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**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE NORTH WEST REGIONAL COLLEGE HELD IN THE BOARDROOM, STRAND ROAD CAMPUS ON TUESDAY 6 MAY 2008 AT 5.00 PM**

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**PRESENT:** Mr E Beattie (Chair)  
Mrs J Doherty  
Mr H Faulkner  
Mr L Gallagher  
Mrs M Lestas  
Mrs G McCafferty  
Mr D McMahon (to 6.15pm)  
Prof F Monds  
Mr S Murphy (Director)  
Mr A O'Connor  
Mr A Rainey  
Mr A Smyth

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ms M Thompson (LSDA) for item 7.9  
Mr G McGuckin (Assistant Director, College Development) for item 7.8  
Mr D McClelland (Secretary)

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**7.1 APOLOGIES**

Dame Geraldine Keegan, Miss E Cavanagh

**7.2 INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

The Chair welcomed Mrs McCafferty and Mr Smyth to their first meeting of the Governing Body. He wished them well during their term of office. He invited them to consider, in conjunction with the Secretary, their involvement in the work of the Committees of the Governing Body.

**7.3 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1 APRIL 2008**

It was pointed out that Mr McMahon's name had been omitted from the list of those present. With this amendment it was proposed by Mr McMahon seconded by Mr Murphy and agreed that the minutes were an accurate report of the meeting.

**7.4 MATTERS ARISING**

**6.3 (5.3) (4.3) (3.5) Co-option of member.** The Chair reported that the matter was being considered by an appropriate professional body.

**6.3 (5.8) Code of Conduct.** The Secretary reported that a response from DEL considered members' assent to the Nolan Principles constituted basic provision. It encouraged Colleges to develop a more detailed Code of Ethics. It was agreed that the Audit & Risk Committee should consider the matter and report back.

**6.3 (5.12) Register of Interests.** The Secretary reported that he had received the Register for the members of the Senior Management Team.

**6.11. Secure web-site for GB members.** The Secretary reported that the web-site was

operational and that papers from past meetings could now be accessed by members.

#### **7.5 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE REPORT (Ref: Draft Minutes)**

The Chair of the Committee drew members attention to the draft minutes of the special meeting held on 15 April 2008 relating to additional spend totalling £1.2m on college projects and capital items. He reported that following scrutiny of the various projects by the Committee the Chair of the GB had then approved the spend and that procurement had commenced. Members commented that, when bringing forward proposals for future projects, it would be helpful to include factors relating to cost benefit and quality. It was proposed by Mr O'Connor seconded by Prof Monds and agreed to adopt the draft minutes of the Committee.

#### **7.6 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

The Chair reported on the following matters:

- It had been agreed that the policy relating to the appeals procedure for dismissed students should be reviewed.
- Discussions were on-going with DEL in relation to Phase 1 of the College Development Plan. DEL had indicated that the college's budget share may be known by the end of the month. The Director commented that DEL's timing of the budget process made effective planning difficult.
- Following the failure of staff-side to accept the Pilling proposals to end the pay dispute consideration was being given to progress staff compliance with the terms of their contract.

#### **7.7 DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Director said he was pleased to report on the following matters:

- A very successful open day including the opening of new motor vehicle facilities at Springtown
- A very successful science event involving 10 primary schools. Follow-up was planned in conjunction with WELB.
- A high degree of success has been achieved by students receiving multi-media awards.

The Chair asked that congratulations be passed on to staff and students concerned with these matters.

#### **7.8 STRATEGIC PLANNING (Ref: Paper GB7.8)**

The Chair welcomed the Assistant Director (College Development) to the meeting. In presenting the proposed plan the Assistant Director expressed his appreciation of input from the Chair and the Director. The Chair then encouraged members to add their comments on the draft plan. In response some of the comments made included

- The need to maintain consistency on issues across the plan
- The need to clarify the rationale behind the strategic priorities
- The need to establish a close link between the Strategic Plan and the College Development Plan
- The plan should include a reflection on how strengths and opportunities described can be further enhanced
- The college's marketing strategy should be incorporated in the plan

- Engagement with local business to check the plan is reflecting need
- Competition as a threat not fully reflected in the plan.

The Chair asked members to forward any further comments to the Assistant Director. It was agreed that a revised plan would be brought to the next meeting of the Governing Body

#### **7.9 GOVERNANCE HEALTH CHECK 2008 (Ref: Paper GB7.9)**

The Chair welcomed Ms Thompson from LSDA to the meeting. She outlined the purposes of the initial health check

- To enable the Governing Body to establish a base-line for benchmarking itself year on year and against other Governing Bodies
- To identify areas where training may be desirable

She also mentioned that

- The health check should be completed anonymously
- After analysis the Governing Body will receive a confidential report from LSDA
- DEL will receive a general global report on governance as a whole

Some members expressed concern at having to complete the document so early in their term of office. Others felt it would be a useful exercise to undertake at this stage. It was agreed that members would complete the health check and return it to the Secretary within the next 7 days.

#### **7.10 COLLECTIVE PAY BARGAINING (Ref: Paper GB7.10)**

The Chair outlined difficulties which had arisen in progressing the resolution of the pay dispute. Although one of the Unions involved and a majority of staff at some colleges had accepted the Pilling proposals, adherence to collective bargaining had prevented their implementation at those colleges. While college employers had acted collectively union negotiators had been unable to do so, raising doubts as to the usefulness of continuing with the arrangement. As a result the Association of Northern Ireland Colleges (ANIC) has been requested to review the future negotiating options open to colleges including revised arrangements for pay bargaining. Following this review, due for completion before the end of June and after the last scheduled meeting of the Governing Body for this year, it may be necessary to withdraw the college from the present negotiating arrangements. It was proposed by Mr Faulkner seconded by Mr Gallagher and agreed that the Chair and Director be allowed to proceed with this option if it became necessary to progress a settlement.

#### **7.11 SECRETARY'S BUSINESS**

None

#### **7.12 CORRESPONDENCE**

None

#### **7.13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair of the Staffing Committee requested that a disciplinary hearing be arranged for a member of staff even if resignation took place. This was agreed.

**Date of next meeting.** It was agreed to meet on Tuesday 3 June 2008 at 5.00pm in the Limavady Campus.

This being all the business the meeting ended at 7.00pm