Date: 7/03/2015

Venue: BVA headquarters

1. Apologies
2. Introduction to AVS and marketing presentation for new (and old) members
3. President’s Report
4. JVP’s Report
5. Treasurer’s Report
6. Marketing and JAVS
7. IVSA
8. Policy & Student Engagement
9. Welfare
10. MSG
11. Senior Representative’s Reports
12. Congress
13. AOB
15. Date of next meeting
Welcome new committee members!

Response to BVA MSG student debt/finance queries following the last meeting:

“We had quite a good discussion about finance and ‘debt’ at our meeting on Sunday. The committee agreed that finances are not something that put them off applying for veterinary medicine and in particular felt that those from the lowest income backgrounds benefitted from a lot of extra support, whilst people in the middle were those who may experience the most financial difficulties. The committee did recognise however that this is a very different picture for international and graduate students and that the information on the website currently for postgrads is a very useful resource.

The committee felt that their respective universities had a very accessible and fully comprehensive student finance information and service for students to use as they wish. The kind of links you had proposed are possibly more suitable for applicants to use and may not be so relevant for current students who are already receiving a student loan etc. However signposting to other grant opportunities (not just travel grants) would definitely be useful. We have some of these on the AVS website already under ‘academic resources > Opportunities’ but could be made more comprehensive. One suggestion from the committee was to calculate the true cost of a veterinary course compared to the £9,000 fees to conversely show what good value for money it actually is! I’m not sure how much of an undertaking it would be to do these calculations!”

Hannah has since followed this up at the MSG meeting in March…

The AVS response to the RCVS Dr title consultation was also posted on the BVA community forum.

Have been in contact with FAVS who will hopefully be adding to some of our forthcoming news topics/campaigns. We would really like to reach out to any organisations that run events for all vet students nationally in order to centrally advertise their events benefitting us, them and the student body (sometimes certain vet schools can fail to distribute the information). If anyone has any contact with any organisations running big events please encourage them to contact AVS to help promote them.

Lots of plans for the coming year…!

I unfortunately missed the apparently delightful 3 course lunch and day of judging for the Petplan Vet Awards for a 4 hour exam!! I will also be absent for the next couple of months as I am going to Thailand on Monday morning for research. I will be back on the 26th April. I have no idea where I’m staying or what I’ve got myself into but I will hopefully still be very contactable via email, facebook or skype! :O

PRESIDENT QUERIES

● Does anyone know anything about the nurses trying to set up a national association or anyone involved with this? It would be nice if they could link up with us from the beginning.

Bristol nursing student is having a meeting at the BSAVA congress with the BVNA regarding the set-up of a national association for nursing students. Alex McGhee is going to find out who this is
and start some contact between AVS and the nurses. Some discrepancies regarding whether this student wants to become aligned with BVNA or BBSAVA...further investigation is needed.

**ACTION: Alex McGhee**

- Housekeeping: please can all departing committee members ‘tidy up’ their google drive folders. Delete anything that won’t be useful to future reps or we are going to harbour an ever growing archive of to do lists and spreadsheets.
- ALL NEW MEMBERS: Please add your contact details to the contacts document that will be emailed round by our new secretary, Joon. You will also receive a set of ‘student profile’ questions. Please complete your ‘profile’ as soon as possible and send it back to Joon with a photograph of yourself for the website.

**SVP REPORT – Alexander McGhee**

**Petplan Veterinary Awards**

Judged the Support Staff Category of the Petplan Veterinary awards in place of Helena. Bacon sandwiches on arrival, three course lunch (lobster, steak and cheesecake) with copious amounts of very agreeable free wine. The new SVP role is going well.

**Sports Weekend Issues with Edinburgh**

Basically the combination of Rugby ‘lads’, stock marker and a bus have led to the bus company wanting large amounts of cash. We’re in the process of fixing the issue but the problem we have is the waiver students ‘signed’ didn’t cover transport to and from Dublin. I’m also unclear how legally binding it is. I was wondering whether it would be sensible for AVS to invest in a standard contract, drawn up by the BVA legal helpline that all students sign. So we can always recover cost from students in future. I doubt it would be that expensive and given previous damages bills, it would probably pay for itself!

