

MOULTON COLLEGE FEC

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting Held on Thursday 25th June 2009

Part 1

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

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

09/102 Apologies for absence (agenda item 1)

No apologies were received.

09/103 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.

09/104 Minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2009 (agenda item 3, paper A)

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

09/105 Matters Arising (agenda item 4)

There were no matters arising.

09/106 New Developments – Progress Report (agenda item 5)

a) LRC Extension (paper B)

The financial report was discussed. The second phase of the project was due for completion by 28th August. The College would then have to complete the fit out of the centre by the start of term. The external work was progressing well but was still behind schedule. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

09/107 Capital Development Programme (agenda item 6)

a) Planning Applications (paper C)

The revised planning application, which excluded the Pitsford Centre developments, had been submitted. It would probably go before the Planning Committee on 22nd July. DDC had transferred the objections to the revised application. The delay in completing the developments was likely to increase the amount of traffic, as the additional students had already been recruited but the new facilities were not in place. The appeal concerning the original application would be held over 3 days from 29th September. The arrangements for this were discussed. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

b) LSC Capital Support Application

An additional £500 million had been allocated by the government and the LSC had set its priorities for making awards. The College's application had

not been prioritised as the project was not ready to proceed due to the lack of planning permission. It was unlikely that any funding would be available before 2012. The system of capital funding was likely to change in future. Support for colleges who had incurred fees prior to the embargo on further work was being considered by the LSC. Following discussion, *the report was noted and the recommendation to progress to tender stage agreed.*

c) Student Social Centre

The project was currently on hold. It was needed urgently in view of the number of students on the site. It was proposed to progress the design and go out to tender as soon as possible, fund the project through loan which would involve seeking LSC approval to borrow. It would cost about £500,000 to reach the contract stage. Obtaining planning permission for the staff houses was a requirement of this project. Following discussion, *it was agreed to progress with the development work and bring costs to the next meeting.*

d) Sports Therapy Centre

The project was currently on hold. It could be progressed to the final tender stage at no cost if the application for grant funding was successful. Fees for this project were likely to be about £800,000. The timescale for the project was discussed. Following discussion, *it was agreed to progress with the development work and provide a detailed report to next month's Board meeting.*

09/108 Vocational Skills Academies (agenda item 7)

a) South Northants (paper D)

Plans for the new building and refurbishment of the existing one were tabled and discussed. The development programme was outlined. Silverstone Parish Council had supported the landlord's application for planning permission. The College was ready to place orders as soon as planning permission was obtained. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

b) Daventry (paper E)

Two classrooms and an IT suite would be rented from Northampton College. Changes to the workshop building were outlined and discussed. Plans to relocate from the High March building were in hand and DDC would now be informed that the lease would not be renewed. Operating protocols were currently being agreed by the two Heads of Centre. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

c) East Northants (paper F)

Plans for the development were tabled and discussed. The College was ready to place orders for its work. The Duchy had agreed a 12 week contract but their contractors were finding it difficult to meet this so the project may not be complete for the start of term. Quotations were being obtained for 2 mobiles to use as temporary classrooms. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

Gerald Davies left the meeting.

- 09/109 Unity College/Bishop Leeson Academy (agenda item 8)**
No communication had been received from the County Council. They had invited potential sponsors to make presentations to the community and to the Interim Executive Board. The College had been contacted by a number of the potential sponsors but was not prepared to commit to anything at present. Bishop Stopford School were also not involved with any of the sponsors. Following discussion, *the report was noted and the current strategy endorsed.*
- 09/110 Management Accounts for May 2009 (agenda item 9, paper G)**
The accounts were discussed. The surplus to date was £467,380 over the budget. Catering volumes were currently lower than expected and margins were under pressure. The College was in financial category A and rated Outstanding under the Framework for Excellence. Following discussion, *the accounts were approved.*
- 09/111 Draft 3 Year Financial Forecast (agenda item 10, paper H)**
The assumptions and first draft were discussed. It showed that surpluses should continue to be made and the College's financial status would be Outstanding. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*
- 09/112 Student Association/Student Social Club Quarterly Accounts (agenda item 11, paper I)**
The accounts were discussed. Levels of trading were as expected. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*
- 09/113 ILR Update 2008-9 (agenda item 12, paper J)**
The report was discussed. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*
- 09/114 Recruitment 2009-10 (agenda item 13, paper K)**
FE recruitment was well ahead overall, mainly due to a large increase in landbased applications. This would help to restore the balance in the College. HE applications were strong but the national freeze on additional funded places was a potential problem. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*
- 09/115 Initial LSC Funding Allocation 2009-10 (agenda item 14, paper L)**
Funding for apprentices had been re-instated to previous levels. Adult Learner Responsive funding was still to be confirmed but it was hoped that some of the reduction would be re-instated. The overall increase in funding was currently 6.6% above the original allocation for 2008/9. New funding streams which would apply following the Machinery of Government changes were outlined. Funding for 16-19 students would be allocated according to the National methodology, but be channelled via local authority sub-Regional groups. However, Northamptonshire is likely to be a sub-group in its own right. The College currently recruits from 119 local authorities with 67% of current students being from Northamptonshire. Landex was currently campaigning hard for national commissioning of funding for landbased colleges with recruitment from a substantial number of LEAs. DCSF had been initially sympathetic to this concept. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

Jamie Mair left the meeting.

09/116 HE Funding 2009-10 (agenda item 15)

This item was deferred to next month.

09/117 Performance Review Criteria 2009 (agenda item 16, paper N)

No significant changes had been made this year. They were approved annually to avoid them becoming contractual. The Personnel sub-Committee recommended approval of the changes. Following discussion, *the changes were approved for recommendation to the Board.*

09/118 Policy Updates (agenda item 17)

a) Health and Safety (paper O)

Proposed changes had been considered by the Resources sub-Committee. Following discussion, *the changes were approved for recommendation to the Board.*

b) Capability Policy (paper P)

This had been considered by the Personnel sub-Committee. It replaced the Competence Procedure. Following discussion, *the policy was approved for recommendation to the Board.*

09/119 Study tour reports (agenda item 18)

a) Trip to Lincolnshire by Rural Skills students (paper Q)

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

b) Trip to Lincolnshire by Pathway to Progress students (paper R)

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

c) Trip to Poland by Land Management and Animal Welfare students (paper S)

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

09/120 Governance Documents (agenda item 19)

The Clerk reported that no changes were proposed to the Standing Orders, Code of Conduct or Committee Terms of Reference this year.

09/121 Date of next meeting (agenda item 20)

Thursday 29th July 2009 at 8.30am in the Principal's Office.

a) Any other business (agenda item 21)

There was no other business.

Part 1 of the meeting concluded.