



**MINUTES OF THE TRC
FULL CORPORATION MEETING**

MONDAY 20 APRIL 2015

PART I

PRESENT

Ms M Allen; Dr RJG Bloomer; Mr M Chaudhary; Ms J Collier (Vice Chair); Mr D Fitzgerald; Mr T Grice; Mr S Kirk; ; Mr B Owen; Ms A Todd; Mr A Wilding; Dr P R Williams;

NON-ATTENDANCE

Mr J Ellis; Miss S Sibanda

In Attendance:

Mrs E Pickering, Acting Clerk; Mr M Patterson, Vice Principal Finance & Resources; Mr T Dowling, Vice Principal Teaching & Learning

APOLOGIES

14.156 Apologies were received from Mr P Jagger MBE (Chair)

The new student governor, Mr A Wilding, was welcomed to the meeting

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

14.157 Members were reminded of the need to declare any interests and reserve the right to declare an interest at any stage of the meeting. Mrs A Todd declared an interest in agenda item 9 – HE Update.

MINUTES

14.158 The Minutes of the Meeting (Part I) held on 15 December 2014 were agreed as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Vice Chair.

MATTERS ARISING

14.159 The Corporation received a list of actions arising from previous meetings. It was noted that items were either complete or ongoing. Mrs A Todd has offered to be the Link Governor for the CLASS department.

GOVERNANCE AND SEARCH COMMITTEE BUSINESS

14.160 The draft, unconfirmed Minutes of the Governance and Search Committee held on 2 March 2015 had been issued with the agenda. Dr R G Bloomer, Vice-Chair of the committee, made reference to the discussion that had taken place and recommendations for approval.

14.161 Local Authority member – it was agreed that this vacancy should remain until autumn 2015.

14.162 Meeting summaries – this matter had been fully discussed by the committee and the Clerk had been asked to speak to the Chair to decide how to take this matter forward.

14.163 Vacancies –

External member – Dr Bloomer noted that Damien Fitzgerald’s term of office was ending in July 2015. He had made a considerable contribution to the Corporation and also forged valuable links between TRC and Sheffield Hallam University. The committee was keen to maintain these links and expertise on the Corporation and had suggested that a successor for Damien be sought from SHU.

Staff member – the committee felt that there should be a second staff member on the Corporation.

Parent members – it was reported that there had been no response to recent requests for parent members. The Corporation agreed that different ways of appointing parent governors be considered.

Student members – the committee had recommended the appointment of Aidan Wilding and Silthoukuhle Sibanda as student governors.

RESOLVED – to approve the appointment of Aidan Wilding and Silthoukuhle Sibanda as student governors.

AUDIT COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- 14.164 The Audit Committee had not met as the recent Internal Audit report concluded that the College had strong systems and did not contain any recommendations for improvement. The Corporation noted the report and expressed its congratulations to the Finance team.
- 14.165 The Vice-Principal, Finance and Resources informed the Corporation that he is discussing the changes required by the introduction of FRS 102 with Grant Thornton, the College’s Financial Statement auditors. He will report the outcomes to the next full Corporation meeting.

RESOURCES COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- 14.166 The draft, unconfirmed Minutes of the Resources Committee were presented to the Corporation and recommendations noted.
- 14.167 The January 2015 management accounts had been presented to the committee. The Vice-Principal Finance and Resources highlighted the reduction in other grants caused by the college not achieving its Core Maths enrolment target, although this is partly offset by increased Sports Centre grants. Expenditure on heat and light is below budget due to a reduction in usage as well as lower prices. A 2 year contract has been taken out to fix gas prices.
The March 2015 accounts were tabled at the meeting which show a projected deficit this year of £330,000, the increase in the originally projected figure mainly caused by additional costs associated with the extra 97 students enrolled this year, for whom funding will be received in 2015/2016. The Management Accounts for January and March 2015 were noted.
- 14.168 The Vice-Principal Finance and Resources informed the members that discussions are ongoing with Yorkshire Water. They wish to purchase a parcel of land near the College’s overflow car park. The members will be kept informed of any developments at its next meeting.
- 14.169 The committee had discussed a few minor changes to the financial regulations relating to the use of consultants and electronic IT tenders.
RESOLVED – to approve the changes to the financial regulations.
- 14.170 The committee had discussed the renewal of the bus contract for the College. The contract had been taken out 2 years ago with Powell’s Bus Services, a director of which, Jane Powell, was at that time a Corporation member and had accordingly played no part in the discussions. The service has been excellent and the buses have helped to increase student numbers at the College.
RESOLVED – to approve the renewal of the bus contract with Powell’s for four years.