**Veterinary Prize**

Got this email last night

Alex

I think we have met at a BVA reception but in any case I am writing to you as President of AVS on behalf of the veterinarians here in Northern Ireland.

If the Presidential hand over has happened and its now Helena, that’s OK as long as someone talks to me.

We have been working with the family of the late Lord Ballyedmond with the objective of
establishing suitable memorials to his life’s work and to mark his generosity to the veterinary profession over the years.

One of the ideas the family has asked me to explore is that of an annual student award. I am aware that there are a number of these and am writing to seek your advice as to whether or not, in your opinion, this idea has ‘any legs’. To make this as simple as possible I have a number of questions.

Is there currently a prize for the most outstanding student in the UK and Ireland? One of the attractions of AVS in this idea is that Ballyedmond sat in both the House of Lords and the Irish senate. He was both proudly Irish and British. AVS are the only veterinary group with this constituency.

I believe there are prizes for the outstanding student in each faculty in UK and Ireland. Is this still the case?

If so have you any idea of what their criteria are?
Have they similar criteria?

If this idea runs would the AVS congress be the forum in which a prize could be presented?

What would the student body prefer – money or recognition? The family have in mind the award of a specially produced academic medal. Medal or money or both?

Our intention should we proceed would to make the first award 2016.

The whole enterprise will be funded by the professional organisations throughout these islands and so we hope something can be achieved of value.

Thanks in anticipation

Robert J Huey
Chief Veterinary Officer for Northern Ireland

*SVP QUERIES*

Would it be a good idea to invest in a binding document that students must sign that declares exactly what the students are responsible for during AVS events. It is definitely worth paying to have this created because it can then be used continually for each event, and students would be required to sign the document everytime before they can participate in AVS events. Sign when deposits are taken but this needs to be done professionally to ensure it is legally binding.

Lord Ballyedmond prize for ‘the best’ veterinary student in the UK is a fantastic idea but would be difficult to judge! Another idea would be an innovation/business award that students could be
invited to apply for. The prize could act as a grant for those students to continue their work or start up an idea. The committee whole-heartedly agree that this idea is great.

**ACTION: Helena Diffey**

**JVP REPORT – Hannah Mason**

Attended BVA MSG meeting on 25/2/15

**Student Debt**

- Reiterated Helena’s feedback that student’s weren’t really that bothered and it didn’t seem to be putting people off
- Not sure how well that was received - still seemed concerned it was an issue
- Possibility of creating “case studies” of new grads to see how much it impacted their life
- Concerned that undergrads are embarking on course with little knowledge of future earnings - is this a problem?

**EMS**

- EMS database got bought up - not feasible due to cost
- Alex had spoken about “problem placement” google drive document
- Discussion ended at everyone finds EMS placement, some students have to work harder and ring multiple placements but they still find placements therefore think discussion has now been ended!

**JVP QUERIES**

**Student debt:** Realistically how feasible is it to enter secondary schools to tell students that veterinary surgeons don’t earn as much as is expected. SPVS organise a fantastic survey looking at salary earnings split up into region/animal-group etc so potentially we could use this information and distribute it more widely. EMS coordinators meeting later this month, Hannah and Alex are going to discuss the Googledrive document there.

**ACTION: Helena Diffey & Alex McGhee**

**TREASURERS REPORT – Jenny Brazier**

**TREASURER QUERIES**
MARKETING REPORT – Amelie Geddis

JAVS REPORT – Jordan Sinclair

PLEASE can all committee members actually write their articles that I ask for - it is part of your role on AVS committee. Struggled for submissions so it’s vital that I get these to fill the editions. Maybe we should enforce a reprimand… AVS drinks tonight on those who didn’t write one?!

SENIOR REPS: When JAVS submissions are due PLEASE approach students in your vet school that you know who might have something interesting to write about. Do you know someone that went on a particularly interesting placement? Or had an insightful experience? ASK THEM TO WRITE AN ARTICLE, THEY WILL REALLY APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT!

ACTION: All Members

We have the funds to offer money to those students who have an article published in JAVS. This would really increase the number of articles JAVS has and would get more students involved.

