

MINUTES OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE NORTH WEST REGIONAL COLLEGE HELD IN THE BOARDROOM, STRAND ROAD CAMPUS, ON MONDAY 28 MARCH 2011 AT 4.00P.M.

PRESENT: Prof F Monds (Chair)
Ms E Cavanagh
Dame Geraldine Keegan
Mrs G McCafferty
Mr S Murphy (Principal and Chief Executive)
Mr A Rainey

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr C Morrison (Director of Curriculum)
Mr D Kinnaird (Director of Learner Services)
Mr D McClelland (Secretary)

15.1 APOLOGIES

All Committee members were present.

15.2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No member declared a conflict of interest in the business of the meeting.

15.3 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 24 JANUARY 2011

It was proposed by Mr Rainey seconded by Mrs McCafferty and agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting.

Action: Secretary to arrange publication of approved minutes asap.

15.4 MATTERS ARISING

14.1. Apologies. An apology was received from Ms Cavanagh.

14.4 (13.7) Investors in People. In reply to a question, the Director for Learner Services indicated that the College was working towards a revised date in June for IiP assessment. It was intended to extend the process to academic staff in September.

14.8 Retention and Achievement Statistics. (Ref: paper EC15.4) The Chair commented on the useful presentation to the Governing Body. The Principal said that the paper showing all college provision was in a format supplied by DEL. The Director for Learner Services tabled statistics by College School for 09/10. He indicated that the format was not a direct match with DEL's. However, it would be possible to provide internal comparisons year on year which would take into account the revised Schools' structure.

15.5 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

There was no business conducted under this heading.

15.6 DEL CORRESPONDENCE: CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE (Ref: paper EC15.6)

The Principal explained that DEL was undergoing a transition phase with respect to the quality standards it wished to apply to the sector. Centres of Excellence were being phased out and

were being replaced by a Total Quality System. As a result Centres of Excellence were no longer to be subject to inspection. Under TQS, Colleges would still be given the opportunity to have their specialist expertise recognised. The Chair commented on the importance of maintaining this recognition and its links with employers.

15.7 ETI: EVALUATION OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY (Ref: paper EC15.7)

The Chair commented on the high quality of this report. The Principal mentioned that it was a cross-College issue led by the Director for Workforce Development and Administration. Another member wished to congratulate the Director on the outstanding report.

15.8 UU: ACADEMIC COURSE REVIEW ACTION PLAN (Ref: paper EC15.8)

The Director of Curriculum outlined the background to the review which takes into account all comments made in examiners' reports. He said that a number of issues listed were consortium issues and may not apply to the College. He mentioned that QAA would be looking carefully at the College's proposed action plan. The Chair commented on the role the Quality Manager was playing in monitoring progress.

15.9 QAA: COLLEGE SELF-EVALUATION STATEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENTAL REVIEW (Ref: paper EC15.9)

The Director of Curriculum reported that an initial discussion with representatives from QAA had commented favourably on the statement. He said that the full panel would be examining it in greater detail in May. The Chair commented on the emphasis placed on student opinion. In reply to a member's question, the Director said that a representative from UU was involved in the discussions. Members noted the statement.

15.10 DEL HE STRATEGY: CONSULTATION DOCUMENT (Ref: paper EC15.10)

The Chair enquired about the response process to be used by FE. The Principal said that a sector wide response was being prepared which individual Colleges could amend to reflect their own requirements. A number of members commented on the need for the response from the College to be consistent with the ILEX Regeneration Plan for the area. It was agreed that the Principal would circulate the College's draft response to members and invite their comment.

Action: Principal to circulate draft response amongst members when it becomes available.

15.11 ACADEMIC BOARD: AGENDA & MINUTES (Ref: papers EC15.11.1, EC15.11.2 & EC15.11.3)

The Chair commented that it was helpful to have been made aware of the work of the Academic Standards Committee through their minutes. The Principal commented on the important role the Academic Board played in reviewing courses. A member commented on the desirability to be able to map skills required against provision.

15.12 PROPOSED DATES FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2011/12 (Ref: draft paper)

Members agreed that the proposed dates were acceptable.

15.13 CORRESPONDENCE

None.

15.14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. ETI: Whole College self-evaluation and Quality Improvement Report. The Principal tabled the report for the College following a sector-wide inspection. The report listed the main strengths and areas for improvement which the College would be addressing. Overall ETI had ‘confidence’ in the College’s processes.

2. Renewable Energy and Heating Equipment Training and Assessment Scheme (HETAS) Facilities Development. The Principal reported that, when negotiations are complete, this development should establish the College as the HETAS Centre for Ireland. He said there would be financial and resources support coming from the industry and from government. The Chair welcomed this development.

Date of next meeting. - Monday 13 June 2011 at 4.00pm in Strand Road.

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 5.05pm.

Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date: _____