QUALITY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- 14.171 The draft, unconfirmed Minutes of the Quality and Standards Committee were presented to the Corporation and recommendations noted. The committee had noted that the decision at the previous meeting to reduce the A level value added target for 2015 from 0.14 to 0.08 had been confirmed by national trends probably resulting from the change to the structure of the examination, with no January modules.
- 14.172 The Corporation received an update to the College Overall Development plan and discussed the recent updates presented by the Principal. It was noted that TRC success rates had risen to a high level in 2014 in comparison with national averages but that negative A level value had lowered its relative standing compared with 2013 among other NORVIC Sixth Form Colleges and local school Sixth Forms, though the value added results of most of these institutions were very bunched with fractional differences. It is noted that ever closer performance monitoring using the Gradebook system was suggesting an improved A level performance this year.

HE UPDATE (*M Allen left during this item*)

- 14.173 The Vice-Principal, Finance and Resources, presented a paper updating the Corporation on the HE Project. Three departments have expressed an interest in developing HE courses; these are Sport, Art and Childcare. It was felt by the College SMT that a Sport HE course may be the best course to start with. There has been a change to how HE funding is obtained which means that TRC would have to find a partner to work with on a franchise basis rather than obtaining funding directly from HEFCE. RCAT is a potential partner who could provide TRC with policies and documentation. Sheffield Hallam University are also interested in working with TRC.
- 14.174 There was considerable discussion about the issues around having HE students at TRC. Each student attracts between four and six thousand pounds of funding for a part-time course and a course could be viable with 8 students. There has traditionally been a low take up of HE in Rotherham in comparison with national averages and TRC providing HND or foundation degrees could be attractive to local mature students. Concern was expressed about the value of a foundation degree course and the difficulties faced by students who then transfer to university for their final year. Damien Fitzgerald emphasized that The HE students must also be properly supported at TRC and have a true experience of being an undergraduate whilst studying here. It was felt that delaying the start of an HE to 2017 would allow time to fully develop the course as well as training staff.

RESOLVED – to allow SMT to continue negotiations with RCAT and SHU on the development of a sports course and report back to the next meeting with an update.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- 14.175 The Principal's report summarised a variety of activities undertaken both at the college and externally including the college production of Little Shop of Horrors and music recitals. A group of female students has met with Sarah Champion MP and Seema Malhotra MP and Shadow Minister for Preventing Violence against Women to discuss this issue. A former student, Ibrar Ali MC presented the awards to 2014 leavers at Celebration evening. The college held a successful employability day for students wanting to proceed straight into the job market after college. Several local employers took part and were very impressed with the students. Six offers have been confirmed for students applying to Oxbridge colleges.

14.176 Letters have been sent to Wickersley School regarding access to school leavers and information about TRC. Access should be given for College staff to attend events at the schools in the Academy Trust to give information about TRC. This is not happening at present and has been reported to the Regional Schools' Commissioner. A response is expected by the end of term. The Corporation gave their support to further SMT actions in principle to engage with other post-16 providers who were experiencing the same problem and find a way of further taking the issue forward.

AWAYDAY OUTCOMES

14.177 The Clerk had circulated a summary of the January away day and also a potential calendar for next year's meetings based on fewer committee meetings and more full Corporation meetings. Members are asked to send any comments to the Clerk. This matter will be discussed again at the next Corporation meeting when the meeting dates for 2015/2016 will be confirmed.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

14.178 The next meeting would be held on Monday 13 July 2015 at 5.30 pm.

*The meeting remained quorate
End of Part I*

Signed _____

Date _____