ACTION: Helena Diffey & Gareth Jones

WEB REPORT – James Bladon

Achievements 2014-2015

- New website - good feedback, good provider and good value!
  - Over 10,900 unique visitors since September
- Facebook - great engagement
  - Likes doubled from 1,400 to over 2,800 (RCVS - 2,229)
  - Top post ‘Vet students firmly behind use of title Dr’ reached over 30,000 people
  - AVS sports weekend video - 7,208 views
  - Great way to redirect to the website
- Twitter - good engagement with BVA
  - 1,961 followers (BVA - 9,869 , RCVS - 8,390)
- Produced branding document, letter paper and powerpoint presentation
- Elections done online for the first time - 12 candidates for 3 positions, more than doubled previous number of responses

Plans 2015-2016

- Website - expand and refine content base within current restrictions
  - Subcommittee input - welfare section, policy and news base
  - Regular president’s blog
  - More systematic promotion of pages and content
  - AHEMS guide and media pack to be uploaded
  - New committee members - photos and profiles
- Add graduate profiles and restructure existing pages
- Promote meeting minutes *(edited version to be compiled by secretary)*
  - Thanks Will for getting me onto this :)
- Discussing with IVSA how we might be able to work together better online. Had a good discussion with Pabs on the way in this morning, groundwork done!
- Advertisement - explore avenues for promotion of website and facebook
  - Google listings advertisement
- Facebook
  - 4,000 likes before I finish!
  - Use of in-page apps to encourage engagement (polling)
  - Explain how likes and shares work for the benefit of newbies
- Event promotion timeline - uploaded to Google Drive
  - Aim is to provide a more consistent way to promote AVS events
  - One event up for next week at Bristol, that’s it!
- The AVS App - need to form subgroup - seeking volunteers!

Timeline

1. Research - MSG find out what people want - survey in meeting open for one week
2. Come up with app design and layout - app subgroup one month
3. Costings research and options 2 weeks - present to committee
4. Development ~ 2 months
5. Promotion in liaison with Amelie
6. Release - JUNE

- Video - a major project for the next few months
  - Cost likely to be £500 plus expenses, the treasurer agrees that £500-£1000 is available for the creation of an AVS promotional video.
- More use of AVS emails (four in total - 2 minutes, 2 elections)
  - Any feedback from the email sent out last month?

It looked very professional, and the hope is to summarise actions made within the sub-committees to then send out to veterinary students so please can committee members make sure they promote these emails/share to others to increase views. **Would be excellent to share this role with the Secretary.**

**ACTION: Joon Park & James Bladon**

- Purchase a pdf converter programme for AVS
  - Using this often, much more professional than word documents
  - £50 for lifelong membership
MARKETING QUERIES

MARKETING DISCUSSION

Does everyone have access to the google drive, know where to find these documents I speak of, and have access to the calendar?

Joon will add the new members to the Googledrive in the near future, and share the AVS calendar with everyone.

ACTION: Joon Park

Open to ideas for the video (tentatively)

JAMES NEEDS MORE VOLUNTEERS, PLEASE GET INVOLVED IF YOU ARE GOOD AT SCRIPT WRITING!

Get new peeps to invite friends to like AVS page - beat the engagement stick

ACTION: Helena Diffey / James Bladon

IVSA REPORT – Vicky Carliell

IVSA Elections
We’ve just elected our new IVSA UK&I committee

- President - Pablo Ruiz Cuenca presidentivsauk@gmail.com

- Treasurer – Christine Sesanto

- Secretary/Vice President - Kate Lane stivsauk@gmail.com

- Exchange Officer - Charlotte Li eoivsauk@gmail.com

- Promotions and IT - Sandy Lyons ivsaukwebmaster@gmail.com

- Veterinary Public Health Officer - Aoife Ryan vphoivsauk@gmail.com

Elections for new IVSA junior reps are being held at vet schools this term.

What we’ve achieved in 2014-1

- Hosted the 64th IVSA Symposium at Edinburgh and Nottingham in December. 80 delegates from Tunisia to Taiwan attended for 8 days of lectures, workshops, cultural events, IVSA general assemblies, and socialising.
• Started **IVSA at Surrey** vet school. We now have two enthusiastic Surrey reps who are already planning their first exchange.

