



Campaign for Science & Engineering Monthly update – January 2009

CaSE Distinguished Lecture Postponed

Due to a new ministerial commitment Lord Drayson has had to postpone giving the CaSE Distinguished Lecture on Wednesday 28 January. We will let you know the new date of the lecture once it has been confirmed. The AGM will go ahead as planned.

What we are working on

- **Impact of the Science and Engineering Research Base:** CaSE will be holding its next Opinion on the social and economic impact of publicly-funded research. Speakers include Professor Philip Esler, Economic Impact Champion, Research Councils UK, Sir Chris Llewellyn Smith FRS, Chair ITER & SESAME Councils, and Dr Aileen Allsop, Vice President Science Policy, AstraZeneca, and Graeme Reid, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. The meeting is being sponsored by IBM and Institute of Physics. CaSE will produce a policy report on the subject following the meeting.
- **Putting Science and Engineering at the Heart of Government Policy:** CaSE will be responding to the Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Committee's inquiry into the organisation and operation of science and engineering policy.

CaSE News

- **CaSE AGM:** The CaSE Annual General Meeting will be held from 5.00pm to 6.00pm on the 28th January at The Wellcome Trust, 215 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BE. The AGM is open to all CaSE members. CaSE will be launching its new strategy at the meeting. AGM papers are available on the CaSE website:
<http://www.sciencecampaign.org.uk/members/meetings.htm>.
Please RSVP for the AGM to Nick Hall at nickh@sciencecampaign.org.uk
- **CaSE Newsletter:** The final issue of CaSE News for 2008 was published in December.
<http://www.sciencecampaign.org.uk/members/casenews/casenews58.pdf>
- **New Member:** School of Pharmacy, University of London

December Diary

31/12/08 **New Year Honours**

CaSE congratulates all of the individuals who were recognised for their service to science and engineering in the 2009 New Year Honours, including CaSE Advisory Council Member Dame Wendy Hall.

18/12/08 **Give Vetting System a Boost**

In a letter published in the Times Higher Education today, Nick Dusic, CaSE Director, argued that the new immigration system, including the Academic Technology Approval Scheme, need to be

efficiently administered and properly resourced if the UK is to remain internationally competitive in attracting promising science and engineering graduate students.

<http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=26&storycode=404751>

18/12/08 **RAE 2008**

Commenting on the results of the 2008 RAE CaSE's director, Nick Dusic, said, "Today's RAE results take universities one step closer to finding out the level of quality related research funding they will receive from the Higher Education Funding Councils. There are a multitude of ways in which the results could be used to determine the level of funding, which will be announced in March. It is critical that funding councils are properly resourced in order to support world leading research across the UK."

16/12/08 CaSE attended the Royal Society of Chemistry's parliamentary reception.

12/12/08 **Science for Scotland**

CaSE's director Nick Dusic spoke at the conference on Science, Innovation and Enterprise at the Glasgow Science Centre on Science and Engineering Policies and Priorities for Scotland.

<http://www.sciencecampaign.org.uk/documents/2008/CaSEScienceforScotland.pdf>

11/12/08 **STEM education in Scotland**

CaSE's director Nick Dusic met with Moira Finlayson of STEM-Ed at the University of Glasgow to discuss changes to science education in Scotland.

09/12/08 **Science in an economic downturn**

Writing in Science & Public Affairs CaSE's director Nick Dusic outlined why it is critical to keep science and engineering up the political agenda during the economic downturn.

http://www.the-ba.net/the-ba/News/ReportsandPublications/ScienceAndPublicAffairs/SPAArchive/SPADec08/_DusicSPADec08.htm

08/12/08 **Queen's Speech debate**

CaSE was mentioned twice by Dr Brian Iddon MP (Lab: Bolton South East) in today's parliamentary debate about universities. The first mention was with respect to our name change from Save British Science and our helpful advice to the Government. He also mentioned CaSE's recent policy report on International Excellence: Valuing International Scientists and Engineers. Dr Brian Iddon said, "The report makes some very good recommendations about how to attract foreign students to study and do research and development work in British universities and how to get them to stay here in order to help British industry and commerce develop its exports. I hope that the Secretary of State will take some of those points into account."

05/12/08 **EPSRC doctoral training centres**

CaSE welcomed the announcement that the EPSRC will invest £250 million in training scientists and engineers for the future. Commenting Nick Dusic, said "£250 million to train 2000 highly skilled scientists and engineers over five years is money well spent. The UK needs to ramp up its investment in the people necessary to deliver world leading research and innovative solutions in the future."

04/12/08 **Annual Innovation Report**

CaSE welcomed the launch of the Department for Innovation, University and Skills' Annual Innovation Report. Also published today was the annual progress report on the Ten-Year Science and Innovation Framework. Commenting on the reports CaSE's director, Nick Dusic, said "The annual reporting process for science and innovation is an important reminder for the Government to follow through on previous commitments. It is critical that during tough economic times that the Government is committed to investing in research in its departments, universities and

institutes. Although there has been some progress in turning around the take up of science and mathematics in schools, more needs to be done to reverse the years of decline."

01/12/08 Preferred A levels by Universities

Policy Exchange published a report today entitled *The hard truth about 'soft' subjects* that argued, from suggestive statistics and interviews with admissions tutors, that research-intensive universities show a bias to admitting students who have studied traditional rather than 'soft' subjects. The report urges universities to be clear about their preferred subjects, for UCAS to help relay this information, and for schools to make sure that their careers and education advice is up-to-date. CaSE would like to see further incentives to encourage students to study the hard, high-value, and strategically-important subjects of science, engineering and mathematics.

For more information on our activities go to our website

www.sciencecampaign.org.uk

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