

MOULTON COLLEGE FEC

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Thursday 17th December 2009

Part 1

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

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

09/212 Apologies for absence (agenda item 1)

Apologies were received from Mr R Thompson.

09/213 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.

09/214 Minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2009 (agenda item 3, paper A)

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

09/215 Matters Arising (agenda item 4)

There were no matters arising.

09/216 New Developments – Progress Report (agenda item 5)

a) LRC Extension (paper B)

The financial report was discussed. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

b) Vocational Skills Academies

i) South Northants (paper Ci)

The financial report was discussed. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

ii) East Northants (paper Cii)

The financial report was discussed. Work on the plumbing workshop extension was on schedule for occupation on 11th January. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

iii) Daventry (paper Ciii)

The financial report was discussed. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

c) Enabling works (paper D)

Work on the road at Lodge Farm was under way for completion in February. The site for the houses would be set up on 21st December so that work could start on 4th January, for completion by 2nd July 2010. Following discussion, *the*

report was noted.

- d) Student Social Centre (paper E)**
The financial report was discussed. An outline planning application would hopefully be submitted on 18th December. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*
- e) Sports Therapy and Injury Rehabilitation Centre (paper F)**
The financial report was discussed. A full planning application would be submitted by 12th January. The timetable and process for the appeal against the refusal of planning permission was outlined and discussed. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*
- f) Social Centre refurbishment**
Internal work had commenced for completion before the students returned. External work to improve access for the disabled would be carried out during the February study week. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

Gerald Davies left the meeting.

09/217 Management Accounts for November 2009 (agenda item 6, paper G)

The accounts were discussed. The surplus to date was £66,812 over the budget. The College was in financial category B this month and rated Outstanding under the Framework for Excellence. Following discussion, *the accounts were approved.*

09/218 Reconciliation of Statutory and Management Accounts (agenda item 7, paper H)

The reconciliation for 2008-9 was discussed *and noted.*

09/219 Student Common Room/Student Social Club quarterly accounts (agenda item 8, paper I).

The accounts were discussed. The Student Common Room income was ahead of last year as the student subscriptions had been paid over earlier. The Social Club had recorded a loss to date as some new equipment had been purchased which could not be capitalised. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

09/220 Professional Fees (agenda item 9, paper J)

The gross cost of expenditure on professional fees for 2007-8 and 2008-9 were discussed *and noted.*

09/221 Recruitment 2010-11 (agenda item 10, paper K)

Applications to landbased courses were good. The investment made in sport and equestrian facilities was reflected in strong applications. Applications for construction courses were slow but in line with 2009/100 and should meet the target. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

09/222 Research Report and PHD student reports (agenda item 11, paper L)
The report was discussed. The students were funded through the Thomas Harrison Trust and continuation of their stipends depended on the annual submission of these reports. A College Research Co-ordinator had been appointed this year and had made a large number of applications for research grants. It was proposed to offer an MSc in research techniques in 2010. This would be a multi-disciplinary course which would prepare students for further research. Following discussion, *the report was noted and it was agreed to continue the payments for a further year.*

09/223 Study Tour requests (agenda item 12)

- a) **Trip to Spain by Dressage Academy students (paper M)**
- b) **Trip to Ireland by BSc Equine students (paper N)**
Following discussion, *both trips were approved.*

09/224 Governor Development Day (agenda item 13)

Possible items for inclusion in the programme were discussed. It was agreed to hold the event off-site in 2010 and include an overnight stay. A revised strategic plan was due to be presented to the Board in April 2010 and the discussions would inform this. Some of the issues raised during last year's visits to other colleges would also be revisited, possibly including residences, overseas students and satellite centres. A visit to the East Northants Centre and possibly to Daventry would be included.

09/225 Date of next meeting (agenda item 14)

Thursday 28th January 2010 at 9.30am in the Principal's Office.

09/226 Any other businesses (agenda item 15)

- a) **Care Standards Inspection**
The report of the recent inspection was tabled and discussed. All grades were outstanding. Following discussion, *the report was noted and the staff concerned were to be congratulated.*
- b) **HE Fees 2010-11**
The tuition fees for 2010-11 were tabled and discussed. They were consistent with those charged by the University. Following discussion, *the fees were approved.*
- c) **Electronic meeting papers**
A paper on the proposed change to paperless meetings was tabled and discussed. Following discussion, *it was agreed to try a number of meetings using files on a memory stick before any significant investment was made.*
- d) **Daventry Vocational Skills Academy**
This matter was discussed and a confidential minute kept.

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