IN CONFIDENCE

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 7 July 2010.

Those attending:

Professor Sir Tom Blundell FRS (BBSRC Chair)
Professor D Kell (BBSRC Chief Executive)
Professor J Coggins OBE FRSE
Professor A Dell CBE FRS
Professor P Fryer
Professor P Grindrod CBE
Mr D Gregory
Dr D Lawrence
Professor K Lindsey
Professor Q McKellar FRSE
Professor C Pollock CBE
Dr J Stageman
Dr A Richards
Professor M Weir

Also present:

Mr S Visscher
Professor J Allen FRSE
Dr P Burrows
Dr C Caulcott
Mr P Gemmill
Mr D Parfrey
Mr P Swinburne
Mr J Neilson (BIS representative)
Miss K Okonska
Miss J Rutherford

Courtesies

1. Apologies were received from Mr Jim Godfrey OBE and Professor Sir David Baulcombe FRS.

2. Chair offered congratulations on behalf of BBSRC Council, to the following who received awards in the Queen's Birthday honours:

    - Professor John Beddington CMG, Government Chief Scientific Adviser, on his award of a Knight Bachelor;

    - Professor Julia Goodfellow CBE, previous BBSRC Chief Executive, on her award of a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire;

- Professor Athene Donald FRS, Chair Committee C, on her award of a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire;

- Professor Martin Shirley, Director Institute for Animal Health, on his award of Commander of the Order of the British Empire;

- Professor Jackie Hunter, previous BBSRC Council Member, on her award of Commander of the Order of the British Empire;

- Professor Noel Lloyd, Vice Chancellor of Aberystwyth University, on his award of Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

3. Letters of congratulations would be sent to all of the above on behalf of BBSRC and Council.

4. Council offered its condolences to the family of Professor Jaroslav Stark following the sad news of his passing in June 2010. From 2007 Professor Stark had been the director of the Centre for Integrative Systems Biology at Imperial College.

ITEM 1: MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 APRIL 2010 (BBSRC 19/2010)

5. The minutes from the last meeting were **AGREED**.

ITEM 2: MATTERS ARISING (ORAL)

6. Council was updated on the following:

Council Meeting with Institute Directors and Governing Body Chairs (paragraph 22)

7. A follow up discussion with Swindon Office and Institute Directors had been included on the agenda for the next Directors' Meeting on 29 July 2010. The meeting would include discussions on how to progress with closer collaborations between institutes through the BBSRC National Institutes of Bioscience concept. Actions and institute responsibilities for taking these forward would be agreed.

8. A BBSRC-led Institute conference was in the progress of being developed within the Swindon Office. Obviously budgetary and resource constraints were a consideration, however, Council would be sent details as soon as possible.

Strategy Advisory Board Activities and Future Agenda Items (paragraph 25-28)

9. The next SAB meeting was scheduled for November 2010 where the actions requested by Council at its last meeting would be implemented.

BBSRC Policy on Knowledge Exchange and Commercialisation (paragraph 29-30)

10. Chairman had recently attended a meeting with the Wellcome Trust on the increasing importance of pre-competitive boundaries in industry. The above Policy presented to Council at its last meeting gave BBSRC opportunities to be involved in this significant area.

Any Other Business: Operation of Council and Future Agenda Items (paragraph 32-33)

11. As requested by Council there were plans to invite those with responsibility for spending or advising on BBSRC money i.e. Institute Directors, Initiative and Committee Chairs, to present to the next Joint Strategy Meeting in July 2011.

ITEM 3: CHAIR BUSINESS (ORAL)

12. There was none.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BUSINESS (ORAL)

13. Professor Kell updated Council on a number of visits that he had recently undertaken. He also gave an overview of the event held on 22 June 2010 to announce the projects funded by the Insect Pollinators Initiative which had received wide-spread media interest.

Spending Review and BIS Meetings

14. *This item contains financial and business critical information and is therefore recorded separately.*

ITEM 4: INSTITUTE UPDATE (BBSRC 28/2010)

15. This item contains information relating to the running of an Institute and is therefore recorded separately.

ITEM 5: UPDATE FROM DAY 1 (ORAL)

16. Dr Burrows introduced this item and said that the previous day had been a success with a number of key messages arising that BBSRC would consider in the coming months when reporting to BIS and finalising its Spending Review submission.

17. It was **AGREED** that the main points from Day 1 were as follows:

Session 1 – New political and funding environment

- The importance of coordination and synergy in bioscience across a spectrum of organisations and concentration of resources.

- Transformational changes were necessary in the current climate so BBSRC could do more with less.

- The need for BBSRC to leverage funding from international organisations, charities and oversees government.

- A clearer picture of where BBSRC funding overlaps with other funding bodies was required.

Session 2 – Why bioscience and why BBSRC?

- Delivering grand challenges through innovative higher risk science makes BBSRC unique in comparison with industry.

- The role of BBSRC in underpinning research used by other Councils and research organisations and how this should be emphasised.

