

BISHOP GROSSETESTE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LINCOLN

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
GOVERNANCE & NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2012
2:00 PM IN ROOM 102, SKINNER BUILDING

Present

Mr Haydn Beeken
Mr Richard Corn
Mr Michael Jacob
Mr Maximilian Manin (Chair)
Mrs Jasmit Phull
Professor Muriel Robinson

In attendance

Ms Vicky Mays, Clerk to Governors
Ms Haf Merrifield, Deputy Principal
Mrs Emma Smeaton, Minuting Secretary

1. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Welcome from the Chair

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

3. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

4. Minutes of the last meeting held 6th October 2011

The minutes of the meeting of the 6th October 2011 were confirmed as a true record of the meeting and the Chair was authorised to sign them.

Action

5. Matters arising

(i) Trustee indemnity insurance

Members noted that the University College currently had trustee liability cover for up to £2 million. It was agreed that The Director of Resources would be asked to investigate the cost of increasing the cover to present at the next meeting of the Governing Body. He would also clarify to governors whether the breach of duty referred to the University College and not the individual.

VM/SD

(ii) Options to rename the University College

In anticipation of changes to legislation which affect the requirements of higher education providers being able to achieve university title it was agreed that if this option became available then members would recommend the University College should be renamed 'Bishop Grosseteste University'. Members agreed that it would be sensible to remove 'Lincoln' out of the title to avoid confusion with the University of Lincoln. The name Bishop Grosseteste has an excellent reputation associated with it and although difficult to pronounce it was agreed that it would be a shame to lose the strength and brand of the name. Members were happy to recommend the name 'Bishop Grosseteste University' to the Governing Body, with the primary brand becoming BGU.

VM

6. Honorary Awards 2012

The Principal reported that all three Honorary Graduates for 2012 were in place; Keith Bartley, Iram Siraj-Blatchford and Ruth Goodman.

7. Instrument and Articles and Charitable Objects update

The Deputy Principal reported that the Instrument and Articles was with the appointed solicitor Peter Beesley of Lee Bolton Monier-Williams and the Charitable Object had been sent to the Charity Commission.

8. Vacancies and terms of office

(i) Vacancies

Members noted that although there was still one vacancy on the Governing Body it was sensible to wait until the review of the Governing Body had taken place.

The Chair reported that he had recently written to Professor Bob Burgess, Vice Chancellor at the University of Leicester regarding a successor for Professor John Fothergill on the Governing Body. It was also agreed that Professor Fothergill would be approached for suggestions.

(ii) Terms of office including Provost

The Vice Chair reported that as he was due to come to the end of his second term in September 2013 it would be sensible to have the next Vice Chair in place before this. Members also noted that Dame Judith Mahew-Jonas had expressed her intention to end her role as Provost a year before her second term was due to end.

It was also reported that student governor, Ian Bennett was enrolling on the GTP programme next academic year and would therefore not be able to continue his role on the Governing Body. The Deputy Principal noted that she would frame a review of the student governor role as part of his review.

HM

9. Effectiveness

(i) Governor performance reviews

It was noted that governor reviews were in the pipeline but those involved had made plans to do them.

(ii) Suggestions for Governing Body working lunches/Hub leader presentations

(a) Working lunches

- 15th March 2012: Policy update;
- 28th June 2012: Presentation from former Heritage student (now working at Powis Castle) on her placement at Doddington Hall (arranged by Andrew Jackson).

VM

(b) Hub leader presentations

- 15th March 2012:
Diversity & Equality
Hub business plans update

It was agreed that as both of the above were now for the March meeting this would be the main focus of the agenda. Governors would be asked to suggest future presentations at the Governing Body next meeting.

VM

(iii) Governance effectiveness review update

Members noted the governor response and the SLT response to the governance survey and agreed that as they were both still interim they would be revisited once a full set of responses had been received.

It was noted that the governance staff survey was now closed. The results raised the issue of staff not being aware of who the governors were and where they could find the Governing Body minutes. It was therefore agreed that at the next Staff Council meeting staff would be shown, on screen, where this information can be accessed. It was also agreed that a link to this information would be put routinely at the end of the report from staff governors in the BG Bulletin. A lack of staff response was noted, although it was agreed this was not necessarily a negative sign.

VM

It was reported that a face to face approach to surveying students had taken place. Similar results had arisen as with the staff survey and it was agreed that the same would be done for the students at their next Student Council meeting. It was agreed that a set of governor badges would be helpful to enable students to recognise governors in and around campus.

VM

Members agreed that a full set of all the results would be circulated via e-mail in advance of the next meeting for discussion.

VM

(iv) Governance audit report

It was reported that we had challenged the internal auditors on their approach to the review and they had responded appropriately. It was also noted that a unique set of circumstances had made this particular review more difficult as a very short timescale had been set.

(a) Progress on actions

The progress chart was received for information.

(b) Governor skill set table

Members received the governor skill set table and table of training programmes attended for information and agreed that SLT would also be added to the skills matrix as a separate block. It was also agreed that the Principal, Deputy Principal and Clerk would consider an appropriate scale for the matrix which would capture the level and currency of skills.

VM/MR/HM

(c) Governor appraisal form

Members were happy to note the improved version of the appraisal form.

10. Ethos sub committee

It was noted that there was nothing much to report. Commitments had been made to move forward and arrange the next meeting.

11. Agenda suggestions

- Setting up a recruitment process for new governors;
- Recommendations arising from the effectiveness review.

VM

12. Any other business

Members were reminded to respond to their invitations to the 150th celebrations if they hadn't already done so.

13. Key items for the Governing Body

- The renaming of the University College;
- Honorary Awards 2012;
- Update on the effectiveness review.

14. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Governance and Nominations Committee would take place on Tuesday 15th May 2012 at 2:00 pm.

Signed 

Date 9-10-12

