



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SEARCH AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Held at 3.45pm on Thursday, 24 September 2009 in room FO35 of the college.

Present: Paul Pharaoh (Chair), Damian McSweeney, Cath Richardson

Apologies: Norma Boyes; Joe Holliday

In Attendance: Jane Murray (Clerk to the Governors)

13/09 Apologies

It was noted that the apologies which had been received from Norma Boyes and Joe Holliday were owing to the fact that the main item of business included consideration of their re-appointment as Governors.

14/09 Declarations of Interest

None received

15/09 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2009 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

16/09 Financial Management & Control Evaluation (FMCE)

The Clerk tabled the grade components for the new evaluation regime, which were noted. While the full FMCE would be tabled to the Audit Committee, there were issues arising for governance which would require to be considered in the self-assessment follow up. Areas identified thus far included:

- annual review of job descriptions for senior postholders
- performance appraisal for Governors
- college policy on public consultation
- pay & conditions of service for senior postholders (although the revised terms of reference went some way to meeting requirements).

17/09 Annual Membership Update & Review

It was noted that Eunice Simmons had tendered her resignation as a Governor, effective from 1 October 2009, and that Steve Bradley had also tendered his resignation from the end of the year. This left two vacancies.



It was also noted that Joe Holliday and Norma Boyes' appointments as Governors were nearing the end of their office.

The Skills audit was considered in some detail. It was felt that regeneration, particularly with the need for partnership working to deliver the Energy Coast Masterplan, would be a major influence in the medium term and an area in which the Board might be strengthened.

While it was noted that there was knowledge on child protection issues on the Board, it would also be helpful to strengthen this area, possibly through the partnership route.

The priorities for Board Membership in the short-term were therefore West Cumbria Vision Board and the University of Cumbria. In the medium term it would be hoped to seek appointments from the West Cumbria Strategic Partnership and the University of Central Lancashire.

With respect to the re-appointment of Joe Holliday and Norma Boyes, while it was noted that best practice guidance suggested that Governors should not serve for more than two terms, it was nevertheless felt that both Governors had considerable expertise in specialist areas which the Committee would be reluctant to lose at this time. Joe Holliday was the Link Governor for Health and Safety, his area of expertise, and Norma Boyes, was the Link Governor for equality, diversity and child protection. Both Governors also had very strong community links, which was valued by the Board.

It was noted that an error had been made in the appointment of Andrew Oldham, for three rather than four years.

Agreed –

- 1) That West Cumbria Vision Board be approached to nominate a representative to the College Board, making strategic links with the Board whose responsibility it was to drive delivery of the Energy Coast Masterplan.
- 2) That the University of Cumbria be approached to nominate a representative to the Board, and particularly to request whether there might be interest from the child protection/social care faculty.



- 3) That future approaches for Governor appointments might include the West Cumbria Strategic Partnership and the University of Central Lancashire.
- 4) That the Committee should recommend to the Board the re-appointment of Joe Holliday and Norma Boyes, given their specialist expertise.
- 5) That the Committee recommend an amendment to the appointment of Andrew Oldham from three to four years.

18/09 Annual Membership Update & Review (Confidential Session)

The Chairman moved into confidential session.

The attendance record by Governors was considered and it was noted that there were a few governors where attendance had slipped of late. For two Governors, it was known why attendance had slipped and it was expected that this would pick up again in the medium term and the links that they made with the college were particularly strong. Of the other Governors where attendance had been poor, it was felt that they should be approached to find out whether there were similar reasons for their fall in attendance.

- 6) That the Chair writes to those Governors where attendance had slipped and the reason was unknown.

The meeting closed at 4.29pm.