

CONSTITUTION OF THE BOARD

1. Aims and Objectives

- To act as a co-ordinating body for the University of Edinburgh, other Higher Education Institutes, and research institutions, with a common interest in research and allied scientific matters related to the rural environment whether of national or international dimension
- To promote enterprise, stimulate conjoint research activities and applications among ECRR members, in a strategy consistent with emerging policies for science in Scotland, including connectivity with policy-makers, funders and users of science. This would take account of their wider networks, and national and international partners.
- To foster public engagement on scientific issues and their social relevance.
- To promote the development of science education at all levels.

2. Board Composition

The Board will be chaired by a senior member of the University of Edinburgh, appointed by the Court of the University. The Chairman will hold office for a fixed term of five years and will be re-appointable for a maximum of two terms.

The membership of the Board will comprise senior representatives of the member Institutions. As at *1 June 2004*, these Institutions are

University of Edinburgh

- College of Science & Engineering
- College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine
- College of Humanities & Social Science

Scottish Agricultural College

- Research & Development
- Education & Training

Heriot Watt University School of Life Sciences

Napier University School of Life Sciences

University of Stirling Institute of Aquaculture

UHI Millennium Institute

University Marine Biological Station Millport

Centre for Ecology & Hydrology Edinburgh

Forest Research Northern Research Station

Moredun Research Institute

Roslin Institute

Veterinary Laboratories Agency Lasswade

Biomathematics and Statistics Scotland

British Geological Survey

MRC Human Reproductive Sciences Unit
National Museums of Scotland
Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Royal Zoological Society of Scotland
Scotland & Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research
Scottish Agricultural Science Agency
Scottish Crop Research Institute
Scottish Natural Heritage

The Scientific Director and Secretary/Treasurer of ECRR will attend Board meetings ex officio. The status of 'invited observer' will be extended to the Editor of the Bush Telegraph, Coordinators of facilitating Research Centres established by the Board and to individual senior staff of member organisations whose particular expertise may assist Board deliberations.

3. Conduct of Business by the Board

The Board will be widely based and will fulfill the aims and objectives at a strategic level. For this purpose it will meet not less than twice a year at such times as shall be determined, and it will conduct its affairs, at the tactical level, through the aegis of an Executive Committee whose composition will be:

1. A Chairman to be elected by and from the Board
2. A minimum of three representatives of other member institutes approved by the Board.
3. A minimum of three representatives of the University of Edinburgh approved by the Board.
4. The Scientific Director and the Secretary/Treasurer of ECRR.
5. Other member(s) co-opted on the recommendation of the Chairman.

Members elected to the Executive Committee shall be appointed for a maximum of 3 years, but appointments may be renewed for one or more further periods.

The Executive Committee shall meet as frequently as is required, but not less than quarterly, and will carry out such functions as may from time to time be authorised by the Board.

The Board will encourage the establishment of 'facilitating bodies' otherwise known as Research Centres and the Co-ordinators of each Centre will be invited to attend Board Meetings.

The Board, in fulfilling its aims and objectives, shall have the authority to raise funds from member institutions in order to conduct its affairs to best effect, subject to such fund raising being limited to maximum amounts per institution as may from time to time be determined.

In addition, the Board will have the authority to appoint a Scientific Director, and such other staff, such as Editor of Bush Telegraph, as may from time to time be agreed, from the funds

collected in the aforesaid manner, always providing that the Board has no authority to make any financial commitment in excess of those as may be mutually agreed by the Board from time to time. Any staff appointed in this way shall have their contracts renewed on an annual basis.

4. Changes to the Constitution

This constitution may be changed, subject to the approval of the University Court, at any meeting of the Board for which due notice has been given and at which 75 per cent of Board Members signify their agreement at the meeting in question or, if absent, signify their written agreement in advance to the Chairman.

5. Quorum

The quorum for meetings of the Board shall be ten members.

6. Casting Vote

In the event of a tie, the Chairman shall exercise a casting vote.

7. Secretary/Treasurer

The Board shall appoint an Honorary Secretary/Treasurer for such periods as may be determined. The Secretary/Treasurer will be in attendance at Board and Executive Committee meetings.

8. Notice of Board Meetings

A minimum of fourteen days noticed shall be given for all meetings of the Board.

June 2004