

Chairs Report from the Board Meeting 2nd October 2017

1. This is the seventh of my Chair's Reports and it follows the autumn meeting of the Board on the 2nd October 2017 at the Cumbernauld Campus. The main items for this meeting were the minutes of the Board's committees and of the Board, the minute of the SLC Board on the 30th May 2017, the Student Association Reports, my Chair's Report, the Lanarkshire Board Evaluation and Development Plan and the 2018 Board meeting dates.
2. This was the first meeting for the NCL Student President, Daniel Moore and the SLC President, Julie MacKenzie and I welcomed them both to the Board.
3. This meeting of the Board opened with a presentation from Colleges' Scotland – a 360 degree vision of the policy landscape – given by the Chief Executive, Shona Struthers and by Andrew Whitty, Director of Sector Policy. The presentation set out the work being undertaken by Colleges' Scotland in providing briefings for members and for MSP's and evidence at parliamentary committees, official submissions on behalf of the sector to inquiries and consultations, meetings with politicians, its strategic groups and the national bargaining negotiations through the Employers' Association. There are a wide ranging number of policy areas being covered which include enterprise and schools, innovation, access and student support, enterprise and skills, the learner journey , developing the young workforce, finance and estates, international activities, STEM and flexible workforce development. Members of the Board asked about the financial sustainability of the sector given national bargaining and the current funding model and Shona Struthers informed the Board of the work that they were doing in making a submission of £117 million for the colleges in the governments' spending review. There was also a request from a Board Member for briefings on key points for Board Members and this is being taken up. I thanked them on behalf of the Board for their insight into the work of Colleges' Scotland and for the work that they had done at the recent parliamentary reception in the involvement of students.
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:
 - The success of the period poverty initiative at SLC which is now being rolled out across schools was reported from the CSAO committee.
 - Rosemary McKenna will step down from the CSAO committee at its next meeting. Dave Winning will take the Chair and leave the RGP committee and Rosemary will then move to the RGP committee
 - It was reported from the Audit Committee that the committee had decided that this year both SLC and NCL would prepare accounts which would be audited and then a third set prepared and audited for the Lanarkshire Board.
 - Ronnie Smith is also stepping down as the Chair of the Audit Committee at its next meeting and Ann Stark will take the Chair of this committee.
 - The Board noted that Keith Fulton and Brian Gilchrist are the representatives from NCL at the Employers Association. The first installment of the pay migration arrangements for un-promoted teaching staff was paid in July 2017 with the second and third instalments due in April 2018 and April 2019. Further terms and conditions for teaching staff have not been ratified and discussions are ongoing at the Employers Association. The criteria for the matching of promoted staff have also been supplied. The job matching process is to be completed by 31st October 2017. There are some NCL staff who remain outside there

arrangements and further discussion on these roles will be necessary. For support staff, a flat rate of £425 was agreed to settle the 2017/18 pay claim and this was paid to staff in August. There has also been a change to annual leave to introduce a unitary leave entitlement of 44 days which for NCL comprises 12 fixed days and 32 annual leave days.

- NCL is in discussions with Galliford Try around retention monies relating to the Motherwell College build. It was agreed that Keith Fulton, as the Chair of the RGP committee, will attend the next meeting on the 20th October 2017 and there will be a report to the next meeting of the committee.
- The Board noted the Run Hide Tell initiative re terrorism and it was agreed that the Board would be given information about anti- terrorism training that had been arranged for November.
- The Chair of the Finance Committee informed the Board that the SFC had received the draft scenario plan that they had requested from NCL on the 18th August 2017. The draft scenario plan has a direct impact on the budget depending on the options, if any, that the college agrees with the SFC. The committee decided to note the budget. There had been a further meeting with the SFC last week which had been positive and when detailed information has been received from the SFC the budget will be updated. The Board also noted the update and there will be a further meeting of the Finance Committee when this information has been received and the Board will be written to following this meeting.

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 30th May 2017 which is published on the SLC website was presented for information.

6. The Board heard from both Student Associations (SA) about the broad range of activities and events that they are undertaking including successful fresher's weeks, class visits, volunteer elections, using social media and newsletters, National Inclusion week, attending NUS events, promoting a number of issues including health and well- being and LGBT rights and further development work on the SA strategies. The SLC SA is working in partnership with the University of West Scotland's (UWS) SA to gain access to the clubs and societies at the UWS and discussions are going well.

7. In my Chair's report, I updated the Board as follows:

- on the SFC Funding Update
- that the Chair of the SFC Alice Brown is standing down and her replacement will be announced shortly
- Alex Linkston is the new Chair of the Employers Association which is taking forward National Bargaining.
- The Scottish Government has established a new strategic group to look at the strategic focus of the sector and this is being chaired by Aileen McKechnie of the Scottish Government.
- I am taking part in a Scottish Government public board mentoring programme and have mentees in the Health Board in Dumfries and Galloway and Lanarkshire.
- The Board will be starting recruiting for a new Board member in October.

8. The Board agreed the process for undertaking the Board self- evaluation which will be up to March 2018.

9. 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 11th December 2017 and I will report again after this meeting.

Linda McTavish CBE, Chair of The Lanarkshire Board