
MINUTES OF THE FORTY NINTH MEETING OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE NORTH WEST REGIONAL COLLEGE HELD IN THE BOARDROOM, STRAND ROAD CAMPUS ON TUESDAY 4 JUNE 2019, COMMENCING 1610

PRESENT: Mr M O’Kane, Committee Chair
Mr S McGregor
Mr G Killeen
Mr A Magee (until 1715)
Mr L Murphy, Principal & Chief Executive
Dr M O’Neill
Mr B Quinn
Mrs L Taggart

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs G Lavery, HoD Health & Sports (for presentation item only)
Ms V McWilliams, DIAL Centre Manager (for presentation item only)
Mrs D McElwee, Acting Vice Principal, Curriculum & Information Services
Mrs L McGonigle, Boardroom Apprentice
Mrs É Doherty, Governance Secretary

The Committee Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, he invited Mrs G Lavery, HoD Health & Sport and Ms V McWilliams, recently appointed Manager, DIAL (Design Innovation Assisted Living) Centre to the meeting.

Mrs Lavery and Ms Mc Williams provided an interesting and informative presentation on the journey of the DIAL Centre. The building was formally signed off in February 2019 and the last four months has focused on bringing the internal demonstration environment towards full functionality and to establish presence and networks with a range of stakeholders. The work and standing of DIAL is also elevated and integrated with the Health and Social Curriculum Hub and Sectoral Partnership. Members were brought through the Business Plan to August 2020 and got the opportunity to present their questions.

It was agreed that the Committee hold their next meeting in the Centre.

The Committee Chair thanked Mrs Lavery and Ms Williams for their presentation.

Mrs Lavery and Ms Williams left the meeting at this juncture.

49.1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr P Canavan and Mr S Gillespie.

49.2 CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS/DECLARATIONS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No conflict of interest declarations were made. Mr B Quinn requested that he speak on a matter under any other business. The Committee Chair agreed to this.

49.3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 APRIL 2019.

➤ **PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TO ALL MEMBERS**

Paper EC 49.3 Final Draft Education Committee Minutes of 9 April 2019

It was taken that the Final Draft Minutes were read and were a true and accurate record of the meeting.

PROPOSED; Mr M O’Kane

SECONDED; Mr A Magee

49.3.1 MATTERS ARISING – 9 April 2019 Committee Meeting

48p **AGREED ACTIONS; to write to the Careers Academy Team congratulating them on receipt of the Beacon Award.**

Update; The receipt of the Award was reported at the Governing Body meeting on 9 May 2019 and the Board endorsed the views of the Committee to acknowledge the team.

48.3.1 **College Curriculum Plan to be provided for the June 2019 Committee Meeting**

Update: Curriculum Plan was not ready for issue – to be available for the first Committee meeting of 2019/20.

48.5 **Management Report – final CDP 2019/20 to come through June Committee**

Update: CDP provided as paper for June meeting (EC 49.5, Report 5)

49.4 COMMITTEE CHAIR’S BUSINESS

The Chair had no business to discuss he welcomed Mrs D McElwee in her new role as Acting Vice Principal, Curriculum & Information Services and invited her to present her report to the Committee.

49.5 MANAGEMENT REPORT – Mrs D McElwee, Acting Vice Principal Curriculum & Information Services

➤ **PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TO ALL MEMBERS**

PAPER EC.49.5 Management Report

Report 1 - Summer School Provision

Report 2 - Correspondence from ETI to Principal, May 2019

Report 2b - Inspection Report

Report 5 - College Development Plan 2019/20 Final

Report 5b - Summary Educational Report Cards

Report 9 - Academic Standards Committee Minutes, Feb 2019

The Acting Vice Principal indicated that enrolments reported at the Committee meeting in April 2019 stated that 88% of target was achieved. As of 28 May 2019 the enrolments were now at 93% on target. A summer provision of short, accredited, part time courses are planned to run from mid-June to late July 2019 which may help to improve targets.

The Acting Vice Principal referred to Reports 2, 2b, correspondence and Report from the ETI regarding ETI’s visit to the College in April 2019 to carry out a follow up inspection of Wood Occupations. The Report indicated that the quality of the education and training provided by the College was now graded as ‘good’. The ETI also carried out an inspection in May 2019 to evaluate the quality of provision provided by the six FE Colleges under the Education Progression Pathway Programme. Verbal feedback on this inspection has been positive.

In reference to the Higher Education Update, including HLAs the 2019/20 CDP had targeted 654 MaSN. This was a reduction from 710 in 2018/19 as the College achieved 80% of this target enrolment in 2018/19 (568).

Following the bilateral meeting held in April 2019 the Department confirmed that they intended to reduce the Sector MaSN target. A target of 598 would be set for the College. Members discussed the challenges the College continues to face to reach the MaSN targets. In continuing her Report the Acting Vice Principal stated that the National Student Survey and a QDP Student Survey had been completed. The National Student Survey response rate was 76.8% which is a significant improvement on last year's rate of just over 50%. Results will be published on 3 July 2019.

The participation rates in the QDP Student Survey 2018-2019 have also improved considerably from the two surveys completed in 2017-2018. Overall the results for the College were positive. The overall course satisfaction rates in both surveys were high with 92% and 93% agreeing they would 'recommend the College to a friend'. The Acting Vice Principal in response to a member's question confirmed that the outcomes from the surveys are followed up internally.

An update was provided on the Maths Centre that continues to deliver support to those students seeking extra help.

It was agreed to invite the HoD to provide a presentation at a future Committee.

The Acting Vice Principal referred to the College Development Plan 2019/20 now in final draft. The Plan now includes the two scenarios that the Department requested to be added, scenario 1; if no additional money is available from the Department for pay pressures - in this instance the College enrolments will be reduced by 1,270 to 15,340. Scenario 2, is where the additional money for pay pressures will be forthcoming. In this instance the College will aim to deliver 16,610 enrolments.

Members were content to approve the College Development Plan 2019/20

PROPOSED; Mr M O'Kane

SECONDED; Mr G Killeen

Members noted the Academic Standards Committee Draft Minutes from February 2019.

The Committee Chair thanked Mrs McElwee for her report.

Mr S McGregor left the meeting for a short time during this item.

Mr A Magee left the meeting during this item.

49.6 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2019/20

Members noted the Schedule of meetings.

49.7 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report on.

49.8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr B Quinn had a query regarding a governance issue, it was confirmed work is ongoing on this matter and a report will come through the relevant Committee.

That being the end of business the Chair thanked everyone and the meeting ended at 1725.

Date of Next Meeting: 29 October 2019

Signed: _____ Committee Chair

Mr M O’Kane

Date: 29 October 2019

APPROVED