

Minutes of a meeting of the Search and Governance Committee held on Wednesday, 11th December 2013 in the Boardroom of the College.

Present: Mark Stanger; Chris Nattress; Rick Wylie

Apologies: Norma Boyes; Les Agnew; Phil Jardine (owing to the date change)

Also present: Jane Murray (Clerk)

08/13 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2013 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

09/13 Declaration of Interests

None received

10/13 National Policy Developments

The Committee considered a briefing report which included an overview of the Creating Excellence in College Governance report, feedback from the Chair from his attendance at the AOC conference and feedback from the Clerk from the NW Clerks network.

It was noted that there were some actions for Governance locally, but nothing which would give undue concern. The College had changed its governance structure in 2010, had adopted the Foundation Code of Governance, was still mulling over the Accountability Annex and had worked hard (and continued to do so) on succession planning this year.

In addition, Governors had asked and had received revisions to the curriculum reports and the KPIs to focus more on teaching and learning and the student experience, had increased their ownership of self-assessment this year and would continue to develop this.

In addition to feeding back key points from the Conference, the Chair also added the impression that many 'backbenchers' had that there were mixed messages, ie that more private sector skills were needed on a Board encouraging the participation of business people on the one hand, but that some of the messages coming out of the Governors' Council were unrealistic if business people were to participate. He felt that there had to be a greater understanding or the only people that would be attracted were s people.

11/13 Succession Planning

The Clerk noted that with the recent re-appointment of the Chair for a further two years and recent appointments, that there was some stability in Board membership. However, past experiences had shown that the unexpected could arise.

To ensure succession planning of the Chair, it had been suggested that the Vice Chair position be rotated on an annual basis to secure a larger number of governors with the interest and experience to take over the Chairmanship.

On balance the current Vice Chair felt that two years per appointment might be better, but this would revert back to the original appointment period. The Committee felt that it would be beneficial if the current Vice Chair continued until after Easter, which would allow him to Chair a Board meeting, but that an election should be held for a one-year appointment for Vice Chair from Easter, to be continued on an basis and agreed to make a recommendation to the Board to that effect.

The meeting closed at 1.15pm.