



IFTRA 2014 - Governance in Professional Regulation Session

GTCS Scotland (GTCS) Governance Summary - November 2014

- Independence established by Public Services Reform (GTC Scotland) Order 2011 – this is now GTCS’ governing legislation.
- The Council that governs GTCS is made up of 37:
 - 19 elected registered teacher members
 - 11 nominated members.
 - 7 appointed lay members.
 - This means there is a “teacher majority.”
- There is a “rolling” election, nomination and appointment programme. This means that every 2 years around half the Council may change and Conveners/Vice Conveners are appointed.
- Council members serve a 4 year term with a maximum of 8 years in 20. This process is governed by the GTC Scotland Code of Conduct and Membership Scheme as well as GTCS’s governing legislation.
- Council determines the committee and panel structure. Currently there are:
 - Executive, Education, Finance and General Purposes and Professional Regulatory Assurance are the main Committees. There is also an Appointments Committee who “appoint” as required – the members of this Committee are independent.
 - Course Accreditation, Professional Update, Professional Standards, Standard for Headship, Registration, Fitness to Teach and Investigation Panels.
 - Council members serve on some panels others are deliberately independent of the Council.
- The operation of these committees and panels is guided by the GTCS Standing Order and Committee Scheme. This contains details of committee/Council membership, the appointment and roles of Conveners and Vice Conveners and general roles, responsibilities and remits. It also provides guidance on the running of meetings, voting etc.
- A Code of Conduct and Membership Scheme guides members on the expectations placed upon them as well as setting out details like terms of office etc. It also set out the procedures to be followed should a complaint about a member be received or issues with attendance etc arise.
- A recent “Values Statement” was jointly developed and agreed by Council members and GTCS staff to set out GTCS’ organisational values.

Current “live” issues and Challenges for GTC Scotland include:

- The launch of Professional Update for all (70,000+) registrants. (August 2014)
- The exploration of registration of other educational professionals through GTCS e.g. Instrumental Music Instructors.
- An in depth review of registration policy including those wishing GTCS registration who have qualified out with Scotland.
- The roles and potential conflicts of Council members when representing different organisations.
- The developing relationships between different categories of Council members.

- The relationships between Council members and Professional Officers (employees) of the GTCS.
- Balancing the role of Council member, with in most cases, full-time employment.

Further information on all of the above can be found at www.gtcs.org.uk