• Added the **Veterinary Public Health Officer** position to our committee. Our VPHO produces regular newsletters to increase awareness of and interest in VPH. The first 4 issues are available online: [http://www.flipsnack.com/9FFCA5B8B7A/ftiqraf5](http://www.flipsnack.com/9FFCA5B8B7A/ftiqraf5) and have been well received, with students, lecturers and vets sending in comments and articles.

• Held IVSA **talks and events** such as ‘working as a vet in developing countries’ at Liverpool, antibiotics awareness day at Bristol, and EMS abroad evening at RVC.

• **Our Exchange Officer** has helped several IVSA members from other countries to find EMS placements and accommodation in the UK.

• Launched a new **facebook page** (to replace our facebook group). We are working to build our likes and increase our reach, in conjunction with our Twitter account and website.

• Held **group exchanges** including Nottingham-Thessaloniki, Edinburgh-Finland, Liverpool-Sweden, Bristol-Naples.

• Five IVSA UK&I members attended the 63rd IVSA symposium in Turkey in January, 7 attended the 63rd Congress in Indonesia in July, and several attended other events such as the Springbreak in Naples.

**What we have planned for 2015-16**

• Fix our website!

• Increase awareness of IVSA by holding more IVSA talks and events and better utilisation of our website, twitter, and facebook accounts.

• Make the Exchange Officer more efficient by increasing collaboration with the IVSA vet school reps.

• Collaborate with BVA Overseas Group book scheme to assist with collection and distribution of donated books.

• Hold a collection for the charity Computers 4 Africa.

• Improve our admin and organisation – online file storage, pre-prepared agendas for meetings etc.

• Promote the fact that IVSA can help organise individual exchanges as well as group exchanges!

**Vicky Carliell and Pablo Ruiz Cuenca**

President IVSA UK and Ireland 2013-15 / 2015-16

IVSA are going to investigate VetSoc’s involvement in helping to fund aspects of IVSA’s organisation such as expenses/transport. Currently IVSA reps are failing to find enough money to adequately fund IVSA running costs which is proving to be problematic.
IVSA are going to create a proposal that AVS can review to discuss the amount of funding that IVSA receives from AVS.

**ACTION:** Pablo Ruiz Cuenca

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**POLICY & STUDENT ENGAGEMENT REPORT – Helena Diffey**

**Sponsorship**

People contacting Helena wanting to give us money for things – should we take it and what will we use it for?

Small grants for EMS e.g. ~£50? For a large number of people – ask Jenny/Derrek if this is feasible

- IVSA fund travel grants, Edinburgh vet school have EMS grants, Nottingham get grants through Hills

Hardship fund – one is available at Liverpool

Pass on details to organisers of Sports Weekend/Congress

**Lord Ballyedmond ‘Top Vet Student’ Prize**

Should be both a physical prize and money

Thought it was unfeasible/unfair to award a prize to the best vet student as difficult to come up with criteria across all vet schools – if this was done then both peer and staff nominated?

Thought it might be nicer to do it as a competition – prize/funding for most innovative student to come up with a new idea whether this be a business/educational resource/charity etc.

Lord Ballyedmond was a business man so his family might like this.

**News Items**

**BVA/AVS survey** – coming out later this year

want to try to include more AVS related questions?

prize for university reps with most responses

**Milk Prices** – joint campaign with FAVS – FAVS to write something and we'll promote it

**Vet of the Month** – a graduate profile posted every month to draw attention to this area of the website

will need to gather more graduate profiles

**Monthly Photo competition?**

**Conferences** – stewarding and applying – BCVA, BEVA, BSAVA - Jess

**Calendar of News:**

March – lambing (to coincide with preclinical EMS guide) – **MSG**

- lambing photo competition – Easter Egg Prize

April – 7th = World Health Day – **Helena** – role of vet from point of view of medics

- lab animals – EMS scheme – **Danielle**

- 25th = World Vet Day

May – Welfare/Mindfulness around exams – **Welfare**
- General Election – what is important to students? – **Joely**

