

MOULTON COLLEGE FEC

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting
Held on Wednesday 29th July 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

09/122 Apologies for absence (agenda item 1)

No apologies were received.

09/123 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.

09/124 Minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2009 (agenda item 3, paper A)

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

09/125 Matters Arising (agenda item 4)

There were no matters arising.

09/126 New Developments – Progress Report (agenda item 5)

a) LRC Extension (paper B)

The financial report was discussed. The final phase of the work was well underway and on schedule. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

b) Vocational Skills Academies

i) South Northants (paper Ci)

The financial report was discussed. The landlord had obtained planning permission for the new building and the steel frame was being erected. Work on the conversion of the existing buildings was on schedule. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

ii) East Northants (paper Cii)

The financial report was discussed. Construction of the plumbing workshop extension would be delayed until planning permission had been received, which would now go to committee with a recommendation for approval on 12th August. A temporary workshop may be needed. Construction of the 2 classrooms had been postponed until summer 2010 as the proposed programme was too long to complete the work by this autumn. Mobile classrooms would be used for 1 year. Work on converting the brick building to house animals was on programme. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

iii) Daventry

The financial report was discussed. All equipment had been moved to Badby Road and the High March building would be handed back at the end of the week. Development work was on schedule. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

c) Student Social Centre (paper D)

The financial report was discussed *and noted.*

d) Sports Therapy Centre (paper E)

The financial report was discussed. The NEL grant may be withheld by EMDA. *Following discussion, the report was noted.*

09/127 Capital Development Programme (agenda item 6)

a) Planning Applications

An update on the appeal was given. After discussion with DDC, it was proposed to withdraw the appeal and talk with planning officers to resolve the outstanding issues within the current application. Gerald Davies had met with the planners to discuss this. It was hoped to amend the current application to include only those items that had no effect on peak traffic. Alternative strategies for re-submitting the application were discussed. Following discussion, *it was agreed to withdraw the appeal and pursue the Social Centre, farm houses and Sports Therapy Centre as one application.*

b) LSC Capital Support Application (papers Di and Ei)

Applications for permission to build and borrow for the Social Centre and Sports Therapy Centre were tabled and discussed. No LSC Capital Support would be available. The applications had been discussed with regional LSC staff and were likely to be approved. Board approval would be required before the submissions could be made. Following discussion, *the submissions were approved for recommendation to the Board.*

Gerald Davies left the meeting.

09/128 Daventry Learning Partnership (agenda item 7, papers F and Fi)

There would be no LSC capital support for the new building. As the Academy Daventry was to be launched in this building, it had been decided not to proceed with the Academy but look to strengthen the Daventry Learning Partnership instead. Approval would be sought from the Board to enter into a formal agreement at an appropriate time, once the Local Authority had agreed on behalf of the 2 schools. If the new site was to be developed it would be necessary to explore alternative uses for it in order to attract funding from a range of sources. The College may also need to make a financial commitment to the project. Following discussion, *it was agreed to recommend these proposals to the Board for approval.*

- 09/129 Management Accounts for June 2009 (agenda item 8, paper G)**
The accounts were discussed. The surplus to date was £515,915 over the budget. The VAT refund had been received from HMRC and interest of £27,000 would also be received. The College was in financial category B and rated Outstanding under the Framework for Excellence. Following discussion, *the accounts were approved.*
- 09/130 Budget 2009-10 (agenda item 9, paper H)**
The income and expenditure figures were outlined and discussed. Following discussion, *the budget was approved for recommendation to the Board.*
- 09/131 Three Year Financial Forecast (agenda item 10, paper I)**
The forecast was discussed. Table 1 showed that good surpluses should continue to be made over the next 3 years, in spite of increased interest payments to fund the new developments. Following discussion, *the forecast was approved for recommendation to the Board.*
- 09/132 ILR Update 2008-9 (agenda item 11, paper J)**
The report was discussed. Achievement funding would be secured over the next 2-3 months. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*
- 09/133 Recruitment 2009-10 (agenda item 12, paper K)**
The increase in landbased applications had helped to restore the balance in the College. Extra staff had been appointed to this area. The additional 10,000 HE student places announced by the Government were for stem subjects and not for the College's subject areas. The College may be subject to a reclaim of HE funds if it recruits more full-time first year HE students than 2008, and the total paid nationally in student support exceeded the funds allocated by the exchequer. However, the College's exposure to this should not be too great, so it was proposed to keep recruiting to internal targets. Following discussion, *the report was noted and the proposal to recruit to HE targets was agreed.*
- 09/134 Initial LSC Funding Allocation 2009-10 (agenda item 13, paper L)**
On-programme funding would be 7% higher than this year and additional learning support had increased by 4.4%, making an overall increase of 6.77% or £1.2 million. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*
- 09/135 HE Funding 2009-10 (agenda item 14, paper M)**
The report was outlined and discussed. Funding for 2009-10 would amount to about £2.7 million. The funding from Writtle College was for students transferring to Moulton following the closure of their centre at Shuttleworth College. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*
- 09/136 Curriculum Developments (agenda item 15, paper N)**
It was proposed to offer a range of A levels from 2010, to students joining the sports academies, as an alternative or an addition to the current vocational programmes. This would help to market the academies to a wider range of students. The A levels would be delivered in partner schools. There would probably be residence implications associated with this offer. It was also proposed to offer National Awards in a range of subjects to local schools, to be delivered over 2 years, as an alternative to 1 A level.

Following discussion, *the proposals were approved for recommendation to the Board.*

09/137 Financial Policies (agenda item 16, paper O)

Minor changes had been made to the Financial Regulations and Risk Management statement. Following discussion, *the changes were approved for recommendation to the Board.*

09/138 Study Tour requests (agenda item 17)

a) Trip to Italy by Sports Studies students (paper P)

Following discussion, *the trip was approved.*

b) Trip to Wales by Sports Studies students (paper Q)

Following discussion, *the trip was approved.*

09/139 Corporate Health Plan proposal (agenda item 18, paper R)

The proposal was outlined and discussed. The College would subscribe to this plan for all permanent staff who had been employed for more than 1 year and were not already on the private health care scheme. The cost would be around £20,500 in year 1. It was hoped that the scheme would improve the health of the workforce and aid staff retention. Following discussion, *the proposal was approved for recommendation to the Board.*

09/140 Date of next meeting (agenda item 19)

Thursday 27th August 2009 at 8.30am in the Principal's Office.

09/141 Any other businesses (agenda item 20)

There was no other business.

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