

Senedd Cymru / Welsh Parliament

Cross-Party Group on STEMM

Meeting at 9.30am, Tues 28 September, via Zoom

Minutes

Attendees: David Rees MS, Altaf Hussain MS, Jack Sergeant MS, Mark Isherwood MS, Leigh Jeffes, Niall Sommerville, Rhobert Lewis, Glen Gilchrist, Cerian Angharad, Lee Gonzalez (on behalf of Joel James MS), Faron Moller, Keith Jones, Mike Charlton, Paul Harrison, Rob Janes, Robert Hoyle, Eluned Parrott, Geertje van Keulen, Helen Taylor,

This is the first meeting of the group following the election. Welcome members to the meeting, particularly those looking to join the group, note this will be a very short meeting purely to re-establish the group in line with Senedd rules.

Apologies: Tom Addison, Dayna Mason, Dave Jones

1) Re-establishing the CPG on STEMM

Attendees were welcomed to the meeting by David Rees MS, Chair of the CPG on STEMM in the previous session. David noted he would need to leave the meeting due to Senedd business and as such we proceeded promptly with business.

a) Election of Chair

One nomination for Chair was received, David Rees MS. David was proposed by Jack Sergeant MS and seconded by Helen Taylor. David Rees MS was elected Chair of the CPG on STEM.

b) Election of Vice-Chairs

Two nominations for the role of Vice Chair were received, Jack Sergeant MS and Mark Isherwood MS. Both were elected as Vice-Chairs by acclaim.

c) Election of Secretariat

One nomination for Secretariat was received, Niall Sommerville from the Royal Society of Chemistry. Niall was proposed by Jack Sergeant MS and Altaf Hussain MS and will duly provide Secretariat for the group during this session.

2) Name and purpose of group

The existing purpose for the group is stated as *“To bring together Members of the Senedd and others with an interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in Wales, with the aim of raising awareness among Members of the Senedd of important developments in STEM, both technological and educational; and how policy issues impact upon these areas.”*

At the start of the previous session it was agreed the group would become the CPG on STEMM to encompass 'Medicine' in its title. As such the name and purpose needs to be updated with Senedd authorities. Members agreed to the name change.

Action: NS to update name and purpose during CPG registration process

3) Minutes of the meeting held 8 March 2021

Minutes have been circulated prior to the meeting and agreed to. There were no matters arising.

4) Topics for future meetings

Members were encouraged to share areas they believe the group should focus on over the coming session and make suggestions for meeting topics.

Suggestions for future meetings included:

- Skills for the future – looking at the green skills needed to tackle the climate emergency and the existing skills gaps, suggested by Jack Sergeant MS. It was suggested this could tie in with inviting the new Minister for Climate Change to a future meeting to allow members to discuss the creation of the new Welsh Government Climate Change Ministry.
- Nuclear energy and other energy sources – **Action: NS to follow up with Mark Isherwood MS regarding recent presentation on nuclear energy.**
- Medical physics and its role in medicine – suggested by Lee Gonzalez on behalf of Joel James MS. Geertje van Keulen noted this could link with work being done on imaging in STEM and materials science. Dr Robert Hoyle note the Welsh Government Office for Science and Health colleagues are doing quite a bit of work on medical radioisotopes, which includes radio-diagnostics. Noted they would be very pleased to talk through this work and its ambitions.
- Helen Taylor noted the need for work to be carried out in Wales to catch up with the rest of the UK on a National food strategy. She highlighted the existing shortages in skills and its impacts – from agricultural producer right through to consumer.

Action: NS to compile suggestions/workplan for next meeting to set out proposed meeting topics.

5) AOB

There was no AOB noted.

6) Close of meeting