**June** – App – **Marketing**

**July** – AWF Forum
- Women/Men/Gender Equality – sexism?, surveys, blog – **Helena, Pablo, Liv**

**August**- Summer EMS Photo Competition

**September**- Anti-suicide day
- World rabies day – WVS – Mission rabies – bats

**October**- Animal Welfare Day – **Aine**
- Alcohol Awareness – **Welfare** – Drug Licencing e.g. Ketamine, Papers – Equesy

**November** – London Vet Show
- Antibiotic awareness day

**December**

**January** – Blooming Monday – **Welfare**

**February**- Wildlife – bats

**RCVS Practice Standards Scheme – EMS**

Meeting at start of placement
Show you where things are
Proper supervision – mentor/individual contact
Feedback half way through or at end
More communication with student – verbal continuous feedback
Lay out rough working hours
If nothing going on let student leave/give them something to do
Let students do things

Discussed task sheets for example what is done at PDSA but thought that already get guidance like this from individual universities.

**ACTION: Alex McGhee**

**RCVS Summer School**

For international students, costs £2000 and are told that doing it will increase their chance of getting into vet school.

RVC does lambing days and dairy days for school students work experience which costs £70/80.

**Work Experience Pre Vet School**

For school students applying work experience is a barrier. Important to do some but some university’s want too much meaning those from less privileged backgrounds may not be able to compete.

In Ireland purely based on grades – bad

Importance of work experience – speaking to vets about the job

Lots of vets won’t take students till they are 16 – should be encouraged to do other types of work experience e.g. farms and kennels

BVA are planning on educating at school level more about what the profession involves

**Sponsorship policy:** Back again to the discussion regarding AVS’s involvement offering grants to students. Gareth needs to come up with a budget (with the
other exec) to look at how feasible it is for AVS to provide grants. Amelie needs to be involved here also due to the sponsorship aspect.

ACTION: Gareth Jones & Amelie Geddis

POLICY QUERIES

POLICY DISCUSSION POINTS

WELFARE REPORT – FLISS BARBER

Hey look lots of colours!

I would like to bid you all a fond farewell and extend my deepest deepest apologies for my absence. (I am sure you are all welling up thinking of the fond memories we shared, but do please all stop crying, it’s embarrassing.) ANYWAY please welcome Abbie! The superb NEW Welfare Rep who will whip you all into shape no doubt.

We have been talking and formulated a plan long and short term…

Short term:

1) Freshersssss: alcohol awareness and the inclusion of at least one alcohol free event at freshers week for every university.

2) Add more to the welfare section on the website :)

Long term:

1) A calendar of all welfare events for everyone to see on the internet.

2) A scheme (an evil scheme?? - no a nice scheme) an anonymous email scheme across all 8 uni’s where students can get support from peer supporters from any university.

P.S. Blooming Monday was a BLOOMING success - shout out to Liverpool for excellent effort!
**WELFARE DISCUSSION POINTS**

See the Welfare sub-committee notes in the Welfare section of Googledrive.

All approve above plan please so we can get cracking, any questions are welcome.

**MSG REPORT – Hannah Mason**

AVS App - been discussed previously, and survey has been created so will be ready for release soon.

Video - already been discussed

**MSG QUERIES**

**MSG DISCUSSION POINTS**

**SENIOR REPS: Please forward the AVS Website link (for getting into vet school/writing personal statements) and have each university admissions team put this on the university website in the appropriate place.**

**ACTION: Senior Reps**

**SENIOR REPS REPORTS:**

**EDINBURGH REPORT – Lisa Main**

Big congrats and welcome to our new junior rep, Liv!

Just had welfare week - puppy petting, therapets, cake competition, advise stands, talks, stress packs etc - all very well attended.

Ran a preparation for lambing talk for 1st years and GEP’s with EFAVS

Hopefully having an AWF talk next semester - waiting to hear back from Florence

Will also be doing a ‘transition to 3rd year and clinical EMS’ for 2nd years/GEPs

Careers Event next week (really stupid though cause aimed at 4th and 5th years and in the middle of 4th year exams so hopefully get this changed for next year!)
EDINBURGH QUERIES

I know we had a pretty big discussion about it last time but who actually gets paper notes? We complain about having to pay for notes but not sure if anyone else actually gets hard copies? Cambridge also get paper notes.

