

Minutes of a meeting of the Search and Governance Committee held on Thursday, 25th September 2014 at 4.30 pm in the College (FO30).

Present: Mark Stanger (Chair of the meeting); Chris Nattress; Phil Jardine
Apologies: Norma Boyes (Committee Chair); Les Agnew

Also Present: Robin Talbot

06/14 Chairmanship

Agreed – that Mark Stanger take the Chair

07/14 Minutes

Agreed – that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 15th May 2014 be approved and signed as a correct record.

08/14 Annual Overview: of Governance and Membership

The Committee considered an analysis of membership and felt that while there was good representation from key skill groups, including academia, business, financial skills and health and Safety, that a representative from construction would be helpful.

In light of the recent advertising exercise (where one governor had been appointed but others had since withdrawn), it was felt a sector-specific approach would be practical and approaches were agreed. Other potential sectors might be the Arts or the voluntary sector.

With respect to board size, it was felt that it should remain at 18 which allowed some flexibility in approach to membership to accommodate key skills areas where attendance might otherwise prove difficult.

On this subject, the overall attendance rate was in line with the national average at 81% (collated through the Clerk's network), with Board attendance on target at 75%. Plans to publish attendance in the financial statements in line with 'government direction' were noted. The reasons for a few governors' lower attendance were received, noted and understood.

An analysis of Governors' individual self-assessment questionnaires, including the Chair's appraisal, was considered. The results were much in line with previous years, with few areas of concern. . The training plan was considered and the Committee asked for more opportunities for Governors to meet with students, parents and staff, this to be included alongside learning walks and external guest speakers.

In turning to changes in the way governors approach self-assessment, a scorecard approach was considered and agreed. This would be underpinned by the questionnaires previously considered by Governors and Governors would now include the overall performance of the College in their own self-assessment of Governance.

A few minor changes were considered and agreed to the Standing Orders, including a further reservation to the Board, that they would like to consider all initiatives which would impact on the college's finances by +/-£50,000 or which would have a significant on the reputation of the College. Committee memberships for 2014-15 were also agreed for recommendation to the full Board.

The expiry of Mark Telford's term of office was discussed by the Committee and they were happy to recommend his re-appointment to the Board. It was felt that he brought valuable private sectors skills to the Board and his commitment behind the scenes was also noted.

Agreed –

- 1) That the annual overview be noted
- 2) That a 'construction' representative be sought for the vacancy
- 3) That the training plan be approved, subject to more governor/parent/student interaction.
- 4) That the Governance Action Plan for 2014-15 be approved
- 5) That the scorecard approach to Governance self-assessment be adopted
- 6) That amendments to the Standing Orders be recommended for approval
- 7) That Committee Memberships for 2014-15 be recommended for approval
- 8) That Mark Telford be recommended for re-appointment