



Chairs Report

3rd October 2016

1. I have now prepared two Chair's Reports after the Board meetings in March and June 2016 to communicate the Board's decisions and to help everyone understand the role of the Board and the impact of its decisions. This is the third of my Chair's Reports and it follows the meeting of the Board on the 3rd October 2016. The Board's and its committees' agendas, reports and minutes will now be published on the web and you will now be able to read about the detail of the Board's activities online.



Linda McTavish
Chair - Lanarkshire Regional Board

2. The October Board meeting was the first meeting for the Student Presidents - Zorena Shanks and Jack Smith – and I am pleased to welcome them to the Lanarkshire Board. They both gave reports to the Board which set out the broad range of successful activity that has been undertaken by both Student Associations. Both Student Presidents will attend a Colleges Scotland and NUS organised Board Induction training day on the 11th of October 2016 and Zorena will attend a College Development Network Board Members conference on the 25th October with myself and other Board Members.
3. The Board of SLC has been freshly recruited as the final piece in the process of regionalisation. The Board received a report from the newly re-appointed Chair of SLC, Jane McCartney, who informed us that there were now nine females and seven males on the new SLC Board and that 10 members of the Board were new to the Board. Staff elections had taken place and the teaching staff board member is Jean Carratt and the support staff board member is Rose Harkness. They are both automatically members of the Lanarkshire Board and I am also pleased to welcome them to the Board.
4. This was once again a busy meeting for the Board with a number of reports and decisions on the agenda for the meeting as follows:
 - Reports from the Board's committees including approving NCL's 2016-17 budget
 - Reports from the Student Association
 - Reports from the assigned college - South Lanarkshire College
 - The Chair's Report to the Board
 - An update on the PREVENT INITIATIVE – counter terrorism and security act
 - Reports on Governance – the Revised Code of Good Governance and Audit Scotland's College Sector Report
 - In confidence minute from the Remuneration Committee
5. The Board committees have also been busy and these are a few highlights from their reports to the Board.
 - The CSAO Committee had a response to the letter inviting John Swinney to visit the regional college from Shirley Anne Sommerville, the Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science. The Minister has offered a meeting with James Boyce the Acting Head of College Policy and this will be followed up by the Committee.
 - The CSAO Committee will receive reports on the Gender Action Plan that each college is now required to submit to the SFC and to demonstrate that no curricular area will have more than a 75:25 split over gender areas by 2020.

- I will be raising the issues of the impact of the EU referendum and the loss of European Funding as will both college principals through the Principals' Forum.
 - The Board considered the 2016 -17 budget with a recommendation from the Finance Committee that the proposed deficit budget be approved. This was the major item of business for this meeting of the Board. The Board was informed that as well as pressure on the sector, there were a number of specific issues relating to New College Lanarkshire. These included costs which are not currently being funded by the SFC as follows: traditionally higher salaries than the rest of the sector and the knock on effect in terms of budgeting for national bargaining, pay awards and increased pension and National Insurance costs. In addition, the College delivered a substantial amount of European Social Fund activity for a lower price than that paid to other colleges. The Board agreed the recommendation from the Finance Committee and approved the deficit budget proposed subject to continuing with the ongoing discussions with the SFC about the need for increased funding for NCL.
6. I am very pleased to report that the Board was copied with the letter from the SFC confirming that the Lanarkshire Board has achieved fundable body status from the beginning of August 2016. SFC grant funds for the region will now be channelled through the Lanarkshire Board as the Regional Strategic Body. This is a major step forward for the Lanarkshire Board in fulfilling its statutory role and has been the subject of a great deal of work with the SFC over the past year.
 7. In my Chair's Report to the meeting I reported that the evaluation of the Board was underway with a report to come to the next meeting of the Board in December and that the evaluation of myself as the Chair was at final draft. The Board was informed that the recruitment for two members of the Lanarkshire Board to take the Board to its full complement is underway. The Nominations Committee will review and interview applicants in October and the Board will be informed of successful applicants after ministerial approval. The Board will have a strategy event on the 19th and 20th January 2017. The Board was informed of the following events as well as the events noted above: the NCL Graduation Ceremony will be on Friday 4th November 2016 at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall and CDN will hold an induction day for new Board Members on the 8th December 2016 at Argyll Court in Stirling.
 8. The Board received an update on PREVENT and the paper will be available online. The Board noted the report.
 9. The Board considered the Revised Code of Good Governance which is a key governance document for college boards. It is mandatory and adherence is a condition of SFC grant. It also considered the Audit Scotland College Sector report and I will have discussion with senior management about developing a Lanarkshire view on this report.

The next meeting of the Board is on the 12th December and I will write to you in a Christmas report after that meeting.

Linda McTavish CBE

Chair of The Lanarkshire Board