Do freshers still get welfare cards? We have our own wee cards now with TPRs that we’re expected to know and staff were worried about conflict with these. We are hoping the AVS app will be replacing these!

Does anyone else have anything to do with their university student associations? EUSA are pretty bad cooperating with the vet student council and the vet school in general so was wondering if anyone else had dealings with their student associations or do you all just have vetsoc?

Jordan - we got 3 boxes of JAVS last time - we normally only get 2 - can we just get 2 again please :)

Does anyone have a waiver we can use/use as a template for future sports weekends/AVS events after our recent bus issues? Or is it worth everyone going to Sports from every vet school signing something similar? Previously discussed getting a professional document created for AVS events (p.s thank you to Alex for being an absolute hero and helping me to sort this out!!!)

**ACTION POINT:** Amelie please can you make sure the freshers powerpoint ready for August because Edinburgh have graduates starting then so it would be great to have it ready then.

ACTION: Amelie Geddis

EDINBURGH DISCUSSION

Thank you all for a fantastic (eventful and terrifying) few years! So sad to be leaving!!

BRISTOL REPORT – Hannah Mason

Welcome to our new rep Joely!

Worldwide vets talk was a success

New welfare system being discussed with welfare reps in each year that all sit on a welfare subcommittee of our vetsoc with members of staff so hopefully this goes somewhere.

AWF talk next week 12/03/15

BRISTOL QUERIES

Welfare around exams - puppy classes, how do people organise this? or any other ideas?
Via Guide Dogs association where students pay a small donation to play with the puppies in the pre-exam period. The Guide Dogs are brought to the vet school in Glasgow!!

Edinburgh hire the clinical skills centre and then email the vet school asking for anyone with dogs/puppies to bring them in for students to play with.

- When does clinical teaching start at other unis? - Bristol students feel behind on EMS

Liverpool: Start clinical theory in Sept 4th year, however recent changes are now implementing clinical teaching in 1st year

Glasgow: Currently transitioning through a new course set-up, but starts at 3rd year mostly but does have some aspects introduced from first year

Ed: 3rd year

Cambridge: Nothing until after intercalation

RVC: Periodic review to change the curriculum to start from 2nd year, but currently start 3rd year

Surrey: Hasn’t started

Nottingham: Officially from 3rd year but there are aspects introduced from day 1

- Who has exams before easter/christmas? - Do people think this gives them an advantage

Pros and Cons for before/after holidays. You end up having the revise either way so does it matter!?

**BRISTOL DISCUSSION**

**LONDON REPORT – Georgie Lethbridge**

Worldwide Vets talk was a big success with lots of people attending.

We’ve also just had an AWF talk on how to deal with clients requests to put healthy animals to sleep with Liz Ormerod which was really well attended and very useful.

Blooming Monday was good, with quite a few people dressing up. Next year we have some ideas to boost numbers of people dressing up and to raise money.

Our SU general manager has being showing some interest in the peer support program so fingers crossed we might be able to get somewhere with that.
**LONDON QUERIES**

We've had big changes to our SU so we would just like to know what everyone's structure of their SU/Vet Soc is.

Nottingham cannot vote at the moment but this is changing. All other schools have an AVS rep that can vote on VetSoc.

Bristol VetSoc is very large (~38?) but has not changed for many years because all members are deemed to be valuable.

Glasgow also has a large VetSoc containing all the standard positions (IVSA rep, Rag rep etc)

Ed has a student council but not a VetSoc, and anyone is free to vote at the council meetings.

Liv have 42 members of the VetSoc committee (all elected) and all have a right to vote. However there are rarely situations where the committee ‘votes’ but instead they discuss problems and come up with actions that way.

Dublin: 3 juniors and 3 seniors in the central committee

Also along those lines our principal is now offering AVS at RVC a bit more support and hopefully money! What support do other Uni's get?

