

TRURO AND PENWITH COLLEGE CORPORATION



Search and Governance Committee

Minutes of the Search and Governance Committee held on 13 May 2021 via Teams

Members: Mrs L Batchelor, Mr R Crossland (Chair), Dr E Sheridan,

Mr R Townsend, Mr M Tucker and Mr A Young

Also Present: Mr J Burnett and Mrs A Winter (Clerk to the Corporation)

Item	Discussion/Decision	Action
21/11	Welcome	
	Jonathan Burnett (new governor) was welcomed to the meeting.	
21/12	Minutes	
	The minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2021 were APPROVED as a correct record.	
21/13	Matters Arising	
	13.01 Teaching School (Minute 21/02.01)	
	The Principal reported that the bid by the Roseland Academy had been successful and two members of Cornwall Teaching School staff had been seconded to the Roseland to help establish the new Teaching School Hub.	
	13.02 Safeguarding (Minute 21/02.02)	
	The Committee was pleased to note the appointment of a new Assistant Safeguarding Officer at Penwith with another appointment due to be made at Truro in response to increased workload.	
	13.03 SW Institute of Technology (Minute 21/02.04)	
	Advice from Stephens Scown was being sought to clarify the extent of governor responsibilities. The key liability related to potential clawback of capital funding if the IoT was unsuccessful or performance dropped below agreed levels. This was very unlikely given the current position and government drive to expand higher technical qualifications.	Principal to provide feedback
	13.04 Governance Self-Assessment Review 2021 (Minute 21/05)	
	An online self-assessment questionnaire and skills audit had been prepared and was ready for circulation to all governors. An analysis of responses would feed into the biennial governance review.	Clerk to circulate
	13.05 Stadium for Cornwall (Minute 21/09)	
	A two staged project was now being proposed. Phase one would be a smaller project which would not involve the College.	

13.06 Capital Funding Opportunities (Minute 21/09)

Although the College's recent bid for additional Getting Building Funds (for a mezzanine floor at Ottery) had been unsuccessful, other opportunities were being pursued, such as the Skills Accelerator Fund (in collaboration with The Cornwall College Group).

13.07 Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) (Minute 21/09)

Governors noted the tremendous pressure on staff and additional workload to assess and compile TAGs by 19 May in order for internal moderation and quality assurance processes to be completed before the submission deadline in June. Staff were dealing with a high volume of queries from learners, parents and carers concerning TAGs.

21/14 Review of Corporation Membership, Length of Service and Succession Planning

The Committee reviewed the overall profile, terms of office and length of service of members and noted three appointments were due to end this summer, including the retirement of the Chair of the Corporation, Bob Crossland. The skills and experience of the membership and any skills gaps were considered.

Governors acknowledged that the FE White Paper and post-Covid recovery initiatives were likely to be a key focus in the coming year, with workload implications for the Employment Policy Committee.

Following consideration, the Committee **RECOMMENDED** to the Corporation the appointment of:

- Peter Wroe (Managing Director, Eliquo Hydrok and formerly Finance Director, Eden Project) as a non-governor member of the Employment Policy Committee
- the re-appointment of Katie Ashworth as a Governor and Member of the Employment Committee and Investment Panel from 1 August for a second term of 4 years
- the re-appointment of David Collins as a Governor and Member of the Finance and General Purposes Committee from 1 August for a second term of 4 years.

21/15 Consideration of Corporation Vice-Chair Roles

The Committee considered the draft Vice-Chair role description setting out the proposed duties and responsibilities. As well as deputising for the Chair (with the longer serving Vice-Chair being the primary deputy), each Vice-Chair could be designated to take the lead on particular aspects of board activities, as agreed in discussion with the Chair.

Following consideration, the Committee **RECOMMENDED** to the Corporation approval of the proposed role description (Appendix A).

