

Chairs Report from the Board Meeting

19th June 2017

1. This is the sixth of my Chair's Reports and it follows the summer meeting of the Board on the 19th June 2017 at the Motherwell Campus. The main items for this meeting were the minutes of the Board's committees, the Student Association Reports, a report from SLC, my Chair's Report, the approval of the Lanarkshire Region Funding Allocations and the response to the Scottish Government's recent governance consultation.
2. This was the last meeting for the NCL Student President, Zorena Shanks and the SLC Vice President, Melissa Mitchell. I congratulated Melissa on her re-election as SLC Vice President and welcomed the new NCL President- Elect, Daniel Moore, to this meeting of the Board. The Board noted that the new NCL Vice President is Jemma Crossan and the new SLC President is Julie McKenzie. I thanked Zorena and Melissa for all their hard work over the year on behalf of the Board and presented them with bouquets as a token of the Board's appreciation. The Board wishes them both well for the future.
3. This meeting of the Board opened with a presentation from the Chair of the Finance Committee, Kenny Anderson, on five year financial planning which was a recommendation included in the Audit Scotland report on the college sector last year. The presentation noted the challenges in longer- term planning when the Scottish budget is on an annual basis and the economy itself is challenging with the additional complexities of Brexit and national bargaining. Translating the Audit Scotland guidance into concrete action will require clarity on key planning assumptions across the college sector. It was agreed that there should be a special board discussion on this issue and that there will be ongoing discussion at the Finance Committee.
4. The committee Chairs reported by exception from the draft minutes of the meetings in this Board cycle. Following this round of committees, the Board was informed as follows:
 - that the new external auditors Mazars had attended their first meeting of the Audit Committee.
 - a short term working group has been set up to take forward the review of nurseries with Kenny Anderson in the Chair. This group will report to the Finance Committee.
 - a meeting has been arranged between the Lanarkshire Board Chairs and the Chair and Chief Executive of the SFC for the 19th July 2017 and the outcome will be reported to the Board. The financial position for the Lanarkshire Colleges continues to be challenging.
 - the SFC have been asked for guidance on the issue of consolidated accounts for the Lanarkshire Region.
 - the budget process has been delayed this year and there will be a special meeting of the Finance Committee and the Board in August to approve the budget.
5. The draft minutes of the last meeting of the Board on the 27th March 2017 were approved and the minute of SLC Board meeting of the 14th March 2017 was presented for information.
6. The Board heard from both Student Associations (SA) about the broad range of activities and events that they have undertaken, raising funding for a number of organisations and promoting a number of issues including health and well- being, support for care experienced students and LGBT rights. The work of the SAs is being promoted through social media and newsletters and the NCL SA has organized work placements. I was very pleased to sign the finalised NCL Student Partnership Agreement at this meeting of the Board along with Zorena and Martin McGuire and this document is now published on the web.

7. In my Chair's report, I updated the Board as follows:
 - on the latest developments in national bargaining.
 - that I am participating in a national project on Board diversity.
 - I had participated in a briefing on cyber security and a key message is to take care when opening email attachments.
 - I had hoped to co-opt a female business woman to one of the Board's committees as part of a gender balance and development of potential Board members plan. The person I had been talking to could now not make the commitment to being co-opted and I asked Board members to think about other nominations for this plan.
 - I had attended end of year student performances which were of a high standard and very enjoyable.
8. There was an update to the Board on the ROA 2017-18 submission and the Board approved the funding allocation to the region's colleges at this meeting of the Board.
9. The Board noted the Lanarkshire Regions response to the Scottish Government's recent consultation on Board governance which had been approved by the Chair's Committee and this will be published on the web.
10. The Board received a paper setting out the NCL awards and achievements in a range of areas and the SLC newsletter had been sent to the Board for information. These papers are also published on the respective NCL and SLC websites.
11. I hope as usual that you have found this report on the work of the Board and its committees useful. The next meeting of the Board will be on Monday the 2nd October 2017 and I will report again after this meeting. I hope that you have a very good summer holiday.

Linda McTavish CBE

Chair of The Lanarkshire Board