
MINUTES OF THE TWENTY SECOND MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE NORTH WEST REGIONAL COLLEGE HELD IN THE STRAND ROAD CAMPUS ON WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL 2011 COMMENCING AT 5.00PM

PRESENT: Mr H Faulkner (Chair)
Mr M Agnew
Ms E Cavanagh
Dame Geraldine Keegan
Mr D Limb
Mr W McBride
Prof F Monds
Mr S Murphy (Principal and Chief Executive)
Mr A O'Connor
Mr A Rainey

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr D McClelland (Secretary)

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

22.1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Doherty, Mr Gallagher, Mr McMahon and Mr Smyth.

22.2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

22.3 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 23 FEBRUARY 2011

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

22.4 MATTERS ARISING

None.

22.5 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 4 MARCH 2011

With an amendment to the phrasing of the list of apologies, it was proposed by Prof Monds seconded by Mr Rainey and agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting.

22.6 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

None.

22.7 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 28 MARCH 2011

With an amendment to the phrasing of the list of apologies, it was proposed by Dame Geraldine Keegan seconded by Mr Agnew and agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting.

22.8 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

None.

22.9 MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 4 APRIL 2011

With the addition of an apology from Ms Cavanagh, it was proposed by Mr O'Connor seconded by Dame Geraldine Keegan and agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting.

22.10 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE SPECIAL MEETING

None.

Action: Secretary to publish approved minutes of the above meetings asap.

22.11 EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT (Ref: EC Draft minutes – 28 March 2011)

The Committee Chair referred members to the minutes of the meeting. In particular he mentioned

- Preparation by the College for IIP assessment (non-teaching staff) in June with academic staff joining the process in September.
- The future challenges facing the College as would be reflected by the Retention and Achievement Statistics in the light of a reduced budget and the restructuring of Schools.
- The importance of the College maintaining and being recognised for its Centres of Excellence. The Principal indicated that DEL had now reversed its decision to proceed with introducing TQS across the sector.
- The College had now circulated to Committee members its draft response to DEL's HE strategy consultation document. The Committee Chair said he was pleased to note its consistency with the ILEX Regeneration Plan.
- The development of the College as the HETAS (Heating Equipment and Training Assessment Scheme) centre for Ireland.

It was proposed by Prof Monds seconded by Mr McBride and agreed to adopt the draft minutes of the Committee.

22.12 AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE REPORT (Ref: AC Draft minutes – 28 March 2011)

Prof Monds, as Acting Committee Chair presented the draft minutes of the Committee. He referred to:

- The presentations of risk management by two College schools which had proved very informative
- The proposal to extend the present provider's contract for Internal Audit services for a further year.

It was proposed by Prof Monds seconded by Mr Agnew and agreed to adopt the draft minutes of the Committee and to approve the recommendation that the present provider's contract for IA services be extended for a further year.

22.13 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE REPORT (Ref: FC draft minutes – 4 April 2011)

The Committee Chair referred members to the following matters:

- The management accounts which showed both positive and negative variances but none of major concern. He noted that the updated accounts showed a significant reduction in the cost of redundancies from the estimated figure.

- The decant to the new build on Strand Road had gone smoothly. He commented on the superb quality of the new build as seen by members of the Governing Body on their tour prior to the meeting. The GB Chair asked that all concerned with the project be congratulated on its timely completion and for the smooth operation of the transition arrangements. The GB Chair said that it would be desirable for an official opening to be held during the early part of June. The Principal agreed to liaise with DEL.
- The survey of the City Factory had been completed.
- Defective stairs in the Benevenagh Building, Limavady Campus had been added to the court claim.
- PFI benchmarking exercise related to services at the Strand Road complex had resulted in a favourable financial outcome for the College
- Utilisation of Northside and Maydown. Following a review of use, it was proposed to reduce floor capacity at Northside by one third and to close Maydown at the end of the 2010/11 academic year. The Principal said that an equality impact assessment had been carried out on both buildings.

It was proposed by Mr Rainey seconded by Prof Monds and agreed to adopt the draft minutes of the Committee and to approve

- The recommendation relating to the reduction of use at Northside and the closure of Maydown at the end of the academic year 2010/11.

Action: Principal to communicate congratulations to all involved in the new build project and to liaise with DEL on its official opening.

22.14 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

[The Secretary withdrew from the meeting at this point.]

1. See separate minute.

[The Secretary re-joined the meeting]

2. It was agreed that membership of the Staffing Committee should be expanded. Mr Agnew and Prof Monds agreed to serve as members.

22.15 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (Ref: paper GB22.15 and DEL's letters FE Funding: Recurrent budget allocations 2011/12 (tabled) and Review of MaSN allocation 2011/12 (tabled))

The Principal reported on

- The recurrent budget for 2011/12. He said that the allocation to the College represented a reduction of £880,599 on present year's budget. The College would again be expected to deliver a level of FLUs beyond its budgeted allocation.
- The College's allocation of full-time student numbers for HE (MaSN) was being reduced by a further 44 students. Members of the Governing Body wished to record their extreme disappointment with this further reduction in opportunity for HE provision in the North-West. They pointed out that DEL's strategy was at variance with that determined by the ILEX Regeneration Plan for the area. It was hoped that the forthcoming meeting with DEL officials would see a reversal of this decision.
- Quality Reviews for course teams whose outcomes were less than satisfactory had been completed for this year.
- Decant to new buildings.
- Good news stories.

A member commented on the excellence of the good news stories. She also requested that, on occasions, information be provided on the College's progress towards achieving its strategic aims. Another member suggested it might be useful for the Governing Body to have reports from the Directors from time to time.

22.16 SECRETARY'S BUSINESS

Members noted the suggested arrangements for Committee and Governing Body meetings during 2011/12.

22.17 CORRESPONDENCE

None

22.18 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. The Principal reported that he had had a request for use of the College car-park for the opening of the new bridge celebrations on 25 & 26 June. It was agreed to grant the request subject to satisfactory insurance arrangements being in place.
2. Members noted a letter received from Strabane District Council relating to a possible listing of the Campus main building.
3. The Principal showed members a wood-craft plaque presented to the College by a visiting Portuguese student for display in the new building. It was agreed she should receive a donation of £500.
4. A member welcomed the circulation of the Strategic Plan 2011/14.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 29 June 2011 at 5.00pm in Limavady Campus.

This being all the business the Chair closed the meeting at 6.00pm.

Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date: _____