White

The Terms of reference for the committee have been agreed and can be viewed on the Society of Biology website here: <http://www.societyofbiology.org/aboutus/committees/etp-home>.

Past and Future Meeting dates:

3rd February 2010
12th May 2010
1st September 2010
10th November 2010

The priority areas identified by Council as a focus for the Society in its initial months relevant to the ETP committee are:

- Practical biology in schools and higher education
- The impact of biology
- Degree accreditation

The following three special interest groups (SIGs) ratified by Council are also of relevance to the ETP committee:

- The Animal Science Group (ASG)
- The UK Biology Competitions (UKBC) Group (incorporating British Biology Olympiad and Biology Challenge competitions).
- The Natural Capital Initiative (NCI) (in partnership with the British Ecological Society (BES) and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH)).

Staff resources and time are currently occupied with the following ongoing activities:

- Curriculum development in particular commenting on the criteria for the new GCSE specifications for 2011 and the Diploma in Science Principle Learning statement.
- Engaging and enthusing young learners to study biology through attendance at the Big Bang Fair and careers events.
- Development of an accreditation process for Integrated Masters degrees

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- Development of consultation responses to national and EU consulting bodies.
- Liaising with Special Interest Groups (NCI and ASG) to develop programmes of pro-active policy and public engagement activities
- Supporting UKBC in the coordination of the British Biology Olympiad
- Collation and distribution of weekly science policy newsletter
- Preparation of briefings and position statements on selected topics
- Development of Society of Biology Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct

Consultation responses submitted

Available at <http://www.societyofbiology.org/policy/consultations>

- [New Approaches to Biofuels](#)
22 March 2010
A response to the Nuffield Council on Bioethics
- [Future arrangements for quality assurance in England and Northern Ireland.](#)
09 March 2010
A response to HEFCE on 'Future arrangements for quality assurance in England and Northern Ireland'
- [RCUK Review of Energy 2010](#)
12 February 2010
A response to the Research Council UK review of energy
- [NERC Skills needs review](#)
08 February 2010
A response to the Natural Environment Research Council review of skills needs
- [The impact of spending cuts on science and scientific research](#)
A response to the Science and Technology Select Committee
- [Proposed Public Access Policy](#)
21 January 2010
A response to the United States Office of Science and Technology Policy
- [Principles applying to the treatment of independent scientific advice provided to government.](#)
02 December 2009
A response from the Society of Biology to the Science and Technology Committee.
- [Research Excellence Framework](#)
26 October 2009
A response to Hefce on the Research Excellence Framework (REF), a new way to assess the quality of research in UK higher education institutions.