

## **News from the FE Corporation meetings, 9 July 2018 and 22 August 2018**

### **Curriculum Department presentation**

Governors received a very helpful and interesting presentation from Mike Chapman, Curriculum Manager, Computing and Business (SSA 6), outlining developments within the department, key successes and future plans. Governors were pleased to note the continuing good performance in Computing and the significant improvements achieved in Business, and thanked the curriculum team for their contribution to this. Governors were also pleased to note that all teaching staff within the department were graded 1 or 2.

Governors are looking forward to further presentations from curriculum areas at future meetings.

### **Governor Appointments**

Governors appointed Hollie Ball, employment law solicitor, and Scott Wood, project manager currently employed at the Department for Education, as Corporation members from 1 August 2018. Governors also appointed Sue Hewison, individual banking manager at Handelsbanken, as a co-opted member of the Finance, Employment and Estates Committee. Governors expressed their gratitude to Rob Barrigan for his service as a governor and Corporation Vice Chair. Rob had decided to step down from the Board, to pursue other commitments, following the stability achieved in terms of both finance and quality. Governors are seeking a person with financial expertise to fill this vacancy.

Governors also thanked Marguerite Kelly and Katie Robinson for their service as student governors. Two further student governors will be recruited in the autumn term.

### **Strategic Plan**

Governors reviewed progress against the plan and were pleased to note that implementation of the new website was on target and the final data migration to Pro Solution had taken place with no issues.

### **Quality**

Governors received an update on quality and were pleased to note, in particular, the wide range of enrichment activities. Governors requested more information on this at future meetings. Members were also pleased to note that numbers of students undertaking work experience were in line with last year's high rates and that retention was above national averages.

Members also considered the 2016-17 Destinations report which included, for the first time, destinations for adult and part-time students. Governors recognised the significant staff time and effort required to produce this comprehensive document.

At a Corporation meeting on 22 August 2018, governors were very pleased to note the significant improvements in the number of students achieving 4 or above in GCSEs. Governors congratulated all staff on this success.

### **Curriculum Planning**

Governors received an update and were pleased to note that no staff redundancies had been required. Curriculum planning for the 2019-20 academic year would take place earlier in 2019 to allow more time for budget planning and budget entry into Open Accounts.

### **Higher Education Update**

Governors received information on the positive outcomes of the recent Teesside University Institutional Review and congratulated all staff involved in both recent higher education reviews. Governors also noted the introduction of a new Foundation Degree in Public Services.

### **Financial Matters**

Governors received an update from the Finance, Estates and Employment Committee meeting and considered the latest monthly management accounts and year end forecasts. The year end budget position was significantly improved as a result of good budget management, including control of staff costs, and a prudent approach to income. Governors thanked and congratulated all staff involved in developing the financial plan for this positive position.

Governors also considered and approved the college budget for 2018-19, along with the two year financial plan, capital programme and subcontracting allocations. Governors were pleased to note the small deficit position planned for the end of 2018/19 as this represents the ongoing progress the college is making on the journey to financial sustainability. As part of their budget considerations, governors received information on apprenticeship provision with the Student Loans Company and the new 'Driving Ambition' project. Governors noted that planned capital expenditure included: technology improvements, particularly in the English and maths corridor; enhancing the HE corridor to give a better study experience for HE students; a new e-portfolio system for apprenticeship delivery; and some facilities improvements. Governors also noted the plans to ensure more in-house delivery of Adult Education Budget funded provision.

### **Estates matters**

Governors received an update on plans in relation to Teesside University's National Horizons Centre. The University had revised plans around parking, boundaries and access to minimise the impact on both the main college site and the Childcare Centre and the college would work with the University to take this forward. Governors also received information on the appointment of a new Health and Safety Officer.

## **Policies**

Governors approved a range of updated policies, including the college's financial regulations and an updated Equality and Diversity Policy.

## **Audit and risk management issues**

Governors received feedback from an Audit Committee and thanked the Marketing Manager for her presentation in relation to the new website. Governors were keen to be involved in the testing phase for the new website. Members had also thanked Lindesay Steel, who was stepping down from the committee, for his long service to the college as an Audit Committee member.

Governors approved the appointment of Audit One as internal auditors and Mazars as external auditors, both for a contract period of three years in the first instance.

## **Governance Matters**

Following a consultation process, governors agreed changes to the Instrument and Articles of Government, to remove requirements for publication of Corporation and committee minutes on the website and for full Corporation approval of senior post holder appointments.

Governor attendance remained high at 82% for Corporation meetings for the 2017-18 academic year.

Pat Howarth was reappointed as Corporation Chair for the 2018-19 academic year.

## **Principal's and Chair's Announcements**

Governors noted Gary Potts' resignation from his post of Assistant Principal and wished him well in future. They heard considerations regarding his replacement within the senior leadership team and at the Corporation meeting on 22 August, governors welcomed Patrick Leonard, Interim Assistant Principal, to the college.

At the July meeting, governors also approved the award of three discretionary days at Christmas and noted that the college had been selected for an ESFA funding audit for the third consecutive year. In this instance, this was on the basis of random selection.

Governors also considered the impact of local and regional developments on the FE landscape.

Best wishes from the Board

Pat Howarth, Chair

Kate Roe, Principal