
MINUTES OF THE THIRTY FIFTH MEETING OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE NORTH WEST REGIONAL COLLEGE HELD IN MEETING ROOM 1, TOWER BUILDING, STRAND ROAD CAMPUS ON TUESDAY 02 FEBRUARY 2016 @16:00

PRESENT: Mr M O’Kane (Chair)
Mr P Canavan
Mr S McGregor
Mr L Murphy (Principal & Chief Executive)
Mr B Quinn

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr D Kinnaird (Director of Learner Services) until 17:10
Mrs E Doherty (Governance Secretary)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting with a warm welcome extended to Mr Brian Quinn who was attending his first Education Committee meeting.

35.1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr G Killeen and Mr M Cooper.

35.2 CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS/DECLARATIONS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No conflict of interest declarations were made. There were no declarations of any other business.

35.3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 03 NOVEMBER 2015

It was taken that the Minutes were read and were an accurate record of the meeting.

PROPOSED; Mr P Canavan

SECONDED; Mr L Murphy

35.4 MATTERS ARISING

34.6.2 FLU 2015-16 Update

The Director will provide an update within his report, Item 35.6.

34.6.3 Strategy Day Update

The Principal reported that discussion took place during the Strategy Day on ‘the best college’. As a first step it was agreed for the College to be recognised as the ‘best College in N Ireland’. Discussion followed, it was noted that the prime indicators for achieving this would be the outcomes from the inspections.

It was agreed that a piece of work be completed by the Director to provide some other indicators and bring to the next meeting.

A longstanding Governor wished to take the opportunity to commend the Principal on his commitment and work to date and added he was encouraged and confident with the way forward.

AGREED ACTION; The Director to provide indicators to define ‘the best College’ and report to the next Committee meeting.

34.7 Food Development Centre

- Secretary to forward the Paper to Committee members not present at the meeting
Action – Paper available on MinutePad and e-mailed as Papers for Governing Body meeting.
- Paper to be presented to the next Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting
Action; Paper provided to the Finance & General Purposes Committee members, item FC 39.9
- Update on Food Development Centre to be provided at the next Committee meeting
Action: Update on Food Development Centre included within Management Report at this meeting, item EC 35.6

35.5 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

Election of Vice Chair

The Chair reminded members if they were interested in the position as Vice Chair to contact him or the Secretary.

35.6 MANAGEMENT REPORT – LEARNER SERVICES, MR D KINNAIRD (Ref Paper EC 35.6)**1. 2014-15 FLU**

The Director reported that the final figure in respect to the Quality Performance Adjustment (QPA) claw backs for provision where success rates are less than 60% had been reduced to £56,739 from the original figure of £90,000.

2. 2015-16 FLU

The projections at the last meeting remain reasonably consistent. Retention on full time programmes had improved this year and the College is currently projecting at the upper level of 95-97% delivery. A significant 6 month part-time course programme was released for January 2016 in an attempt to achieve the 99% threshold but uptake had been poor, achieving FLU target is now a challenge.

3 Health Check Summary

The Director referred members to the statistics on FLU delivery against each College. There was a significant difference across the Sector; the College had under delivered by £28k, performance among some other colleges within the sector was significantly worse. Concerns regarding potential under delivery and claw back for 2015-16 were discussed. The Principal reported that this will be part of the bi-lateral discussions with DEL.

AGREED ACTIONS;

It was agreed to ask the Director of Finance & Economic Engagement to prepare a summary Paper to provide members with some financial data on the potential cost of under delivery which may result from the demographic downturn expected around 10%.

To ask this Director to give an explanation to members as to how financial reserves are spent.

The Principal will report back on the outcome of the bi-lateral talks with DEL.

4 Student Performance

DEL had reissued the FLU statistical analysis tables and this had the effect of placing the College in second position in the sector for all FLU provision (excluding Essential Skills). The College remains in first position in Essential Skills success rates.

5 ETI Longitudinal Inspection Report, Paper 35.6, Report 5

The College had an inspection of its new Youth Training Pilot in November 2015. There were two courses in the pilot, Hairdressing and Health and Social Care which commenced at short notice. Provision must be significantly different from the current delivery model of existing Level 2 provision. The Director reported he had no concerns about the report.

6. HIGHER EDUCATION UPDATE

6.1 Foundation Degrees in Health & Social Care are planned for validation in March 2016, for delivery in September 2016 by all six colleges. Creative Media Development had been postponed until 2017. Foundation Degrees in Food Technology & Innovation and Environmental Science with Health are currently being developed with the hope for delivery September 2017/18.

6.2 Higher Level Apprenticeships (HLA)

Staff are meeting with DEL on 3 February 2016 for a review on HLA's and a report will come through the next Committee meeting.

The Director highlighted the challenges with students obtaining work placements first before they are able to enrol on the HLA's programmes.

New areas are proposed in Digital Marketing, Sport and Applied Medical Science for September 2016.

Agreed Action: HLA Report to be available at the April 2016 Committee meeting.

6.3 Partnership with Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT)

The Director reported that the initiative is going well. The Sports programme will be running from September 2016. Investigating potential progression routes for the OCR Level 4 Business Administration Programme is underway.

7. STEM ASSURED

The College received STEM Assured Status, one of only 28 further education colleges across the UK.

8. NORTHERN IRELAND PRISON SERVICE (NIPS)

The contract is progressing well, work has commenced on the new service level agreement to extend the contact for another 4 years from August 2016.

A member wished to express his delight in the provision and paid tribute to those involved.

9. BUSINESS SUPPORT CENTRE – Report 9

The Principal brought members through the update on the Business Support Centre which included DEL programmes and other programmes including Invest NI Innovation Vouchers, Enterprise Ireland IVs, Intergrade Ireland Fusion projects, KTP and consultancy programmes, EU Projects and Events.

Food Development Centre

The Principal reported that following approval of the Business Plan, tenders were awarded for equipment and delivery is expected March/April 2016. Architectural plans are expected to be completed shortly and work to commence mid-March with estimated completion end of May/June 2016. The Principal added there has been significant interest from industry in the Centre.

10. EUROPEAN PROJECTS UPDATE – Report 10

The Principal provided a summary on the current activities on European Funded Programmes. Members noted the report.

11. MARKETING & PR EVENTS & AWARDS – Report 11

Members noted the report that highlighted the events that have been supported since the last Education Committee meeting and those that will be supported before the next meeting. Success of College students and staff had also been included in the report.

The Chair thanked the Director for his report.

35.7 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received.

35.8 AOB

There was no any other business to discuss.

That being the end of business the Chair thanked everyone and brought the meeting to a close at 17:20.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 5 April 2016 @4.00pm

Signed: _____ Chair

Date: 05 April 2016