
MINUTES OF THE TWELTH MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE NORTH WEST REGIONAL COLLEGE HELD IN THE BOARDROOM, STRAND ROAD CAMPUS, ON MONDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2010 AT 4.00PM.

PRESENT: Mr A Rainey (Chair)
Mr M Agnew
Mrs J Doherty (from 4.20pm)
Mr H Faulkner (ex-officio)
Mr S Murphy (Director)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr P McKeown (Assistant Director, Finance)
Mr T Mahon (Estates Manager) (until 4.45pm)
Mr D McClelland (Secretary)

12.1 APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Mr A O'Connor.

12.2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

12.3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 NOVEMBER 2009

It was proposed by Mr Faulkner seconded by Mr Agnew and agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting.

Action: Secretary to publish approved minutes asap.

12.4 MATTERS ARISING

11.8 Revised Budget. Following discussion it was agreed that the issue of medium to long term financial planning would be considered at the next meeting of the Committee by which time more information should be available about funding levels for the next financial year.

Action: Assistant Director to prepare a paper on medium to long term financial planning for next Committee meeting.

11.9.1 Accommodation at Strabane. The Estates Manager reported that DEL required a full economic appraisal to be carried out for the proposed additional accommodation. It was hoped to progress this along with the tendering procedure. A progress report would be provided at the next Committee meeting.

Action: Estates Manager to provide update on acquisition of additional accommodation at Strabane for the next Committee meeting

11.9.2 Economic Appraisal for the new fitness suite at the Lawrence Building. It was agreed that savings to be gained should be identified for the next Committee meeting.

Action: Estates Manager to identify savings for next Committee meeting

It was agreed to take item 12.10 at this point in the agenda after which the Estates Manager left the meeting.

12.5 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

No business was conducted under this heading.

12.6 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS (Ref: paper FC12.6)

The Assistant Director updated members on the College accounts for the period to 31 December 2009. The report showed, for year to date, actual total income of £15,145,923 and total expenditure of £12,774,638. The Assistant Director discussed some of the major variances with members. The Director pointed out that efficiencies relating to the new contract were beginning to be realised. The Assistant Director also referred members to the balance sheet and to current investments.

The Assistant Director tabled an Aged Debtors Report as of 8 February 2010. He mentioned the pursuance of fees from HE students not funded by the Student Loan Co. Following discussion it was proposed by Mr Agnew seconded by Mrs Doherty and agreed to recommend to the Governing Body that old debt totalling £12332 made up of individual items less than £750 be written off.

12.7 TENDERS ISSUED (Ref: paper FC12.7)

Members noted the paper.

12.8 FEES POLICY 2010/11(Ref: paper FC12.8)

The Director indicated to members that the proposed fees structure remained the same as the policy for the current academic year. It was proposed by Mrs Doherty seconded by Mr Faulkner and agreed to recommend to the Governing Body the adoption of the fees policy for 2010/2011.

12.9 STUDENTS UNION CONSTITUTION (Ref: Paper FC12.9)

The Assistant Director informed members that the paper was based on a model suggested by NUS / ISA with a few amendments. He indicated that audited accounts of the Students Union would be presented to the Governing Body on an annual basis. It was agreed to recommend to the Governing Body the adoption of the Students Union Constitution.

12.10 ESTATES ISSUES UPDATE

12.10.1 Lawrence Building and Boating House Lane new build. The Estates Manager reported that the upper floors of the Lawrence Building were due to be completed and ready for occupation by September 2010, the remaining lower floors being ready by November 2010 and the Boating House Lane building by January 2011. He mentioned that it would be necessary to extend the lease on the City Factory for 1 more year. In relation to a difficulty with a third party over the ownership of a boundary wall it was proposed by Mr Faulkner seconded by Mrs Doherty and agreed to recommend to the Governing Body that, in principle, transfer of the total length of the wall would be made to the third party and their reasonable costs met on completion of the building work subject to written approval being obtained from DEL and the receiving of satisfactory

legal advice to include the post-completion situation. Members then requested that they had the opportunity to visit the new build at an appropriate time. Further, the Estates Manager advised that the College would be seeking to obtain planning permission for a change of use of the Christchurch building prior to actioning its disposal.

12.10.2 Strabane Campus. The Director related to members the historical background to the use of a building on the Strabane Campus by a third party. To regularise the situation he proposed that a new licence agreement be drawn up with the party concerned. It was proposed by Mrs Doherty seconded by Mr Agnew and agreed to recommend to the Governing Body that the new licence be drawn up and the third party invited to sign their agreement to it.

12.10.3 Northside building. The Director indicated that it had been agreed to extend the College's lease of the building for a further year. Members requested information on the range of the College's outreach centres with costs.

Actions: (1) Director / Estates Manager to obtain written approval from DEL and legal advice on the proposal to resolve the difficulty with a third party relating to the Boating House Lane build and report back to GB / Committee when obtained.

(2) Estates Manager to make arrangements for members to visit new build.

(3) Director / Estates Manager to draw up new licence for third party on Strabane campus to sign and report back to Committee.

(4) Estates Manager / Assistant Director to supply list of out-centres with relevant costs for next Committee meeting.

12.11 CORRESPONDENCE

None.

12.12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Assistant Director informed members that, due to staffing issues, it will be necessary to maintain the existing arrangements for processing the payroll of non-teaching staff for a further year.

Date of next meeting: Monday 29 March 2010 at 4.00pm in Strand Road Campus.
This being all the business the Chair closed the meeting at 5.30pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____