

MOULTON COLLEGE FEC

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

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

10/177 Apologies for absence (agenda item 1)

No apologies were received.

10/178 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.

10/179 Minutes of the meeting held on 28th October 2010 (agenda item 3, paper A)

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

10/180 Matters Arising (agenda item 4)

There were no matters arising.

10/181 New Developments – Progress Report (agenda item 5)

a) Enabling works (paper B)

There were no financial changes or other matters to report.

b) Student Social Centre (paper C)

The financial report was discussed. The steel from the new supplier was due to arrive on 15th December, at which point the project would be 4 weeks behind schedule. Some external works due to be carried out later in the contract had been brought forward. 37.5 hours had been lost to inclement weather during the delay period. The contractors hoped to make up at least 2 weeks of the lost time. Following discussion, *the report was noted*.

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

The financial report was discussed. Following some initial problems the contractors were now working to the standards expected and were on schedule. The steel was due to arrive on 6th December. Following discussion, *the report was noted*.

d) Countryside Skills Centre (paper E)

The financial report was discussed. Planning permission had been granted. The project would go to tender in the next 2 weeks. The preferred name for the building would be the Wilson Countryside Management Centre. Following discussion, *the report was noted*.

e) Refurbishment of Main Site

The design team, BCal, were working on the internal layout for Stewart House. An application for planning permission for the external corridor, the lift shaft and

staircase and replacement of windows would be submitted in December. The project would go to tender in January. The contract would need to be awarded at the Development Day so that some initial works could be carried out at Easter. Design work on the conversion of the student welfare building was well underway and a planning application would be submitted in December. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

Gerald Davies left the meeting.

10/182 Management Accounts for October 2010 (agenda item 6, paper F)

The accounts were discussed. The surplus to date was £203,450 over the budget. The College was in financial category A this month and rated Outstanding under the Framework for Excellence. One fixed interest part of the residence loan was about to finish and the interest rate would be re-fixed for up to a further 5 years to allow for capital repayments. Following discussion, *the accounts were approved.*

10/183 Quarterly Consolidated Accounts (agenda item 7, paper G)

The accounts were discussed. Levels of trading were as expected. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

10/184 Quarterly budget update (agenda item 8, paper H)

Proposed changes were outlined and discussed. The projected surplus would increase by £201,663. However, there was some doubt whether the targets in the apprenticeship contract would be able to be met. Following discussion, *the changes were approved.*

10/185 College financial health (agenda item 9, paper Hi)

The Skills Funding Agency had confirmed the college's self assessment of its financial health to be outstanding for the period covered by the latest 3 year financial forecast. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

10/186 Draft annual accounts (agenda item 10)

a) Moulton College (paper I)

The accounts were discussed. Turnover had exceeded £28 million. There was an exceptional pension credit of £733,000 due to changes in the FRS17 rules and this had boosted the surplus. There were net current liabilities as the revolving credit facility had less than 1 year to run. It had been renewed since the year end. The net pension liability showed as £3.902 million but the true deficit was only £1.4 million. Future annual rises in pension contributions should be fairly limited. Following discussion, *the accounts were approved for recommendation to the Board.*

b) Moulton College Developments (paper J)

A loss of £33,575 had been recorded after payment of a deed of covenant to the College. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

c) Moulton Trading Ltd (paper K)

The deed of covenant of £12,750 had reduced the profit to zero. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

d) Lineobject Ltd (paper L)

A loss of £379 had been recorded after payment of a deed of covenant to the College. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

e) Thomas Harrison Trust (paper M)

A surplus of £40,580 had been recorded. This included a bequest of £40,000 in memory of a former student. Following discussion, *the accounts were approved for recommendation to the Board.*

f) Janet Strang Memorial Trust (paper N)

A loss of £103.31 had been recorded for the year. The accounts had already been approved by the Trustees. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

Jamie Mair left the meeting.

10/187 Review of Operating Statement 2009-10 (agenda item 11, paper O)

The paper was discussed. The majority of items had been fully or partially completed. The remainder had been rolled over to 2010-11 where applicable. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

10/188 Operating Statement 2010-11 (agenda item 12, paper P)

The document was discussed. All items in it related to the current Strategic Plan. Following discussion, *the document was approved for recommendation to the Board and it was agreed to review progress with the plan in March 2011.*

10/189 College Fees 2011-12 (agenda item 13)

Due to the uncertainty about the funding system it was not currently possible to recommend fees for 2011-12. It was proposed to seek delegated approval from the Board for F&GP to set them in December or January. HE tuition fees for 2012-13 were discussed. A decision would be required on whether to mirror the structure adopted by the university. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

10/190 Recruitment 2011-12 (agenda item 14, paper Q)

The early position showed applications to the Landbased and Equestrian, Sport and General Education faculties to be strong. The university were probably going to close their level 3 Foundation Art and Design provision and this may be offered by the College instead provided adequate facilities could be rented from the university. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

10/191 Study Tour requests (agenda item 15)

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

b) Trip to Ireland by rugby students (paper S)

Proposed arrangements for each trip were discussed. Following discussion, *the trips were approved.*

10/192 University Technical College (agenda item 16)

An update on progress was given. The College's preference for one trust to oversee all UTC developments in the county, with each governing board sitting below this appeared to have gained favour. The statement of intent for the Daventry UTC, sponsored by the College, was due to be submitted at the end of November and should be approved. Transport to the UTC may be subsidised for the first 2 years. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

10/193 Ofsted best practice visit (agenda item 17)

A good verbal report had been received containing a few minor recommendations. Written reports were no longer produced for these visits. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

10/194 Joint appointments with UoN (agenda item 18)

There had been a poor initial response to the advertisements for 2 jointly funded professorial posts, one for the Collaborative Centre for the Built Environment and one for Sports Science. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

10/195 Date of next meeting (agenda item 19)

Thursday 16th December 2010 at 9.30am in the Principal's Office.

10/196 Any other business (agenda item 20)

There was no other business.

Part 1 of the meeting concluded.