No

**LONDON DISCUSSION**

**NOTTINGHAM REPORT – Jon Mayer**
I’m sorry I’m not with you anymore so here’s a bit of eye candy for you all.

-Nominations for new Junior Rep are underway - VetSoc AGM is on Monday 9th March and we should have a new junior rep elected by next Friday!

-Had mental health week in February which went well. It was a campus wide event with Mindfullness sessions, gym events, cake sales, dog cuddling etc. We raised £560 for Papyrus (a young-person mental health charity)

- Still working on the puppy room for pre-exam period but Guide Dogs aren’t replying to their emails!

- Asked students on their opinion on changing required EMS - most students would prefer it to stay the same (particularly 4th/5th year students)

-Now potentially changing the role of Senior AVS on campus. So they will now be a member of Vet Soc again and co-ordinate with all the university appointed year reps relaying information to the central vet soc committee. Hopefully it would mean we’re doing a better job at representing the students views.
NOTTINGHAM QUERIES

-How do other Unis organise their rotations groups? Nottingham has changed its system a number of times in the last few years and has now asked our year group to come up with its own way of sorting it...

NOTTINGHAM DISCUSSION

Bristol: Randomly assign you to a group, then you can email if you want to change BUT you need to give a good reason as to why you want to change. You can request to not be with particular people. Can apply for dates off (again you need to give a valid reason as to why you want that time off). Tracking electives are different groups to rotation groups.

Glasgow: Same as above

Ed: Up till Xmas the uni provide a timetable and students put down their best timetable, and you can each inform the school of one person you don’t want to be with. After christmas it depends on the elective you have chosen.

Liv: 4 people, you can blacklist people as above, randomly allocated

Cam: Random again but good at allowing swapping between groups/swapping rotations around

RVC: Pick a timetable block which you are allocated to, again you can suggest people you would like to be with/not be with

Dublin: Individual timetables made for each person, you are never in the same group of people for each rotation.

Again really sorry :{
DUBLIN REPORT – Amy Fitzgerald

DUBLIN QUERIES New Junior Rep was elected and is attending the meeting- say Hi to Dan Tobin :-(

HI DAN!!!!

We have talked to VetSoc about the fact that they were pushing us out a bit recently and they responded well- however then failed to invite us to their meeting the following fortnight. This is something Aine and Dan are going to continue to work on.

Wiki Vet- got the delivery, Amy's going to stay on as an ambassador.

Hasn't been much time in the college at the moment for any other big activities since the update at Glasgow meeting, with the Vet Ball, annual 3rd year-5th year debate,Halfway Dinner, Coffee Morning and White Coat Ceremony all happening this month as well as the Tuesday and Thursday VetSoc clinical talks.

Dublin is now on its field work two week break and has more events planned for the return, however again many of these are alcohol based and I know this is brought up time and time again about non alcoholic events but any new ideas?

Aine and Dan want to work on talking to VetSoc about getting a careers fair and freshers fair started. Maybe a mental health week.
DUBLIN DISCUSSION

GLASGOW REPORT – Alex Andryszak

GLASGOW QUERIES

GUVMMA, our vet soc, are getting charged loads of bank charges for using a business account. They've asked to find out whether other schools face this problem or how they get round it. The treasurer spoke to Tim Sainty (BVA) about possible sponsorship to help pay for these - he suggested asking AVS if they have scope to help. (Alex - Lucy asked me to bring this up so I added it in before I forgot! - Jordan)

RVC use RBS who charge a monthly rate for online banking. Liverpool use a business account but don’t get charged? Edinburgh student council has an RBS business account which isn’t charged. Dublin also have a business acount which is charged. Nottingham isn’t charged.

GLASGOW DISCUSSION

Peer support is up and running at Glasgow, so we are 2 months in and have had over 30 students take advantage. Very excited to see where it goes from here.

It’s been a real delight working with you guys this year. Good luck to Will and Danielle as they take on next year.

LIVERPOOL REPORT – Sarah Boland

LIVERPOOL QUERIES

How is grading set at other unis, what mark is considered distinction/merit and how is the pass mark set?