- BBSRC's relevance in responding to big problems/global challenges.

- Using the National Institutes of Bioscience collaboration BBSRC can ensure a strategic approach to bioscience across a number of organisations.

- Providing a community of skilled and engaged people.

Session 3 – Are friends electric?

- Tailoring messages to different sectors and stakeholders (media, treasury, academia and business) had been highlighted.

- The role of advocates and how they can help BBSRC in conveying messages. Also, using contacts of Council/Board members to put messages across.

18. A detailed note of the three sessions would be drafted and sent to Council members for information.

19. Regarding similar sessions in the future and in Strategic Workshops, Council **ASKED** that they be provided with more relevant information in order to contribute fully and make better informed decisions, for example concerning the distribution of BBSRC funding by key areas and types, including comparisons to other organisations. This also related to Council's request to receive presentations from those that spend BBSRC money, e.g. Committee Chairs and Institute Directors, which was planned for the July 2011 Joint Strategy Meeting

20. Chairman thanked Dr Burrows, Dr Caulcott and Mr Gemmill for their leading of the three sessions.

ITEM 6: TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY BOARD (ORAL)

21. *This item relates to work in progress and is recorded separately.*

ITEM 7: STRATEGIC LOLA (BBSRC 22/2010)

22. *This item contains information relating to the peer review of individual applications and is therefore recorded separately.*

General Points Regarding LoLas

23. Dr Stageman, as Chair of the Strategic LoLa Committee, gave an update on its last meeting held in October 2009. He said that there had been a significant increase in the number of outlines received compared to the previous year. The Committee would take a number of actions to ensure that the outlines it received were of the highest class possible. This included: asking Research Committees to encourage Strategic LoLas in specific strategic priority areas; providing feedback to applicants on possible collaborations with other applicants; considering the finance available, as well as the excellence of science and strategic relevance when inviting back full proposals; considering the added value of the proposal and the use of corporate knowledge so large amounts of funding were not duplicated.

24. Council **REQUESTED** that it received a brief summary of the governance/management of Strategic LoLas in the papers presented to Council for approval. In addition, an example of good governance/management/translation framework for LoLas would be presented to Council at its next meeting in October 2010.

ITEM 8: CURRENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR BBSRC STAFF, INCLUDING REDUNDANCY TERMS AND PENSION SCHEME (BBSRC 21/2010)

25. Mr Swinburne introduced this item. At its last meeting, Council had requested a summary of the current Terms and Conditions of employment for BBSRC staff**.** The paper provided a brief overview of these including pay, leave, pensions and redundancy. Following the writing of this paper a number of changes had been finalised or proposed by the new Government and Council received an update.

26. Council **NOTED** the paper and the oral update provided at the meeting.

ITEM 9: MINUTES OF THE APPOINTMENTS BOARD MEETING HELD ON 20 APRIL 2010 (BBSRC 23/2010)

27. Council was provided with the minutes from the Appointments Board meeting held on 20 April 2010.

28. Council **NOTED** the minutes and the ongoing work within the Swindon Office to improve the diversity of BBSRC's external groups, including Council.

ITEM 10: MINUTES OF THE INSTITUTE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 18 MAY 2010 (BBSRC 24/2010)

29. Mr Visscher introduced this item. At its meeting in May the Board had discussed its Terms of Reference (ToR) and it was agreed that they needed to be revised in line with new governance arrangements. These revisions would be discussed at the next Board meeting in November 2010 with the ToR coming back to Council for approval in December. An annual statement from the Chair of the Board would also be provided at the December meeting.

30. Council **NOTED** the minutes.

ITEM 11: MINUTES OF THE AUDIT BOARD MEETING HELD ON 15 JUNE 2010 (BBSRC 25/2010)

31. Council was provided with the minutes from the Audit Board meeting held on 15 June 2010.

32. Council **NOTED** the minutes.

ITEM 12: FINANCIAL OUTTURN FOR 2009-10 AND THE PLAN FOR 2010-11 (BBSRC 26/2010)

33. Mr Parfrey introduced this item which provided a report on the provisional outturn for the financial year 2009-10 and the planned expenditure for 2010-11, the final year of CSR2007 settlement.

34. Council **NOTED** the report.

ITEM 13: BBSRC ACCOUNTS 2009-10 (BBSRC 27/2010)

35. Mr Parfrey introduced this item and gave an update on the signing-off of the BBSRC Statutory Accounts for 2009/10.

36. Council was informed that there had been unforeseen delays to the finalisation of the Accounts. This had resulted in the original timetable of laying the annual report and accounts before Parliament just before their summer recess not possible. BBSRC was now working towards ensuring that it had successfully completed all aspects of the audit in time for Parliament's return in October 2010.

37. Council **NOTED** the status of the BBSRC Statutory Accounts and **RECEIVED** assurance that there had been no unexplained losses within the Statement of Internal Control presented to the Chief Executive.

Council Secretariat
July 2010