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21/16	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lead Governor	
	The Committee discussed the nomination of a link governor to take the lead on EDI issues and provide additional oversight for this important area. The Committee APPROVED a role description (Appendix B) and the Chair would approach the proposed governor to take on this role.	Chair to liaise with governor
21/17	FE White Paper	
	The Committee considered and NOTED a summary of the key governance issues in the White Paper. Reforms included a new requirement for an annual board self-assessment and regular external governance reviews. Also a framework of skills and competencies would be developed for board members and the governance professional/clerk.	
	The implications would be monitored and a response developed as the proposed reforms became legislation.	
21/18	Ney Review of College Financial Oversight	
	The Committee NOTED the key governance findings and recommendations arising from the Ney Review which were intended to raise standards of governance and transparency across the FE sector.	
	An outcome of the review was the introduction of an annual strategic conversation with each college. The conversation would be led by the ESFA (with an FE Commissioner representative) to discuss current and future plans with governors and leaders.	
	The College's strategic conversation would take place on 21 May 2021.	
21/19	ESFA Post-16 Audit Code of Practice 2020-21	
	A revised Post-16 Audit Code of Practice (CoP) had been published and the Committee NOTED the key changes.	
	The Committee RECOMMENDED to the Audit Committee a review of its role and remit to meet the revised CoP.	Audit Committee to review
21/20	External Governance Roles undertaken by SMT	
	The Committee noted that SMT members who were retiring this year had confirmed their intention to resign from current Corporation appointments: Cheryl Mewton – TPAT Member; Andy Stittle – TPAT Trustee and SWIoT Board Member.	
	Following discussion, the Committee RECOMMENDED to the Corporation the following appointments to fill those vacancies:	
	 TPAT Member – Lowenna Bradley TPAT Trustee – Adele Bull SWIoT Board Member – Adele Bull 	Recommen dation to Corporation
21/21	Memoranda of Understanding	
	21.01 Truro and Penwith Academy Trust (TPAT)	
	The Committee considered the draft MoU which had been jointly developed to clarify the position regarding post-16 provision. The MoU provided a framework for the way both parties would work together in the event that TPAT was asked to consider taking on secondary schools with sixth forms.	

Although the agreement confirmed intentions and shared commitments, it was not a legally binding document. Maintaining good communication and a positive relationship remained crucial to the success of the partnership. The Regional Schools Commissioner was content with the draft. It was noted that the proposed MoU focused on post-16 delivery and did Chair & not encompass wider governance issues at this stage and the Chair and Principal to take forward Principal agreed to discuss this further with their TPAT counterparts. Following discussion, the Committee RECOMMENDED to the Recommend Corporation approval of the draft MoU, and further dialogue on broader ation to governance issues. Corporation 21.02 Callywith College The Committee considered the draft MoU which had been jointly developed to confirm the shared objectives and the way in which both parties would work in partnership. Recommend Following discussion, the Committee **RECOMMENDED** to the ation to Corporation approval of the draft MoU. Corporation 21/22 Updated Code of Good Governance for English Colleges The Committee reviewed the updated Code of Good Governance. Proposed changes included a new section on Environmental Sustainability which set out recommendations on the Corporation's approach to carbon reduction and improving environmental sustainability. As well as monitoring the College's sustainability strategy, the Code recommended that boards set targets and KPIs, taking into account the FE Climate Action Roadmap. Recommend Governors **RECOMMENDED** a review of the governance approach to ation to sustainability by the F&GP Committee. F&GP 21/23 Future Governance Meetings and Arrangements The Committee reviewed feedback from Governors provided via an online survey and considered meeting arrangements for this term. The Committee concluded that the summer Board meeting would be held onsite, if possible, whilst committees would continue as remote meetings. Chair to Additional training/support could be made available on a one-to-one basis inform governors on request and the Covid situation would continue to be monitored to ensure compliance with restrictions as necessary. 21/24 **Any Other Business** The Committee **NOTED**: two governors had recently taken part in AoC development webinars the Clerk had recently completed the ETF/AoC Technical Aspects of Being a Governance Professional programme the conclusions of the annual curriculum costing exercise would be reported to the SAR Working Party each November. 21/25 Date of Next Meeting ALL to note The Committee would next meet at 12.30 pm on Thursday 21 October 2021.