

**MOULTON COLLEGE FEC**

**FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting  
Held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

**Part 1**

**Present:** Mr C Alderson-Smith (in the Chair), Mrs C Boardman, Mr J Gaggini,  
Mr P Heygate, Mr C Moody, Mr R Thompson, Mr R Sadler

**In Attendance:** Mr G Davies. Mr J Mair, Mr M Wilkinson

**09/22 Apologies for absence (agenda item 1)**

Apologies were received from Mr C Barney.

**09/23 Declarations of interest (agenda item 2)**

Mrs Boardman declared an interest in any items concerning Daventry District Council and Northamptonshire County Council. Mr Heygate declared an interest as a supplier to the College.

**09/24 Minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2009 (agenda item 3, paper A)**

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

**09/25 Matters Arising (agenda item 4)**

There were no matters arising.

**09/26 New Developments – Progress Report (agenda item 5)**

**a) LRC Extension (paper B)**

The financial report was discussed. The project was on schedule but external landscaping was about 5 weeks late although it was not on the critical path. Proposals for external works were outlined. It was also proposed to replace the aluminium framed single glazed windows in the existing LRC with similar double glazing at a cost of approximately £100,000. Following discussion, *the report was noted and the additional works approved.*

**09/27 Capital Development Programme (agenda item 6)**

**a) Planning Applications**

A new application had been submitted for the whole project and an appeal against the original application was being prepared. The Highways Authority had lifted its objection. A site visit for the application for the new houses and loop road would take place the following day. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

**b) LSC Capital Support Application**

The LSC National Council would review the position on 4<sup>th</sup> March. Sir Andrew Foster had also been commissioned by DIUS to carry out a review. It was likely that projects would be divided into a number of categories. The outcome of the College's application was unlikely to be known until June or July. The College should probably build what it could afford without substantial LSC support. The Social Centre should be the main priority and the sports related resources should be developed before 2012 if possible. The existing kitchen and social centre could then be converted quite effectively to teaching accommodation. Confirmation would be sought from the LSC that the projects could be rolled into a capital support programme as they developed. A bid had been made to NEL for funding which could cover the fees on the sports facility if approved. The project would take 8-9 months to reach the tender stage so was unlikely to start before February 2010. The current cap on funded FE growth and the penalties for over-recruitment in HE also had to be borne in mind. Following discussion, *the report was noted*.

Gerald Davies left the meeting.

**09/28 Unity School/Academy (agenda item 7)**

A national judicial review on the appointment of sponsors was to take place. An update was given on progress. Progression depended on whether the NCC decided to close Unity College. Following discussion, *the report was noted*.

**09/29 The Academy Daventry (agenda item 8)**

The capital support application was in the lowest of the proposed categories but could still become a priority. If the project went ahead, it was likely to be a phased development but it was important for the College to remain committed to it. It was proposed to move from High March to temporary accommodation at the Northampton College site in summer 2009. This would also give the students access to good facilities. Costed plans for the re-location would be brought to the next meeting. Following discussion, *the report was noted*.

**09/30 Management Accounts (agenda item 9, paper C)**

The accounts were discussed. The surplus to date was £19,931 over budget. The College was in financial category B and rated Good under the Framework for Excellence. Following discussion, *the accounts were approved*.

**09/31 Quarterly Consolidated Accounts (agenda item 10, paper D)**

The accounts were discussed. Levels of trading were as expected. Following discussion, *the report was noted*.

**09/32 Quarterly Budget Update (agenda item 11, paper E)**

Proposed changes were outlined and discussed. The forecast surplus was projected to increase by £140,754. Following discussion, *the changes were approved*.

**08/19 Operating Statement 2008-9 (agenda item 12, paper F)**

The document contained the detailed targets for completion by each area during the current year. Following discussion, *the document was approved for recommendation to the Board*.

**09/33 Employer Engagement Strategy (agenda item 13, paper G)**

The document was discussed. It reflected the College's position in the marketplace. Following discussion, *the document was approved for recommendation to the Board*.

**09/34 ILR Update 2008-9 (agenda item 14, paper H)**

The cash earned per learner was generally quite high. Adult Employer Responsive funding would gradually increase as students were added as they completed their qualifications. A paper on the current position with Employer Responsive Funding was circulated and discussed. There was no cash limit on this at present. Although 16-18 and 19+ apprentice number targets had not been reached, the cash target had been exceeded and an application had been made for additional funding. Following discussion, *the report was noted*.

**09/35 Recruitment 2009-10 (agenda item 15, paper I)**

Overall applications were about 100 less than at the same time last year but the College was confident that targets could be met and an application for 300 extra funded 16-18 places had been made. HE applications were up by 74% compared to 7% nationally. The College could not currently fund all of its intended HE intake next year and extra places would be sought before the students arrived. The balance of FE:HE would need to be considered. Further growth in HE also had implications for residences. Following discussion, *the report was noted*.

**09/36 Leave Policy (agenda item 16, paper J)**

Proposed changes were outlined and discussed. They clarified the position over disruption caused by travel problems. Following discussion, *the changes were approved for recommendation to the Board*.

**09/37 Study Tour Report (agenda item 17, paper K)**

A report of the trip to Italy by Sports Studies students *was noted*.

**09/38 Governor Development Days (agenda item 18, paper L)**

The draft programme was discussed. The host colleges would be asked to talk about specific items and these were outlined. A room would be made available at the end of each visit for discussion. Following discussion, *the report was noted*.

**09/39 Date of next meeting (agenda item 19)**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at 9.30am in the Principal's Office.

**09/40 Any other business (agenda item 20)**

**a) University of Northampton**

Arrangements for the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March were discussed. The University had about 5 members of Senate attending.

**b) Ofsted good practice visit**

The draft letter arising from the visit relating to the 'student voice' was circulated. It was very positive.

Part 1 of the meeting concluded. Jamie Mair left the meeting.