

Minutes of a meeting of the Search and Governance Committee held on Thursday, 12th February 2015 in the Boardroom of the College.

Present: Norma Boyes (Chair); Les Agnew; Chris Nattress; Phil Jardine (from Minute No 02/15); Mark Stanger; Robin Talbot

Also present: Jane Murray (Clerk)

01/15 Minutes

Agreed – that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 25 September 2014 be approved and signed as a correct record.

02/15 Declarations of Interest

None received.

03/15 Membership Overview

The resignation of Carole Rael (owing to ill health) was noted. This left two vacancies. It was noted that the resignation left a vacancy in governors with teaching and learning experience and it was agreed that this should be a first priority.

It was also felt that the employers coming into the area for nuclear new build should have representation and it was also agreed to pursue this option.

In making these recommendations, governors were mindful of both gender balance and diversity, but felt that the skills' mix was of paramount importance.

Thereafter, it was agreed that other potential skills' set sought might be marketing/public relations/diversity.

Agreed –

- 1) That a teaching and learning expert be sought
- 2) That a representative of NuGen be sought

04/15 Code of Good Governance Consultation

The Clerk had recently attended the NW Clerks' meeting at which there had been a discussion with the lead writer of the Code. It was clear that this

was an attempt to marry together concerns from BIS, from Ofsted and from the FE Commissioner as well as becoming a Code of Good Governance.

The committee concurred that it supported the 'spirit' of the code, but it was quite prescriptive (for example introducing different ways of doing things to achieve the same results), and could be far more succinct, over which they had some reservations and a response was agreed accordingly.

It was noted that if adopted, it would be expected that Colleges would report against the code (rather than the FRC Code of Governance) on a comply or explain basis.

Asked for a steer in terms of how they wanted to take the final version forward, they felt that at the moment, they would like to take a view from the Chair of Audit (given the above) and to take a lead from the sector.

Agreed -

- 1) that the response be approved taking account of the comments made
- 2) that consultation re adoption take place with the Chair of Audit and/or Audit Committee when the code is made public.

05/15 Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill

The Committee received a short briefing on the Prevent strategy and it was agreed that this should form part of the training programme in May.

06/15 Training Plan

A training/briefing record was submitted for governors' consideration, which showed a good deal of activity this year including induction training; teaching and learning walks; self-assessment training, parents' evening and open evening representation; LEP boardroom briefing and some online training. A staff governor had also attended a staff governor training event.

It was agreed that the following subjects should form the basis for the remainder of the year:

- Knowledge testing (by an Ofsted inspector)
- Changes to the success rates
- Prevent Agenda
- Special Educational Needs update

07/15 Self-Assessment

The notes of the November session were received and noted, and issues arising would be incorporated into the action plan.

The meeting closed at 1715h.