

BOSTON COLLEGE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOSTON COLLEGE CORPORATION HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2011

1. PRESENT

Mr P Cropley (chair), Ms S Daley, Mr R Haynes, Mrs L Ladds, Mr A Lascelles, Mr S McCracken, Mr C Nicolson, Mr A Reynolds, Mrs P Smith, Mr R Stanley, Mrs B Ward and Mr D White.

Also in attendance: Mrs J Hemmant (Clerk to the Corporation), Mr P Collins (Director of Business Development) and Mr J Rees (Deputy Principal).

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Gallagher, Mr D Hanson, Mr T Huggins, Mr B Walder and Mrs H Wright.

2. MEMBERSHIP

Concern was expressed about the attendance of a couple of members and the Clerk was asked to make enquiries about the reasons for the poor attendance of some members.

3. MINUTES

a) Meeting of the Corporation 15 December 2010

The minutes of the meeting of the Corporation held on 15 December 2010 having been circulated were agreed and signed as a correct record. It was noted that the bank loan in respect of the Spalding development was being taken up within the next few days.

b) Meeting of the Audit Committee 19 November 2010

The minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 19 November 2010 were received in draft form and it was noted that the draft had now been approved.

c) Meeting of the Search Committee 15 December 2010

The minutes of the meeting of the Search Committee held on 15 December 2010 were received.

4. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Members received a report from the Principal on a number of activities which had taken place within the College since the last meeting. It was noted that the College was seeing an increase in student applications and that developments for the Spalding centre were well advanced with the Restaurant staff in place and Chefs being appointed later in the week.

At the request of the Standards Committee members also received a copy of the Equality and Diversity Manager's report which had been presented to the committee.

5. STRATEGY

Members received a report from the Principal on a number of strategic matters.

Consideration was given to the national context within which the College was operating and changes in funding arrangements were discussed. The College's funding for 2011-12 was expected to be similar to 2010-11 and in Higher Education the College was now working better with Lincoln University.

Some of the local cuts were impacting on College provision including proposals for increased transport charges and the impact of the withdrawal of Education Maintenance Allowances was unknown. With regard to the transport issues staff were attending the consultation event and the Principal shared with members a number of responses from other groups. Governors felt that it was important that young people had access to a range of courses and agreed that options for providing transport through the College should be examined. It was also agreed that a letter should be sent from the governors responding to the County Council consultation. A meeting with the leader of the County Council with the Lincolnshire College boards was suggested to discuss the potential impact of increased transport costs and that if such a meeting took place local MPs Mark Simmonds and John Hayes should also be invited to attend.

Information was also provided to members on options for the development of a University Technical College which the College was currently reviewing. It was noted that this type of development fitted in well with the likely recommendations from the Wolfe review and that the College had had some positive responses from potential partners to such a development. Areas of potential specialism had been identified and governors felt that this was a very interesting proposal worthy of their support. The next step to be taken would be to have a meeting with the Baker Dearing Trust.

6. PROPERTY

Members received a verbal report from the Director of Corporate Services on the latest position with regard to the College property developments. It was noted that members would be receiving an invitation to the opening events at the Spalding Red Lion Quarter and it was also agreed that a board meeting should take place at this centre.

7. FINANCE

Members received a report from the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee with information on the College's accounts to 30 November 2010 together with the committee's formal report to the Corporation.

Members also received a report from the Director of Corporate Services on the College's risk management arrangements.

8. COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY

Members received a confidential report on a possible commercial opportunity which had been offered to the College. It was agreed that no further action should be taken in pursuit of this opportunity.

9. GOVERNANCE

It was agreed that a date should be selected for the Governor Development day and that it should take place in Spalding with a meal in the restaurant.

It was noted that options for the presentation of Corporation papers were being considered including the use of Netbooks. It was agreed that a trial of use of Netbooks for Corporation papers should begin with the Standards Committee.

10. PRINCIPALS INTERVIEW

The arrangements for the interviews for the Principal's post were clarified for the benefit of members.

11. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

The dates of the next meetings of the Corporation were noted to be:

24 February 2011 – Special meeting re the Principal's appointment
18 May 2011 – Routine meeting.