
MINUTES OF THE TWENTY SECOND MEETING OF THE STAFFING COMMITTEE OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE NORTH WEST REGIONAL COLLEGE HELD IN THE BOARDROOM, STRAND ROAD CAMPUS ON MONDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2011 AT 4.00PM

PRESENT: Dame Geraldine Keegan (Chair)
Mr M Agnew
Mr H Faulkner
Mr D McMahon (from 4.15pm)
Prof F Monds
Mr S Murphy (Principal and Chief Executive)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs K Duffy (Director, Workforce Development & Administration)
Mr D McClelland (Secretary)

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. She then expressed the sympathy of members to Mrs Duffy on her recent family bereavement.

22.1 APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Mrs J Doherty.

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 20 JUNE 2011

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

Action: Secretary to publish approved minutes asap.

22.4 MATTERS ARISING

No matter was discussed under this heading.

22.5 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

No business was conducted under this heading.

22.6 APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS (Ref: Paper SC22.6)

The Director referred members to the paper. It contained recent appointments including posts related to the Steps to Work programme. In reply to a question, the Director indicated that new posts created had taken into account the redundancy situation. Leavers included part-time lecturers whose temporary contracts had come to an end, there were no financial implications to the College. In reply to another question, the Director said that, as from 31 August 2011, there was no longer a specific retirement age. Staff would now retire on the basis of resigning their post. A member requested that members of the Governing Body be more involved in the appointments' procedure. The Director indicated that the policy included members sitting on appointments' panel for posts of Head of Department level and above. Members noted the paper.

22.7 STAFFING ISSUES (Ref: paper SC22.7)

The Director referred members to the paper. It was proposed by Mr Faulkner seconded by Prof Monds and agreed to recommend to the Governing Body that the request from 1 member of staff for a year's secondment be granted.

22.8 LEGAL CASES UPDATE (Ref: paper SC22.8 tabled)

The Director referred to two cases pending.

22.9 'LISTENING TO STAFF' SURVEY UPDATE

The Director tabled a paper detailing comments made by staff as part of the survey in May. She had sought to categorise them and then had formulated proposed actions. The next step would be to share the document with the staff consultative committee whose members would then discuss with their School focus groups. At the same time managers would be following a training project on 'improving relations within the College'. There then followed a discussion on opportunities for members of the Governing Body to be more visible to College staff. It was agreed to re-visit this matter after the DEL's review of governance had been completed.

22.10 REDUNDANCIES UPDATE

The Principal briefed members on the outcomes of the redundancy situations.

22.11 SECTION 75: PROGRESS REPORT 2010/11 (Ref: paper SC22.11)

The Director referred to the report which contained the activities undertaken during the past year to encourage the promotion of equality and good relations. She also pointed out proposed changes to policies and practice in the forthcoming year. Members commented favourably on the report.

22.12 CORRESPONDENCE

None.

22.13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The GB Chair mentioned a letter he had received from the Chair of the Department's Assembly Committee. He considered that, as he is an appointee of the Minister, it was inappropriate for such correspondence to be sent directly to him. He had therefore referred the matter back to the Department. Members of the Committee fully concurred with the action the Chair had taken.

Date of next meeting: Monday 14 November 2011 at 5.30pm in Strand Road Campus.

The Chair closed the meeting at 5.20pm.

Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date: 14 November 2011