



Minutes of a meeting of the Search and Governance Committee held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 1215h by Teams

Present: Elaine Clinton (Chair); Michael Priestley; Beth Wordsworth

Apologies: Chris Nattress; Phil Jardine

Also present: Jane Murray (Clerk)

### **08/22 Minutes**

**Agreed** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

### **09/22 Declaration of Interests**

None received

### **10/22 Governance**

The Committee reflected on the performance of Governance in the Spring Term. They felt that the Board had been challenging, but very supportive of the Executive team, particularly in respect of difficult circumstances and challenges. It had been a considered response to events and demonstrated that the Board was engaged, thoughtful and considered.

The Corporation Chair added that he had enjoyed the Student Board which had been organised and felt that it had been a worthwhile exercise.

### **11/22 Code of Good Governance – Part 2**

The Committee considered a rag rating of performance against the new Code some of which is mandatory and some of which is advisory. While performance is largely green, there were a few actions arising:

- An advisory that the college should publicise the timing of its annual reporting to the local communities it serves.
- Although the Board receives regular, high-level reports on the NCfN, the Corporation Chair would welcome a more in depth look at the NCfN, the company and our part (and performance) therein.
- Requirement to check that the Audit Committee Annual Report includes an assurance on data quality. This is a new requirement of the funders. (Action since: the audit committee annual report details the audits that have taken place. This year the Audit Committee did receive

a report testing the systems and this may have to be an annual exercise, the external auditor carried out additional testing. Consideration needs to take place as to annual reporting).

- There is a mandatory requirement under the new rules for the student voice to be heard throughout all partnership activities. Requirement to check re subcontracting.
- Equality and Diversity: must provide clear evidence of commitment to EDI. Annual report and in-year reporting. New EDI Strategy for approval 2022-23.
- There is an advisory about reporting on EDI in the governance section of the Financial statements. Suggest linking to the E & D annual report instead.
- To note that there is now a requirement for recruitment panels for SPHs to include external representation on a recruitment panel.
- Need to amend standing orders to include a job description for the Vice Chair.

These actions, and the those of part 1 at the last meeting, would form the Governance Action Plan and there would be a Part 3 when the Green Strategy was avail

### **12/22 Vacancy update**

The Board continued to have two vacancies. The person interested from the NDA has failed to make contact and therefore it was considered that interest had waned. This person was domiciled in the north east and therefore, might have been a stretch too far.

Some interest had been expressed by a person returning to the UK to work with a local employer and contact had been made and would be followed up.

Some interest had also been received following a LinkedIn advert. The person worked at Sellafield and therefore there was no rush to appoint (currently several people on the Board working at Sellafield but one shortly to retire). This person would bring Human Resources experience to the Board.

**The meeting closed at 1305h.**