

MOULTON COLLEGE FEC

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Thursday 25th March 2010

Part 1

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

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

10/34 Apologies for absence (agenda item 1)

No apologies were received.

10/35 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.

10/36 Minutes of the meeting held on 25th February 2010 (agenda item 3, paper A)

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

10/37 Matters Arising (agenda item 4)

a) Holcot Centre Car Park (minute 10/21/d)

Work at the Holcot Centre was due for completion tomorrow.

10/38 New Developments – Progress Report (agenda item 5)

a) Enabling works (paper B)

The financial report was discussed. Deejak Ltd had made up 2 days on the houses which were now almost water tight. The road was now complete and in use. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

b) Student Social Centre (papers C and Ci)

The financial report was discussed. The reserved matters applications would be submitted by the end of the week. Separate applications would be made for the road and Social Centre. Building plans were well advanced. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

c) Sports Therapy and Injury Rehabilitation Centre (paper D)

The financial report was discussed. The balance of the NEL grant was expected by mid April. The design process was well advanced. The planning application would go to committee on 31st March with a recommendation for approval on the grounds of economic development. The appeal process if the application was unsuccessful was discussed. A date had been set for 8th June. An update on the activity carried out by Indigo was provided. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

10/39 Property Strategy 2010-15 (agenda item 6, paper E)

The final draft was discussed and changes made were outlined. The appendices were nearing completion. Following discussion, *the report was noted*.

Gerald Davies left the meeting.

10/40 Management Accounts for February 2010 (agenda item 7, paper F)

The accounts were discussed. The surplus to date was £26,991 over the budget. The College was in financial category A this month and rated Good under the Framework for Excellence. Following discussion, *the accounts were approved*.

10/41 Student Association/Student Social Club Quarterly Accounts (agenda item 8, paper G).

The accounts were discussed. The Student Association surplus was £5,739. The Social Club was currently showing a small loss due to lower turnover and higher than expected expenditure on equipment and repairs. Following discussion, *the report was noted*.

10/42 Minor Capital Works Proposals (agenda item 9, paper H)

The prioritised list of projects for 2010-11 was outlined and discussed. The number approved would not be known until the budget was set. Following discussion, *the prioritised list was approved*.

10/43 Capital Equipment Proposals (agenda item 10, paper I)

The prioritised list of items for 2010-11 was outlined and discussed. The number approved would not be known until the budget was set. Following discussion, *the prioritised list was approved*.

10/44 ILR Update 2009-10 (agenda item 11, paper J)

The report was discussed. Good progress was being made towards achieving the targets. Following discussion, *the report was noted*.

10/45 Provisional Funding Allocation 2010-11 (agenda item 12, paper K)

The provisional allocation was outlined and discussed. Lobbying by Landex had resulted in moderation and increased funding for 16 landbased colleges, including an additional £110,000 of Adult Learner Responsive funding for Moulton. Details of Adult Safeguarded Learning were still awaited. Additional Learning Support funding was better than anticipated due to the high number of learners currently being supported. The overall increase in FE funding was likely to be around 3%. A proportion of the sector would be allowed some ability to vire funds between some of the funding streams. The College expected to be allowed to do this. There would be no limit on funding for 16-18 Apprentices next year and over recruitment may lead to the allocation of extra Adult Apprentice places. HEFCE funding had been reduced by about £44,000, mainly due to a reduction in the premium for Foundation Degrees. Re-validation of some of the College's courses with new titles would qualify them for STEM status with the possibility of extra funded places. The allocation of funding from the University was expected shortly. Following discussion, *the report was noted*.

10/46 Recruitment 2010-11 (agenda item 13, paper L)

The overall position remained strong although Horticulture and Design were not as good as hoped. Brickwork may also not meet its recruitment target. Following

discussion, *the report was noted.*

10/47 Ofsted inspection of teacher training (agenda item 14)

The preliminary outcome of the inspection was outlined and discussed. The College had been complimented on its provision. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

10/48 IQER (Integrated Quality and Enhancement Review) review of HE (agenda item 15)

The outcome of the developmental engagement was outlined and discussed. The outcome had been good and no essential items had been identified. An action plan would be developed prior to the summative engagement next year. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

10/49 Study Tour requests (agenda item 16)

a) Visit to Scotland by HE Land Management students (paper M)

b) Visit to Ireland by Arboriculture students (paper N)

c) Visit to Wales by Arboriculture students (paper O)

d) Visit to Malvern by Horticulture students (paper P)

Following discussion during which the essential need for full safety assessments was emphasised, *these trips were approved.*

10/50 Date of next meeting (agenda item 17)

Thursday 22nd April 2010 at 9.30am in the Principal's Office.

10/51 Any other business (agenda item 18)

a) Visit by UoN Governors

A visit would be made on Wednesday 28th April at 10.00am.

b) Budget amendment

An additional sum for the recruitment of the next Principal *was approved.* It would be included in the next budget amendment.

c) University Technical College (UTC)

These were considered to be an alternative to academies. They would deliver a specialist curriculum in STEM subjects for at least 600 14-19 students, mainly in large centres of population. One environmental UTC may be established. The County Council would be submitting an expression of interest by the end of March, with the College's involvement, to establish a UTC in Daventry. Students would need to be transported to the centre to allow it to reach its critical mass. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

d) Centre for the Built Environment

The establishment of this centre would be a 3 way partnership between the College, UoN and the University Centre Milton Keynes (UCMK). UCMK was wholly owned by Milton Keynes College. The first year cost to the College would be about £35,000. The Principal would be attending a meeting on this later in the day.

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