

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATION HELD AT 5:15 PM ON TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2022 AT NEWCASTLE COLLEGE

Present: Alan Aston, Tracy Bullock, Jeff Dutton, Martin Earnshaw, Craig Hodgson, Beckie Jones, Gareth Jones, Mary Jones, Steve Jones, Simon Leech (Chair), Alishah Malik, Jeremy Pert, Jim Rowley, Francis Tunney

In attendance: Andy Bailey (Head of Compliance and Governance), Shelley Brown (Director of Curriculum and Performance), Ian Hookway (Director of HR and Communications), Jason Lancaster (Director of IoT and Employer Partnerships), Lesley Morrey (Director of Student Engagement and Partnerships), Carl Riding (Director of Estates and Sustainability), Debbie Torjussen (Director of Finance and Corporate Services from 1 Jan 2023), Joy Smith (Deputy Clerk)

PART 1

Tracy Bullock retired from the meeting for agenda item 22.7.1

22.7.1 Membership

Simon welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the two new student Governors, Alishah and Becki.

Simon referred to the earlier meeting of the Search Committee which had recommended the renewal of David O'Neill as a co-opted member of the Education and Standards Committee, Jeremy Pert as a full member of the Corporation and Tracy Bullock as a new full member of the Corporation. Craig advised that Tracy is Chief Executive of the UHNM. He had met her at external events and she was particularly interested in joining our Board. He felt that she would be a fantastic appointment to the Board.

After consideration, members approved David and Jeremy's re-appointment and Tracy's appointment to the Corporation.

Simon also welcomed Debbie Torjussen who will be joining the College as Director of Finance and Corporate Services after Christmas.

Tracy Bullock was invited to join the meeting and was welcomed to the Board.

22.7.2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Lesley Rollason and Bernard Lovatt.

20.7.3 Declarations of Interest

Simon Leech, Gareth Jones and Craig Hodgson all declared an interest as non-remunerated Directors of Axia Solutions Ltd and Gradbach Ltd.

Gareth Jones and Jeremy Pert both declared an interest as members of Stafford Borough Council.

22.7.4 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 July 2022 - Part 1**

Approved as a true record of the meeting.

22.7.5 **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

22.7.6 **Principal's Report - Part 1**

1 – Start of the Year

Craig was pleased to report that the start to the new academic year had gone very well with the introduction of a new induction week and a new, more effective, way of dealing with students who wished to transfer courses early on in the term.

2 – Open Events

Craig reported that the first open event had taken place last week at NUL when we saw the highest number of visitors ever. Another event will be held this week at Stafford and early indications are that this will also be busy.

3 – Student of the Month

Craig reported that we have commenced the SOTM awards. This year we are endeavouring to secure external award presenters with Steve Tellwright, HR Director from Capula and Tim Clegg, Chief Executive from Stafford Borough Council presenting the September awards. They had both been extremely impressed with the students who were such worthy winners.

4 – Stafford Together

Members were very impressed by the herculean efforts by Jeremy and Lesley to raise funds for the Stafford Together charity and expressed congratulations to all involved.

5 – Australian Industry Trade College

Members noted that Newcastle College had hosted a fact finding visit last week for colleagues from the Australian Industry Trade College who had been interested to hear about our Ofsted, IoT, merger etc. Craig commented that everything had gone well and we are hopeful of a reciprocal visit!

6 – Multiply

Jason reported on the successful bid for a 3 year programme of maths updating provision. The total funding is £620k over the 3 years. He added that this provision does currently fall outside of Ofsted's activities.

7 – Strategic Development Fund (SDF)

Jason gave an overview of the SDF which is a short-term fund to be spent in this financial year. Work is underway to strengthen collaboration with other local colleges and includes a broad range of activities with priorities around engineering automation and the technical aspects of construction. Jason confirmed that NSCG's share of the fund is £633k which we will work hard to fully utilise by the deadline.

8 – Results

Shelley was delighted to report on the excellent set of results this year which placed us in a very strong position, locally and nationally. A Levels results are the strongest we have ever seen (even when implementing the CAG and TAG systems during Covid). 64% of students achieved A*-B and 87% A*-C. We have also seen really strong A+ provision with 100% pass rates and strong high grades.

BTEC provision saw many students sitting exams for the first time and the introduction of the new reformed BTEC qualifications and we were delighted with this year's results, particularly the high DDD achievements.

Alan thanked Shelley and Gavin Barker for the detailed analysis of the data presented to the earlier Education and Standards Committee. Shelley added that once the data has been confirmed next Thursday the Self-Assessment Report will be prepared. If anyone wishes to come in and have some time looking at the data with Shelley she would be happy to accommodate this. Alan reminded colleagues of the previous concerns that many of these students had never sat formal exams and the issue around the inflation of the CAG and TAG results nationally. Despite that we are sitting on an outstanding set of results which is a real testament to the hard work of the staff and the resilience of the young people involved. A huge thank you was extended to everyone.

Jeremy commented that this performance really does take the College up to the next level and it is important that the staff realise that the Corporation are proud of their achievements and recognise their efforts. Craig confirmed that members' sentiments will definitely be passed on to staff at this week's briefings.

Tracy asked how these results are communicated externally. Shelley advised that our Marketing and PR Department constantly update social media about our achievements, and also keep local employers informed, as well as highlighting the information to parents and prospective students at open events. Tracy advised that UHNM would be happy to share the news at their site. Shelley added that every year we set KPIs and task ourselves with obtaining the best results possible, and if we could match these next year we would be delighted.