
MINUTES OF THE FORTY EIGHTH MEETING OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE NORTH WEST REGIONAL COLLEGE HELD IN MEETING ROOM 1, STRAND ROAD CAMPUS ON TUESDAY 9 APRIL 2019 @ 1600

PRESENT: Mr M O’Kane, Committee Chair
Mr P Canavan (until 1732)
Mr S Gillespie
Mr A Magee (from 1608 -1710)
Mrs L Taggart (until 1725)
Mr E Kelly
Mr L Murphy, Principal and Chief Executive
Mr S McGregor (until 1807)
Dr M O’Neill (from 1609 – 1710)
Mr B Quinn

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Traynor, Vice Principal, Curriculum & Information Services
Ms G Moss, Head of Learner Services (for presentation item only)
Mrs E Doherty, Governance Secretary

The Chair welcomed everyone and declared the meeting open. The Chair invited Ms G Moss, Head of Learner Services to present the HR & Learner Services Management Report to the Committee.

➤ **PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TO ALL MEMBERS**

Paper EC 48p HR & Learner Services Management Report

Ms Moss brought members through the Management Report which addressed staff development, training and Learner Services as set out in the Committee’s Terms of Reference.

Ms Moss provided detail to the work of the Learning and Teaching Development Team now in its third year of operation, in its drive to achieve excellence in service provision. She also provided a synopsis of the extensive work of Learner Services. A recent highlight was the Careers Academy receiving a prestigious national education award, the Association of Colleges’ Beacon Award in recognising the best and most innovative practice among UK Further Education Colleges.

The Principal paid tribute to the Careers Academy Team on a well deserved award and added that it is an outstanding accolade not only for the College but for the City and region.

AGREED ACTION; The Committee agreed to write to the Careers Academy Team congratulating them on receipt of the award.

The Chair commended the work of the Learner Services Team and thanked Ms Moss for what was a very helpful insight into the work of the Team.

Mr A Magee and Dr M O’Neill arrived to the meeting during this item.

48.1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr G Killeen and Mrs L McGonigle.

48.2 CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS/DECLARATIONS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

48.3 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2019**➤ PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TO ALL MEMBERS**

Paper EC 48.3 Final Draft Education Committee Minutes of 12 February 2019

It was taken that the Final Draft Minutes were read and were a true and accurate record of the meeting.

PROPOSED; Mr M O’Kane

SECONDED; Mrs L Taggart

48.3.1 MATTERS ARISING – 12 February 2019 Committee Meeting

47.5 Management Report – Vice Principal to provide an update on VEP engagement at the next Committee meeting.

Update: Report provided within Management Report, EC 48.5, Report 4.

- Principal to make available the Sector Wide Position Paper on HE in FE.

Update: item to be discussed later into the meeting.

- Vice Principal to report back to members at the next Committee meeting on OU validation and the curriculum offer.

Update: The Vice Principal reported that the application process has commenced with three curriculum areas of interest. Market research needs to be undertaken in relation to these proposed new provisions before the application can progress.

- College Curriculum Plan to be provided to the Committee for information.

Update: Plan will be made available for the June Committee meeting.

- Consideration to be given to holding the meetings earlier in the day.

Update: The Committee Chair advised he is unable to facilitate this due to his own work commitments.

48.4 COMMITTEE CHAIR’S BUSINESS

The Chair had no other business to discuss and invited Mrs S Traynor, Vice Principal to present her report to the Committee.

48.5 MANAGEMENT REPORT – Mrs S Traynor, Vice Principal Curriculum & Information Services**➤ PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TO ALL MEMBERS**

PAPER EC.48.5 Management Report

Report 1 - College Development Plan

Report 3 - Scrutiny Outcome Letter from DfE

Report 4 - Entitlement Framework Overview

➤ TABLED TO ALL MEMBERS

Report 1 - CDP 2018/19 Current and Projected Enrolments to 30 June 2019

Report 2 – Target Planning for 2019/20

➤ VERBAL REPORT

Higher Education in Further Education Position Paper, March 2019

The Vice Principal referred to the tabled report on targets 2018-2019 which showed overall enrolments as at 4 April 2019 at 15842 against a target of 17952 for 2018/19. This represents 88% of target achieved to date. A summer school is being promoted to improve

enrolment figures with short accredited programmes that can be offered in June/July. The College Community Team are continuing to recruit students onto accredited short courses.

It is projected that the College should achieve 93% of target enrolments to 30 June 2019.

The Vice Principal advised that the ETI will visit the College on 29/30 April 2019 to carry out a follow-up inspection of Wood Occupations. They will focus on the areas of improvement identified in the College inspection carried out in November 2017.

Continuing her report the Vice Principal referred to the Entitlement Framework Overview Report which highlighted a total reduction of 125 enrolments in campuses for 2018/19 against 2017/18 enrolments. An ongoing challenge was engagement across schools within the Foyle Area Learning Community where the schools are delivering most of the subject choices on the framework between them.

The Vice Principal went on to outline the content of the Sector Wide Draft Position Paper on HE in FE. Discussion followed on the challenges of the inflexible and restrictive nature of the existing policy for delivery of Higher Education in Colleges of Further Education. The Draft has been shared with the Department and includes a set of guiding principles that should be used as a basis for a new policy for HE in FE.

Mr P Canavan left the meeting at this juncture.

The Vice Principal stated that the College Development Plan 2019-20 was submitted to the Department on 27 March 2019 together with the projected enrolment figures. The Vice Principal wished to thank the DCSDC Staff for providing the NISRA data within the Report. The Vice Principal brought members through the report providing explanations and clarifications and highlighting the key impacts as she progressed through the report. The tabled report on Target Planning for 2019/20 was discussed. This showed a reduced enrolment target of 1287 from the 2018/19 target. The final version of the Plan will come through the next Committee meeting. Members were content with the draft plan. The Principal and Mr McGregor wished to thank Mrs Traynor, Vice Principal for her time afforded to this piece of work and to thank her for her work during her tenure of office as Acting Vice Principal which was completing shortly. The Chair mirrored these sentiments of thanks.

Mrs L Taggart and Mr S McGregor left the meeting during this item.

48.6 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report on.

48.7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to discuss, the Chair closed the meeting at 1815 and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Date of Next Meeting: 4 June 2019

Signed; _____ Chair
Mr M O’Kane

Date: 4 June 2019

APPROVED