

MOULTON COLLEGE FEC

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting Held on Thursday 23rd April 2009

Part 1

Present: Mr C Alderson-Smith (in the Chair), M C Barney, Mrs C Boardman,
Mr J Gaggini, Mr R Thompson

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

09/63 Apologies for absence (agenda item 1)

Apologies were received from Mr P Heygate and Mr C Moody

09/64 Declarations of interest (agenda item 2)

Mrs Boardman declared an interest in any items concerning Daventry District Council and Northamptonshire County Council.

09/65 Minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2009 (agenda item 3, paper A)

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

09/66 Matters Arising (agenda item 4)

There were no matters arising.

09/67 New Developments – Progress Report (agenda item 5)

a) LRC Extension (paper B)

The financial report was discussed. The estimate for the replacement windows for the existing LRC was £75,420 against a current budget of £100,000. The total estimate for the replacement windows plus refurbishment was £131,000, against which savings were currently being sought. The project was on schedule apart from the external landscaping. The connection between the new and existing buildings had been made during the Easter vacation. Following discussion, *it was agreed to place an order for the windows and seek savings in the other refurbishment work.*

09/68 Capital Development Programme (agenda item 6)

a) Planning Applications

The separate application for the houses would not be heard until the outcome of the large application was known. Two meetings had been held with the Highways Agency who had a number of points for consideration, the majority of which had been acceptable. The Planning Officer had visited the site last week. The application was due to be heard the previous evening but was withdrawn at the last minute following a change in the Highways Agency's response. The Council would be seeking professional advice

before the application was heard. The officers had recommended refusal on the grounds of intrusion into open countryside by some buildings but had no significant objections to the other buildings. The appeal was currently based on the original application but could be transferred to the new one if it was refused. If the application was not heard for another 6 weeks it was likely that there would be further fees incurred of about £2,500. Following discussion, *the report was noted and this expenditure was approved.*

b) LSC Capital Support Application

The LSC was carrying out a review and would publish its criteria for prioritising the applications. Some additional National funding had been allocated in the previous day's budget. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

c) Student Social Centre (paper C)

The College did not feel it appropriate to proceed any further until the outcome of the planning application was known. A more traditional fee structure would be adopted if the buildings were developed on a piecemeal basis. It was proposed to seek delegated authority from the Board for F&GP to approve the fee structure. Following discussion, *this course of action was approved.*

d) Sports Therapy Centre (paper D)

The project was being held in abeyance for the time being. It was proposed to seek delegated authority from the Board for F&GP to approve the fee structure. Following discussion, *this course of action was approved.*

09/69 Vocational Skills Academies (agenda item 7)

At East Northants the building layout had been agreed with the Duchy's architects. A cost was being obtained and a planning application prepared. An additional rent of 6.5% of the cost had been agreed in principle, subject to agreement on the budget and treatment of the lease for VAT purposes.

At South Northants the floor plan of the new building had been agreed with the landlord who would now go out to tender and apply for planning permission. Internal refurbishments to the new building had also been agreed. The additional rent was still to be agreed.

Discussions had taken place with Northampton College about the possibility of renting classroom space at Badby Road rather than taking mobile classrooms onto the site. There had been no discussion to date with Daventry District Council regarding the High March building. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

09/70 Unity School/Bishop Leeson Academy (agenda item 8)

The NCC cabinet had decided to defer the closure of the school until 2010 and to review the sponsorship arrangements. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

09/71 Management Accounts for February 2009 (agenda item 9, paper E)

The accounts were discussed. The surplus to date was £248,312 over the budget. Energy costs were currently over budget and were being reviewed with the consultants. The College was in financial category B and rated Good under the Framework for Excellence. Following discussion, *the accounts were approved.*

09/72 Amended Budget Revision (agenda item 10, paper F)

This revision to the budget approved in February mainly reflected the increase in the Work Based Learning and reduction in the Train to Gain contracts. The forecast surplus had increased by £263,242. Following discussion, *the revised budget was approved.*

08/19 Revised Capital Equipment Proposals (agenda item 11, paper G)

The validation of the Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing had not been successful so 2 items had been removed from the list. Two golf simulators had been added to the list to allow a golf academy to be developed. Following discussion, *the revised list of priorities for 2009-10 was approved.*

09/73 ILR Update 2008-9 (agenda item 12, papers H and Hi)

The report on learner responsive funding was discussed. The majority of targets should be met. The report on employer responsive activity was discussed. An increased contract for Apprenticeships had been signed with the LSC and was on track to be achieved. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

09/74 Recruitment 2009-10 (agenda item 13, paper I)

There was a higher rate of acceptances than last year. It was hoped to achieve the recruitment targets but levels of oversubscription will be reduced in some areas compared to previous years. HE applications were strong, although there would be no increase nationally in funded places above the 10,000 already allocated for 2009-10. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

09/75 Initial LSC Funding Allocation 2009-10 (agenda item 14, paper J)

The report was discussed. The LSC had offered 255 additional 16-18 places. The apprenticeship allocation was considerably less than the current contract and had been queried with the LSC. The Adult Learner Responsive allocation had been cut in line with other colleges. The allocations may increase slightly following the budget. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

09/76 Review of profile of activities (agenda item 15, paper K)

This was an annual review. None of the College's activities were considered to be ultra vires. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

09/77 ILT Strategy (agenda item 16, paper L)

The strategy for 2009 was discussed *and approved for recommendation to the Board.*

09/78 Management Guidelines for Teaching Staff 2009-10 (agenda item 17, paper M)

These were reviewed annually. Proposed changes were discussed. Following discussion, *the changes were approved for recommendation to the Board.*

09/79 Study tours (agenda item 18)

a) Trip to Cumbria by HE students (paper N)

The report of the trip was discussed *and noted.*

b) Trip to Wales by Countryside Management students (paper O)

The report of the trip was discussed *and noted.*

c) World Challenge 2010 (paper P)

The tour request was discussed *and approved.*

d) South Africa 2010 (additional paper Pi)

The tour request was discussed *and approved.*

09/80 Date of next meeting (agenda item 19)

Thursday 29th May 2009 at 9.30am in the Principal's Office.

09/81 Any other business (agenda item 20)

There was no other business.

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