Nottingham: Not sure, I think 70% but I will find out

Bristol: Not sure

Cambridge: Merit mark changes each year

RVC: 65% merit, 75% distinction

OVERALL SUMMARY: Most vet schools don’t seem to push students towards this merit/distinction. What are other uni social facilities like if held on your own campus? LUVS are having difficulties with our on-campus bar.

LIVERPOOL DISCUSSION

Worldwide vet talk was a big success - lots of interest for more information.

Congress committee for 2016 has been formed! :D
Student campus social spaces: Who have these available?

Yes: Bristol, RVC, Nottingham, Liv, Glas, Ed, Dub, Surrey

No: Cambridge is banned from holding events at the vet school

CAMBRIDGE REPORT – Eleanor Myerscough

Welcome to Ellie Drabble our new Junior!

Preclin welfare day on Friday with free lunch, a talk from vetlife and representatives from the 2nd and 3rd a to give exam advice. I will be doing a Wikivet stand, so hopefully some more pre-clins will get signed up.

The RCVS are coming to visit for the week on Monday, so fingers crossed all goes well.

CAMBRIDGE QUERIES

Timetables- our timetable (for the 4th and 5th years) is constantly changing according to when our lecturers are available, sometimes at the last minute. It has been suggested that we switch to using a google calendar style timetable that would alert us when it changed (at the minute we just have PDFs to download). So we were wondering if this is a problem at other schools and if so how do they deal with it?

Who has a google-like calendar:

Yes: Nottingham, RVC, Surrey, Dub, Ed

No: Liv, Bristol, Glas

CAMBRIDGE DISCUSSION

I have been in touch with the people who organise the Vet Charity Challenge where teams of four from vets practices complete a challenge day which is kind of like orienteering and raise money for charity with their entries and sponsorship. I was asking whether they would be keen for student teams as it sounds like it would be quite fun and I’m hopefully getting a Cambridge team together. I think Notts sent a team last year too? They replied saying that was one of their aims this year and they would really like to get teams from all the universities (and possibly staff teams!) and the area going to have a prize category for this too this year. So if you wouldn’t mind sending an email out and directing anyone interested to me that would be great! (Hannah hfc34@cam.ac.uk)

Let’s add this to our upcoming email out to students, and they can get in touch with Hannah about that.
Here’s a link to a video from last year to spice up the email
http://youtu.be/BFCjrQqEXuo

SURREY REPORT – Lydia

SURREY QUERIES

SURREY DISCUSSION

CONGRESS REPORT – Alex Andryszak/Sarah Boland

All is going well in Glasgow after the great weekend. The last several weeks have been spent organizing banking and money flow.

We made a profit of 980 pounds. Woohoo. So we will work on getting that dispersed to the appropriate accounts including our chosen charity of Students for Animals in Need. A student run charity out of glasgow for clinic cases in need.

Also, everything that we did and sent will be loaded up on to moodle drive this weekend, since that is finally all sorted as well.

Thanks so much for coming out guys and I can’t wait to see how well Liverpool does next year.

5th - 7th February 2016 - LIVERPOOL CONGRESS DATE

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

-  John Chitty (BSAVA Education chair)
-  Webinar Vet Student Events: Anthony Chadwick is keen to get involved with AVS, potentially broadcast vet-school talks on the AVS website? Zoe.W is to send information to AVS exec regarding the final year BVA student’s having webinars paid for already.
  -  ACTION: Zoe W.
- RCVS Practice Standards: Policy group discussed “what makes a good EMS placement” which can be put forward to RCVS.

  **ACTION:** Helena Diffey

- AWF: PLEASE CAN SENIOR REPS ORGANISE TALKS!!!!

  **ACTION:** All members

- Tim Sainty mentioned that he has become aware of quite a few veterinary practices who struggle to find vet students to attend EMS. A role for BVA to facilitate connections??

  **ACTION:** Helena Diffey

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**SPORTS WEEKEND REPORT – Hannah Mason**

- All going well! Slight panic when we thought we were really organised then friday night venue and food organiser dropped out but all looking good again now.
- Insurance??
- Loan needed
- Everyone will be signing a waiver
- Tickets go on sale at Bristol on May 4th
- Walkie talkie hire vs buying them for the whole committee.