

MOULTON COLLEGE FEC

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting
held on Thursday 28th January 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

10/1 Apologies for absence (agenda item 1)

No apologies were received.

10/2 Declarations of interest (agenda item 2)

Mrs Boardman declared an interest in any items concerning Daventry District Council, Northamptonshire County Council and West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit. Mr Heygate declared an interest as a supplier to the College.

10/3 Minutes of the meeting held on 17th December 2009 (agenda item 3, paper A)

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

10/4 Matters Arising (agenda item 4)

There were no matters arising.

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

a) Enabling works (paper B)

There were no financial changes to report. Work on the houses was 6 days behind schedule but the contractors were hopeful of making this up by the planned completion date of 2nd July 2010. Work on the road at Lodge Farm was 10 days behind schedule but should be completed by the end of February. There was no knock-on effect from this. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

b) Student Social Centre (paper C)

The financial report was discussed. A planning application had been submitted on 21st December and validated on 5th January. It should be considered before 1st March. The design team had moved on to the more detailed aspects of the design. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

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

The financial report was discussed. A full planning application had been submitted on 12th January and verbal confirmation of its validity received. The application should be considered before 20th April. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

d) Social Centre refurbishment

Internal work had been completed during the Christmas break before the students returned. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

Gerald Davies left the meeting.

- 10/6 Management Accounts for November 2009 (agenda item 6, paper E)**
The accounts were discussed. The surplus to date was £45,730 over the budget. The College was in financial category A this month and rated Outstanding under the Framework for Excellence. The performance of the Garden Centre was discussed. It underpinned the provision of practical training facilities in Horticulture. Following discussion, *the accounts were approved.*
- 10/7 Treasury Management Report (agenda item 7, paper F)**
The report for the autumn term was discussed. A tender document for the provision of credit for the forthcoming developments would be issued soon. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*
- 10/8 Budgeting Schedule 2010-11 (agenda item 8, paper G).**
The schedule was discussed *and approved.*
- 10/9 ILR Update 2009-10 (agenda item 9, paper J)**
The report was discussed. The current emphasis was on achieving the SLN (Standard Learner Number) targets, but the number of learners on 1st November had been used to form the baseline for 16-18 funding for 2010-11 of 2106 learners. This was 153 learners less than this year. The conversion factor from learners to SLN had increased from 1.3 to 1.45 so more cash would be available next year. Adult Learner Responsive funding had been reduced by 21% for 2010-11, a reduction of about £460,000. Recruitment to each category would need to be closely monitored in future and the presentation of these figures may need to be reviewed. The production of a background briefing sheet for members was discussed. An audit of the ILR would be carried out towards the end of the year. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*
- 10/10 Recruitment 2010-11 (agenda item 10, paper I)**
Applications to landbased courses were generally good although Horticulture was slightly weak. Applications for construction courses should meet the target although Roofing was weak. The investment made in sport and equestrian facilities was reflected in strong applications. HE applications were growing rapidly and may need to be capped to avoid clawback. It may be possible to obtain some extra HE funding if some of the courses could be classified as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects. The overseas market could also provide some growth in HE. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*
- 10/11 Review of Profile of Activities 2009-10 (agenda item 11, paper J)**
The range of activities being undertaken in 2009-10 was discussed. None were considered to be ultra-vires. Following discussion, *the report was noted.*

10/12 Strategic Plan 2010-15 (agenda item 12, paper K)

The draft plan was discussed. It had been produced in line with the vision statement set by the Board in 2007. The strategic objectives had been reviewed in the context of the current climate. The strengths and weaknesses were discussed. An item on the strength of governance would be added. The current Operating Statement in section 6 had been cross referenced to this plan. Feedback was requested on the planning assumptions and delivery risks set out in section 9. The Property Strategy was now under review and a draft would be brought to the next meeting. Following discussion, *the report was noted*.

10/13 Governor Development Day (agenda item 13, paper L)

The event would now take place on the afternoon and evening of 10th March and the morning of 11th March. The outline programme was discussed *and some changes agreed*.

10/14 Study Tour request (agenda item 14, paper M)

A request for a trip to Lincolnshire by Pathways to Progress students was discussed *and approved*.

10/15 Date of next meeting (agenda item 15)

Thursday 25th February 2010 at 9.30am in the Principal's Office. Mr Heygate presented his apologies for absence. Mrs Boardman was also unsure whether she could attend.

10/16 Any other businesses (agenda item 16)

a) Cultiva

Members congratulated Paul Heygate on being elected as Chairman of the group. Current activity was discussed. Evidence was currently being gathered for a presentation to YPLA (Young People's Learning Agency) on commissioning 16-18 funding and places. The report would be brought to next month's meeting and possibly discussed at the development day. There were clear benefits to remaining as a member of the group. In future, 2 meetings per year would be held for 5 governors per college, one of which would be the AGM. Following discussion, *the report was noted*.

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