

BRITISH PHYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY: FEMS REPORT

Report for BPS Council Meeting and AGM, January 2019, Oban.

By Paul Hayes

I attended the FEMS Council/Delegate meeting in Warsaw between the 7th and 9th September 2018.

FEMS have requested that we send them our annual report and membership numbers “at the beginning of 2019”. The membership numbers will be used to calculate our membership fee for 2019.

FEMS continues to be a valuable source of funding. Our members continue to be successful when they apply for Research and Training Grants or Meeting Attendance Grants.

FEMS are experiencing some problems in recruiting to key roles within the Executive and their new Election Committee has yet to achieve what was expected of it in identifying suitable candidates for election. There continues to be an imbalance in terms of the geographical spread of Executive Team members, which needs to be overcome: the UK remains over-represented on the Executive.

The FEMS Chief Executive, Dr Cath Cotton has resigned from her role and will need to be replaced. Cath has been instrumental in driving modernisation within FEMS.

BPS volunteered to organise a session on algal biotechnology for the upcoming FEMS Congress in Glasgow, but this was not taken forward by the Congress organisers.