
MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE NORTH WEST REGIONAL COLLEGE HELD AT THE STRABANE CAMPUS ON WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2009 COMMENCING AT 5.00PM

PRESENT: Mr H Faulkner (Chair)
Miss E Cavanagh (from 5.15pm)
Mrs J Doherty
Mr L Gallagher
Mrs M Lestas (from 5.15pm to 6.00pm)
Prof F Monds
Mr S Murphy (Director)
Mr W McBride
Mrs G McCafferty
Mr D McMahan
Mr A O'Connor
Mr A Rainey
Mr A Smyth (from 5.15pm to 5.55pm)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs K Duffy (Assistant Director, Human Resources)
Mr G McGuckin (Assistant Director, College Development)
Mr D McClelland (Secretary)

The Chair welcomed Mr McBride to his first meeting of the Governing Body.

11.1 APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Dame Geraldine Keegan

11.2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2008

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

11.3 MATTERS ARISING

10.3 (9.3) (8.3)(7.4)(5.3)(4.3)(3.5) – Co-option of members. The Secretary reported that the appointments of Mr Agnew and the student member were still being processed by DEL.

11.4 EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT (Ref: EC Draft Minutes – 19 January 2009)

The Committee Chair drew members' attention to the following matters contained in the draft minutes.

- ETI Inspection Reports
- China Development Update. The Director informed members that a Chinese delegation was presently visiting the College.

ACTION

Secretary –
publish
minutes

- Academic Board - noting that provision for student representation from all 3 main campuses had now been included in the revised Constitution
- Key Strategy themes
- Impact of Economic Downturn. The Committee Chair observed that this matter had been included in the draft College Development Plan
- Recommendation to reduce course fees.

It was proposed by Prof F Monds, seconded by Mr McMahon , and agreed to adopt the draft minutes of the Committee including the 2 recommendations

- to approve the Constitution of the Academic Board and
- to grant approval to further reduce, or waive, course fees for unemployed individuals participating in accredited vocational courses.

11.5 AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE REPORT (Ref: AC Draft Minutes – 19 January 2009)

The Committee Chair drew members' attention to the following items contained in the draft minutes

- The impact of the KPMG report on signing off the Financial Statements
- Risk Management Report
- Actions taken as a result of Internal Audit findings
- Code of Conduct for Governors

It was proposed by Mr McMahon seconded by Mr Gallagher and agreed to adopt the draft minutes including the recommendation to adopt the Code of Conduct for Governors.

It was agreed to consider the draft minutes of the special meeting of the Committee later in the meeting and that it would be the subject of a Separate Minute.

11.6 STAFFING COMMITTEE REPORT (Ref: SC Draft Minutes – 2 FEBRUARY 2009)

Mrs Doherty, on behalf of the Committee, drew members' attention to the recommendations contained within the minutes. It was proposed by Mrs Doherty seconded by Prof Monds and agreed to adopt the draft minutes and the recommendations on

- staffing issues
- adopting the Flexible Working Policy
- incremental credit
- extending validity period of AccessNI checks.

11.7 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE (Ref: FC Draft Minutes - 2 February 2009)

The Committee Chair referred to a number of matters contained in the draft minutes

- The potential tenant for Limavady Lifelong Learning building

- Revaluation of land & buildings by L & P Services
- Requirement of PFI building to be included in College accounts
- Increase in staffing costs due to additional class contact time with TFS and Jobskills students

Members enquired about the new build on Strand Road. The Director indicated that all design features had been agreed in principle and that he was confident the contract would be signed shortly.

Members also enquired about investment income arising from information provided in the management accounts. The Director indicated that the matter was under continual review. He undertook to check information regarding the pension reserve.

It was proposed by Mr Rainey seconded by Mr Gallagher and agreed to adopt the draft minutes.

ACTION

Director – to check pension reserve info

11.8 CHAIRMAN’S BUSINESS

The Chairman referred to the forthcoming dinner for the delegation of staff and students from China at which the Governing Body would be represented by Prof Monds.

He also paid tribute to the exacting role played by the Director and the Assistant Director (Human Resources) on the protracted discussions on pay and conditions of service at sector level with the Lecturers’ Negotiating Committee.

11.9 DIRECTOR’S REPORT (Ref: Paper GB11.9)

1. The Director outlined the background to the regional aspect of negotiations on lecturers’ pay and conditions of service. He said that, after discussions involving the Labour Relations Agency, a further offer involving an increase in salary together with contractual changes was presently on the table for staff side to consider. The outcome of their response was still awaited.
2. The Director then provided members with the historical context of issues relating to the local branch of the lecturers’ professional association and the difficulties being experienced in seeking to harmonise conditions of service across the College. The Chair reported on a meeting he had had with branch representatives earlier in the day. He indicated that he would be writing to the Regional Official to express his concern at the derogatory tone of recent correspondence which he had found totally unacceptable. Members expressed their support for the Chair & Director in seeking to resolve the issues in line with agreed policy.
3. The Director indicated that a small number of redundancies may be necessary later in the year. It was agreed that the Staffing Committee would consider criteria to be used.

Staffing Committee – to consider criteria for redundancies

11.10 ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2007/08

As outstanding matters had still not been fully resolved it was agreed to defer this item.

11.11 COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009/2010 (Ref: Paper GB11.11)

The Assistant Director (College Development) presented the draft plan and invited comment. A member commented on the brevity of the consultation period. Another member commented on the recognition given in the plan of the present economic and social climate.

The Assistant Director then tabled Phase 1 of the CPD for 2009/2010 containing past, present and projected enrolment/FLU data. It was agreed it should form the basis of discussion with DEL for funding negotiations.

ACTION**11.12 GOVERNANCE HEALTH CHECK (Ref: Paper GB 10.14)**

The Secretary outlined the context of this exercise and referred members to the 3 recommendations listed in the report. He felt that the natural development of GB business met some of the proposals suggested.

11.13 SECRETARY'S BUSINESS

None

11.14 CORRESPONDENCE

Letters had been received from

- OFMDFM on Disability Survey
- UCU in reply to previous correspondence
- AD McCloy & Co. on Noxious Emissions. The Director indicated the matter was being attended to.

11.15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 29 April 2009 at 5.00 pm at the Strand Road campus.

This being all the business the Chair closed the meeting at 7.25 pm