Dear LMC colleagues

2 more weeks down at GPDF and another brief update. I am hoping to see some of you at the LMC secretaries conference next month. Headlines from the last fortnight are:

•                     Daryl Fielding, our current NED has stepped down and will be replaced on Monday 6th Feb by Jon Stanley who is a corporate lawyer. Jon is waiving his fee in order to donate it in full to a brain tumour charity. His sister is a GP and he feels strongly about national representation. He will be in post until the end of September 2023 on his current contract. We hope having a lawyer on the board will allow a sensible & judicious approach to the use of external legal advice and reduce expenditure.

•                     The vacant position for a director to represent Wales had arisen due to the resignation of Ashok Rayani in November 2022. As we are outside a general meeting, the vacancy was filled by asking for written statements to be sent to the board. 2 colleagues from LMCs in Wales put themselves forward and Dr Phil Cox from Morgannwg LMC has been asked to fill the role until the AGM in September this year. This ensures we have representation from Wales, England and Scotland in place and he has started work.

•                     The board have agreed to support an LMC UK conference dinner for 2023 at the request of the conference chair, Dr Katie Bramall-Stainer.

•                     We have cancelled the worldwide travel insurance policy that was in place for all directors, stepped down the investment committee of GPDF, and given members of the renumeration committee notice. These decisions will save us over £15,000 a year.

•                     We have had an initial meeting with the BMA team who will be working with us on a replacement for the deed of grant - this was a positive meeting and I know Julius Parker is now working to gather LMCs views and input over the coming weeks to inform our approach.

•                     The preliminary budget for GPDF will come to the board at our next meeting - there needs to be significant reductions in expenditure which we have already begun, including changing the supplier of our back office functions and website hosting to lower cost alternatives.

•                     The board has agreed to start a strategic review of GPDF to allow us to move to a slimmer, leaner GPDF that focuses on delivering it's basic roles to a high standard. We will share more details of this shortly.

•                     The next general meeting is scheduled for the 16th March. We will not be using UK Engage as the meeting platform.

Thanks as always, and apologies if I or the board are slow to reply to any of you. The volume of work is huge and challenging but we are making gradual progress.

Dr Zoe Norris

Chair, GPDF

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