

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CORPORATION HELD ON MONDAY 19 JULY 2021 AT 3 PM VIA ZOOM

Present: Alan Aston, Steve Jones, Bernard Lovatt, Martin Earnshaw, Karen Dobson, Lesley Rollason, Simon Leech (Chair), Francis Tunney, Gareth Jones, Jim Rowley

In attendance: Craig Hodgson (Vice Principal), Shelley Brown (Director of Curriculum and Performance), Andy Bailey (Head of Compliance and Governance), Lesley Morrey (Director of Student Engagement and Partnerships), Ian Hookway (Director of HR and Communications), Lisa Saville (Group Accountant), Joy Smith (Deputy Clerk)

PART 1

21.3.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Jeremy Pert and Jeff Dutton.

21.3.2 Election of Chair

Andy Bailey explained that the current Chair's 2 year term was due to expire and nominations for the post were sought.

Simon was proposed, seconded and, in the absence of any further nominations, was re-elected Chair of the Corporation for a further 2 year term.

21.3.3 Membership

Simon explained that the recent Search Committee had considered and recommended renewal of the terms of office of Bernard Lovatt, Martin Earnshaw and Lesley Rollason for a further 2 years. In addition, the renewal of Jeff Dutton's term as staff governor had been recommended for one year in order to restore the alternating staff governor arrangement.

After consideration the recommendations of the Search Committee were approved.

21.3.4 Declarations of Interest

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

21.3.5 Chair's Action

Simon explained that, under Chair's Action, he had considered and agreed to approve the payment of Consultants' fees for the Sports Hall development at Newcastle.

Gareth added that this matter had also been considered and endorsed by the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

21.3.6 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 March 2021 - Part 1**

Approved as a true record of the meeting.

21.3.7 **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

21.3.8 **Minutes of the Committee Meetings**

- Education & Standards Committee: 29 June 2021

Lesley confirmed that the Committee had been very pleased with the positive picture in terms of standards and achievements across the College. An update on TAGs and the predicted achievement situation had been given. The College is confident in its quality assurance mechanisms, robust processes and transparency of the anticipated outcomes.

A second presentation had been on the introduction of T Levels and the College's steps towards their introduction. Maggie Law, the Head of Vocational Studies, had also explained the transition programme introduced to help level 2 learners to move through to level 3 pathways.

Bernard asked where the older qualifications fit in with the new T Levels and Karen advised that T Levels are a brand new level 3 qualification leading to progression to employment, a higher apprenticeship or to HE. She added that HNCs and HNDs are currently being refreshed to make them more appropriate to the needs of employers.

Catch up funding was discussed and members were pleased to note that this has been well spent this year and a modest amount can be carried forward to add to the new fund next year.

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

1.1 – Covid Arrangements

Karen advised that this has been a very challenging year. We are now expected to carry out onsite testing in September with the new cohort of students. Staff have worked extremely well and students have had been under lots of restrictions but we are hoping that next year things will have more of a normal feel for the students and that they can enjoy the wider aspects of college life.

1.2 – TAGs and QTAGs

Karen advised that this had needed a huge amount of work but we are in a position where the transparent nature of our systems and operation will result in few appeals. Results days will be earlier than normal and appeals commence from then through to 31 October.

1.3 – Events : new and re-arranged

Members noted the various events that had been postponed to the Bank Holiday week at the end of August following the latest outbreak. Therefore, this will be an incredibly busy week. Karen confirmed that we will do whatever we can to return to face to face events and activities, within whatever the current guidelines are in operation at that point. We have a very busy start to the new year and the onsite testing will exacerbate that.

2.1 – Online Art Exhibitions

Members noted the two links to the NSCG art exhibition and the SFCA art exhibition, both of which were available to view online.

2.2 – Pearson Awards

Members warmly congratulated Lily Carcatera who had won the Pearson Business Award and the overall Young BTEC Learner of the Year Award, despite facing a number of personal obstacles.

3.1 – SFCA Award

Members congratulated Amber Banks-Brumby on being shortlisted in the Curriculum Innovation category at the SFCA Awards.

3.2 – Vaccination Centre: Plaque

Karen was delighted to report that she had been presented with a plaque from the local doctors' partnership who had used the Gordon Banks Sports Centre for the administration of vaccinations earlier in the year.

21.3.10 **Student Financial Support Policy 2021-22**

Craig drew attention to the Policy which had been considered and endorsed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee earlier this term. This Policy relates to the bursary payments to vulnerable students and students requiring financial support and matches that operating currently, updated to reflect the latest ESFA guidance.

After consideration the Student Financial Support Policy 2021-22 was approved.

21.3.11 **Tuition Fees Policy 2021-22**

Craig advised that this policy had also been endorsed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee and mirrors that currently in operation, updated to reflect the latest ESFA guidance.

After consideration the Tuition Fees Policy 2021-22 was approved.

21.3.12 Proposed Calendar of Corporation and Committee Meetings, 2021-22

Members noted the proposed dates and Andy advised on the intention to move the Education and Standards Committee meeting to 30 November. It was agreed that an update on the 2020-21 performance will come to the October Corporation meeting.