

PESGB Conference Organiser's Report March 2019

New College Update

The College has recently appointed a new Home Bursar. This initially gave rise to concerns about increases in pricing. However, in November we received assurances that the Bursar has been persuaded of our cost-effectiveness and we should therefore be able to retain the preferential rates we have agreed for the foreseeable future.

Conference Rates and Concessions

As noted in the Treasurer's report, following agreement between the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Conference Committee, we have introduced tiered rates for delegates. This means that, in-line with other conferences run by learned societies, members get preferential prices. We have nevertheless retained the conference bursary and a range of concessionary packages. The Conference Organiser assesses eligibility for these reduced rates.

Student Helpers

We received a large number of applications for the role of student helper for this year's event but are only able to accept a small number of volunteers per year. We are planning to reassess the appointment process to make it fairer and more transparent, and will consider keeping a register of event volunteers to facilitate this.

Poster Session

In previous years the poster session has been held in a small room in the Undercroft. This year, to give delegates more space to see and discuss the posters, we have decided to spread out the display boards so that they lead into the space in the corridor. We would appreciate feedback on this change from presenters and delegates, so please do let us know what you think.

Bags

Following a successful trial last year, we have switched to providing reusable canvas bags to all delegates. These are both cheaper and more environmentally sound.

Recycling and Water Bottles

We have been considering ways in which we could lessen the environmental impact of the conference. Unfortunately, New College does not have the capacity to provide water coolers in each room. However, the new Home Bursar is currently reviewing the use of plastic water bottles and, in the future it looks likely they'll be replaced with larger glass refillable bottles and glasses. In the meantime, we are assured that all the bottles left in the conference rooms are picked up and sent for recycling.

Accessibility

We are continuously reviewing our practices to ensure that PESGB events are accessible to as many delegates as possible on an equal basis. With this in mind, if you have feedback on ways we could improve accessibility to the conference, please get in touch with the Conference Organiser.

Sponsorship

Wiley Blackwell continues to sponsor the conference dinner on Friday evenings but we are very keen to secure an additional sponsor for the meal on Saturday.

Unfortunately, due to cuts in funding, Bloomsbury have been unable to provide us with a book stand this year, so we are also on the look-out for additional publishers who might want to do this in future years.

If members have contact with or are aware of suitable sponsors, please do let us know!

Dr. Ruth Wareham

March 2019