

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTEENTH 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 14 JUNE 2010 AT 4.00PM.**

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**PRESENT:** Mr A Rainey (Chair)  
Mr M Agnew  
Mrs J Doherty  
Mrs M Lestas (from 4.15pm)  
Mr S Murphy (Director)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr P McKeown (Assistant Director, Finance)  
Mr T Mahon (Estates Manager) for item 14.9  
Mr D McClelland (Secretary)

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**14.1 APOLOGIES**

An apology was received from Mr A O'Connor.

**14.2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

The Chair mentioned that he had a family relationship with the person commissioned to produce an artistic piece for the centenary celebrations at the Limavady campus.

**14.3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 MARCH 2009**

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

*Action: Secretary to publish approved minutes asap.*

**14.4 MATTERS ARISING**

None

[At this point in the meeting it was agreed to consider item 14.9 after which the Estates Manager left the meeting. Mrs Lestas arrived during this item]

**14.5 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

The Chair requested that, at the next Committee meeting, members consider issues arising from the Finance section of the Governance Healthcheck 2010.

*Action: Secretary to circulate Finance section of Healthcheck to members for next Committee meeting*

**14.6 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS (Ref: paper FC14.6)**

The Assistant Director updated members on the College accounts for the period to 30 April 2010. The report showed, for year to date, actual total income of £26,545,012 and total expenditure of £23,811,785. In relation to the projected outturn position for the 2009/2010 financial year, it was noted by the year end that the estimated deficit was expected to be approximately £451,000. The Assistant Director discussed some of the major variances with members. The Assistant Director also referred members to the balance sheet and to current investments. The Assistant Director then referred members to the Aged Debtors Report as of 4 June 2010. He pointed out that income from student loans and from schools had contributed to the major reduction in debt. Members noted the management accounts details.

**14.7 TENDERS ISSUED (Ref: paper FC14.7)**

The Assistant Director distributed an updated paper which included the planned budget for each tender item. He referred to those items where assessment was currently taking place.

**14.8 FINANCIAL REVIEW 2010/11 to 2012/13 (Ref: paper FC14.8)**

The Chair introduced this item by referring to the potentially serious financial situation the College would face in the next few years and the need to begin to make preparations now. The Assistant Director explained that the paper set out the proposed budget for 2010/11 in detail as well as proposed efficiency measures over the medium to long term.

In relation to the budget for 2010/11 he referred to DEL's announcement that the MASN numbers of full-time HE students in FE colleges was being re-distributed across the 6 colleges and that NWRC's number was being reduced by 50. The Director said that it was highly unsatisfactory that a wider view of HE provision had not taken place. He also mentioned the apparent contradiction with the ILEX HE proposals for the area. It was proposed by Mrs Doherty seconded by Mr Agnew and agreed to recommend to the Governing Body that a letter be written to DEL expressing concern about the matter. The Director also indicated the desirability for contributions to savings coming from the PFI contractor. It was proposed by Mr Agnew seconded by Mrs Lestas and agreed to recommend to the Governing Body that the Director enter into negotiations with the PFI contractor to identify their contribution to the overall savings required by the College. Following further discussion on issues relating to the budget for 2010/11 it was proposed by Mr Agnew seconded by Mrs Doherty and agreed to recommend to the Governing Body that the budget for 2010/11 be approved.

Discussion then took place on the longer term issues and the proposed efficiency measures outlined in the paper which could be adopted against the likelihood of a reduction in grant levels. The Director referred to proposals he was bringing to the Staffing Committee. It was proposed by Mrs Doherty seconded by Mrs Lestas and agreed to recommend to the Governing Body that the Directorate proceed to progress the measures outlined in the paper.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director for the work he had carried out in preparation for the meeting. It was agreed that the paper should be circulated to members of the Governing Body.

*Action: Secretary to circulate paper to members of the GB.*

#### 14.9 ESTATES ISSUES UPDATE (Ref: paper FC14.9)

**Strabane Campus: additional accommodation.** The Estates Manager indicated that he expected DEL approval shortly. He said consultants were assessing some of the tenders received.

**Lawrence Building: new fitness suite.** The Estates Manager informed members that the lowest tender for the equipment was well below budget.

**Strand Road Development.** The Estates Manager suggested that a potential shortfall in budget may be off-set by the disposal of the Christchurch building. The Chair commented on the pleasing appearance of the new build. Arrangements for a site visit prior to the GB meeting on 29 September 2010 were being made.

**Limavady Campus.** The Assistant Director reported that a problem had arisen with water ingress in the new Benevenagh building resulting in the College withholding its retainer fee. A court hearing had found in the College's favour. Discussions would now take place with the contractor to identify the work needed to right the matter.

#### 14.10 CORRESPONDENCE

None.

#### 14.11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

**Date of next meeting:** It was agreed to meet on Wednesday 29 September 2010 at 3.00pm in Strand Road.

This being all the business the Chair closed the meeting at 5.40pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_