

Chairs Report from the Board Meeting 12th December 2016

- 1.** This is the fourth of my Chair's Reports and it follows the Christmas meeting of the Board on the 12th December 2016. The main items for this meeting were the minutes of the Board's committees with a recommendation to the Board to approve the 2015/16 accounts and financial statement, the Student Association Reports and my Chair's Report. In my introductory comments to the meeting, I thanked all the Board Members for their support over a busy year which has seen the Lanarkshire Board achieve fundable body status and coalesce into a strong Board providing overall strategic direction.
- 2.** The Christmas meeting of the Board is one where accounts are very much to the fore as this is the meeting where the Board approves the NCL accounts and financial statements following recommendations from the Finance and Audit Committees that have also received financial reports from SLC. The Board approved the unqualified NCL accounts for 2015-16 following the recommendations from the Finance and Audit Committees for approval. The accounts will be published by the Scottish Government in due course.
- 3.** The NCL accounts demonstrate a very tight financial environment for the college sector and reflect the overall constraints on public sector finance. In 2015-16 there was an operating gross deficit of 3.6% of total income after non-cash pension adjustments and allowable depreciation. The underlying deficit was 0.1% of total income. NCL, however, has a strong balance sheet position.
- 4.** In my last Chair's Report, I wrote about the NCL Budget position for 2016/17. Martin McGuire and I have had meetings with the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) about our financial position and they have been supportive. We were able to inform this meeting of the Board that the SFC have recognized the low price paid for ESF in Lanarkshire and have allocated an additional £500k in strategic grant for the region. There is still some way to go on the financial front but this is a good start and good news for the region.
- 5.** The Board received reports from the Students' Associations which set out an impressive raft of activities which the students in both colleges have undertaken over this term. Zorena Shanks, the Student President of NCL, reported as follows:

 - There has been a very good response to the Be Engaged programme and the numbers of students claiming rewards.
 - The Student Association is continuing to visit classrooms and is still regularly receiving requests.
 - The volunteer elections have resulted in 28 voluntary officers being elected this year with every role being filled across all three main campuses. Each Volunteer Officer has achieved a Gold award in the Be Engaged programme and the SAINTS – volunteers from supported programmes - will also receive Gold awards. Voting was cast on-line via Moodle.
 - The joint inclusion week with the Learner Engagement Team and the Marketing Team had gone well with a number of key organisations taking stalls.
 - Fundraising: More than £470 was raised during breast cancer care week and the Events Management Students at the Coatbridge Campus raised over £700 at a Halloween fundraiser for the Beatson. The Nursing Students had raised £1,082 for Alzheimer's Scotland. The NQ Admin and IT class at the Cumbernauld Campus had raised £200 for the annual shoebox appeal and this class at the Motherwell Campus had raised £278 for the Basic Food

Banks Charity. The Student Association supported Children in Need with a four-day fundraiser with a series of activities and student contributions which raised just over £1,000. The Students Association held a Come and Chillax event from the 22nd to the 24th November 2016 to promote positive Mental Health and Wellbeing.

- Both Students Associations have agreed to a regional festive netball tournament
- Students are engaging well with social media and those following have increased to 1,215.

Jack Smith the Student President at SLC updated as follows:

- The Student Association is continuing work on the NUS Framework for Effective Student Organisations and the SA operational plan 2016/17.
- Induction visits to classes are continuing
- The Freshers' week had been a great success
- All SA members have undergone LGBT training and are part of the overall work to get LGBT Youth Scotland Chartermark.
- There are now three elected student officers in post bringing the team up to five.
- Healthy Eating options are being promoted along with Inspire Catering
- There has been a high demand for SA hoodies.
- SA officers have undertaken social media training and the face book page has 81% more organic views and 17% on posts within the week from 27/09/16 - 3/10/16.
- The SA has undergone safeguarding training and the priority is to ensure that all students feel safe and valued regardless of their background.
- The SA have run a series of events: Health and Wellbeing event, Pink Friday for Breast Cancer, Prostrate Cancer and Epilepsy Scotland which raised £640.

6. In my Chair's Report, I updated the Board on recent events and awards, Board evaluation and recruitment and the Board's forthcoming Strategic Event in February 2017. I informed the committee that the NCL awards ceremonies on the 4th November had gone very well. There had been two ceremonies one in the morning and one in the afternoon with 300 students at each ceremony. For the first time, the college awarded fellowships and the awards were to Boyd Tunnock and Frank Mulholland. Their speeches had been very well received by the students. SLC had also had a successful event but need now to move to an alternative venue given the size of the event. NCL students and staff had attended the World Skills event in mid -November. The awards lists were included in the meeting papers. I was delighted to report to the Board that the students from NCL had won 4 gold, 2 silver and 4 bronze medals and 2 high commendations. The college was, therefore, ranked No 1 with a total of 32 points. This was a great performance in the World Skills Event and it builds on the successes attained in previous years. The college also had a female Mechanical Engineering student, Betsy Crosbie, as a delegate to the Euro Skills competition in Gothenburg who was representing the UK. She achieved a Medallion of Excellence in that competition. The Board congratulated the students and all staff who had supported the process. The Board evaluation and development plan is on track to be submitted by the end of March 2017. This will form part of the Board's Strategic Event on the 9th and 10th February 2017. I informed the Board that Michelle Bingham had resigned on the 8th December 2016 and that there were now three places to fill on the Board. Following recruitment interviews, three applicants would be recommended to the Scottish Government for ministerial appointment and the new members will be introduced to the Board at its next meetings. The dates for the Board's Strategic Event are the

9th and 10th February 2017. Finally, the Board was informed that there had been an improved offer to support staff that was being recommended by UNISON to its members.

7. The next meeting of the Board is on the 27th March 2017 and I will write again to give a report from that meeting.

8. I would like to thank everyone for all their work in delivering effective learning and teaching in the Lanarkshire Region in 2016 and I wish all staff and students a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Linda McTavish CBE
Chair of The Lanarkshire Board