

BOSTON COLLEGE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2006

1. PRESENT

Mr P Cropley, Ms S Daley, Mr R Haynes, Mrs L Ladds, Mr S McCracken and Mrs P Smith.

Also in attendance Mrs J Hemmant (Clerk to the Corporation), Finance Manager (item 4 only) and Mr C Bradford (Deputy Principal).

Apologies for absence were received from Mr C Baron.

2. CHAIRMAN 2006-07

Having been duly nominated and seconded Mr McCracken was elected as Chairman of the committee for 2006-07.

Mr McCracken in the Chair.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING 18 SEPTEMBER 2006

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2006 were received and approved.

4. FINANCE

Members received a report from the Director of Corporate Services on a number of financial issues:

a) Finance Report 2006-07.

Members of the committee reviewed the accounts to 31 August 2006 and agreed the contents of the committee's report to the Corporation. It was agreed that the issues which were further identified on the annual accounts should also be noted on this committee report.

b) Draft Annual Accounts 2005-06

Members reviewed in detail the contents of the draft accounts for 2005-06 and noted in particular the move from a profit in 2004-05 to a deficit in 2005-06. Members were advised that the College had identified as significant reasons for this shift the lack of growth in income combined with increased costs, particularly in staffing. Information was provided on the analysis which had already been completed on the increased costs and members were advised of steps being taken by the College to control costs, in particular staff costs, in the future to prevent a recurrence of this deficit.

Particular concern was expressed about the effects of FRS17 on the College's accounts and members of the committee were concerned about the effect this could have on the College's solvency in the future and on its ability to raise loans in respect of property developments in the shorter term.

It was agreed that the Director of Corporate Services would circulate to members a copy of the Actuary's Report which had produced the figures shown in the accounts and that members of the committee would subsequently consider whether they wished the actuary who produced these figures to attend a meeting of the committee to explain the position in more detail.

5. PROPERTY

Members received a verbal update from the Director of Corporate Services and the Principal on the development of the College's plans for rebuilding. The committee was advised that, of two sites which might be suitable within the town centre redevelopment, the College had a preference for the site currently occupied by the Kwiksave Supermarket. The arrangements by which the site might be secured and the application in principle finalised for submission to the Learning and Skills Council were considered in some detail. Committee members expressed particular concern about the timing of Planning Applications for the development and enquired about any further research which might need to be submitted alongside the application. Members of the committee felt that it would be helpful to have an indication of the timescales involved in moving this proposed development forward and it was agreed that Tribal should be asked to attend Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings in the future to report on progress. It was further agreed that a representative from Tribal should be asked to attend the Corporation meeting in December at which this matter could be further discussed.

6. FUNDING AND FRANCHISING

Members received a report from the Principal on early indications for funding from the Learning and Skills Council for 2006-07 and on the franchise contract held by the College. It was noted that the College had overachieved its 16-18 student number target and that adult recruitment was ahead of 2005-06. Members were advised that it was possible that some additional funding would be made available to cover the additional recruitment of 16-18 year olds. With regard to franchise arrangements it was reported that the Equine franchise had been questioned at the Annual Assessment Visit since it opened up the College activities in an extra sector skills area.

7. NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the committee would take place on Tuesday 23 January 2007.

Sandra/F&GPCOMMITTEE/F&GPMINUTES20Nov06