**Minute**

**The Lanarkshire Board – Boardroom Motherwell Campus and Via Zoom**

**5 pm 10th June 2024**

**Present:** Ronnie Smith, David Alves, Paula Blackadder, Yvonne Finlayson, Keith Fulton, Moira Jarvie, Elaine Loudon, Derek Hamill, Fraser Hainey, Kellyann McGraith, Stella McManus, Christopher Moore, Douglas Morrison, Barbara Philliben, Catherine Pollock, Joanne Rosie, Alastair Rennie, Tarryn Robertson, Dave Winning.

**Via Zoom:** Anne Doherty,Elaine McKechnie, Angela Pignatelli

**In Attendance:** Ann Baxter, Iain Clark, Ronnie Gilmour, Elaine Turkington, Diane McGill, Penny Neish.

**Board Presentation Minute: Cumbernauld Nursery**

**1.** There was a presentation to the Board before the meeting from the Cumbernauld Campus Nursery Development Board on their Operational Plan Proposal.

**2.** On the 02/10/2023, the Regional Board approved a proposal to keep the Cumbernauld Campus Nursery open under a new model of operation, including the setting up of a Nursery Development Board (NDB) as per the Principal’s Update on 03/10/23.

“Key to this proposal is the formation of a Nursery Development Board (NDB) involving staff, students, and parents to develop a sustainable five-year plan for the nursery. We are establishing a strategic partnership with AMCOL, the charity that runs our Motherwell nursery, to share knowledge and best practices in the sector. We will also better integrate the nursery with our academic departments to provide experiential opportunities for our Early Years students, enhancing our educational offering.”

**3.** After the October 2023 break, the process of establishing the NDB was initiated, culminating in the inaugural meeting of the NDB taking place on 21/11/23 to discuss the Purpose Statement and Terms of Reference that was drawn up by the College Executive Board/Deans Group. The NDB formally approved the Purpose Statement and the Terms of Reference. The Purpose Statement of the Cumbernauld Campus Nursery Development Board is to “support the long-term viability of the Nursery through the development and implementation of an effective operating model.” The operational plan from the NDB is a proposal to arrive at a sustainable five-year plan taking into consideration the operational changes necessary. This paper sets out the current position and a potential Operating Model for the Nursery. The NDB fully understands that the five-year plan does not guarantee that the Nursery will remain open for the next five years.

**4.** The Nursery Development Board fully recognises the challenges that lie ahead and for a sustainable model to work, a more commercial operating model must be put in place, alongside a marked increase in occupancy rates, and with an enhanced presence in the Community. This will require staff buy-in which has already been assured. Management has advised that staff are overall able to cover the proposed operating model with some flexibility in temporary hours. A concerted internal and external Marketing initiative and enhanced Social Media presence will also be required and a Campaign will be initiated upon Proposal approval. The SWOT analysis demonstrates that whilst there are current weaknesses and threats, the balance of the SWOT analysis lies clearly in the Strengths and Opportunities. An Action Plan has been drawn up to assist in delivering the proposal.

**5. Recommendation:** The recommendation of the Nursery Development Board is that the NCL Board recognise that 2023/24 is a transitional year given that the Nursery was deemed to be closing completely in June 2023, then opening until December 2023. It was only in October 2023 that the Nursery was to remain open with the formulation of an NDB. The NDB recommend acceptance of the proposal however recognises that acceptance of the proposal does not guarantee that the Nursery will be open for five-years but is conditional upon meeting targets on an annual basis. In terms of governance, to measure against the Plan, the NDB will meet monthly and report monthly to the College Executive Board. The NDB will subsequently give a written report on a monthly basis to the Finance Committee who will receive a formal update at the quarterly meeting. This in turn will be discussed at the full Regional Board.

**6.** The nursery mangers left the meeting and there was discussion of the proposal and progress. The amount of work that had been put into the proposal and the enthusiasm from the team to changed delivery was noted. It was agreed that the following were important to the success of the proposals.

* A smooth transition to increased and more flexibility around the hours the nursery is open
* Flexibility that leads to more funded child places
* Clear milestones and monitoring
* Tying in with the college child care courses
* External support from AMCOL

***Decision: The Board agreed to giving the Cumbernauld Nursery time to implement the proposals in the operational plan. This would be subject to review from the reports to the College Executive Board, to the Finance Committee and to the Board.***

**Board Meeting Minute 10th June 2024**

**1. Chair’s welcome:** The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and he introduced Douglas Morrison who is the new SLC Chair.

**2. Apologies for Absence:** There were apologies for absence from Amy McLoughlan, Kayleigh Withers, Elizabeth Arogbofa.

**3. Declarations of Interest:** There were declarations of interest from Ronnie Smith, Ann Baxter, Iain Clark and Moira Jarvie in regard to their membership of the AMCOL Board.

**4. NCL Committee Minutes**

**4.1 CSAO 13th May 2024:** Dave Winning said that the business of the last CSAO was recorded in a comprehensive minuteand he noted the support mechanisms in place for students and staff. He thanked Amy McLoughlan for her contribution as Student President.

**4.2 ARC 13th May 2024:** Yvonne Finlayson asked that the minutes be taken as read. There were no questions.

**4.2.1. Going Concern:** This was discussed at the ARCand the Board received a paper on Going Concern in the Public Sector from Audit Scotland. The paper sets out the following:

* that the concept of going concern is applied in a different way in the public sector. Public bodies exist to deliver essential public services. It is reasonable to presume that those services will continue to be delivered using the same assets unless there is evidence to the contrary. This presumption continues to hold even where responsibility for delivery is transferred by the government to another body or bodies. In determining the appropriateness of the going concern basis of accounting, the continued use of the assets to deliver services is more important than the continued existence of a particular public body.
* Financial sustainability as defined in the Code of Audit Practice is concerned with whether the public body has effective and appropriate arrangements in place to deliver its services in the medium and long term.
* If a business in the private sector operates in a manner that is not financially sustainable, eventually it will be forced to cease to operate; it will stop being a going concern. The concepts are therefore inextricably linked.
* Auditors in the private sector therefore generally do not distinguish financial sustainability from going concern. They report on going concern (encompassing financial sustainability) in the Independent Auditor’s Report.
* The relationship between the concepts of going concern and financial sustainability is different in the public sector. This is a product of the continuity of the delivery of public services compared with entities in the private sector that may have to stop trading and be liquidated. In the public sector, the government can intervene to increase funding or adopt a different delivery model. The services would only cease to be delivered if the government changed policy and decided to stop their delivery. There is always a reasonable lead time for such an event. The financial sustainability of a body and the services it provides is nevertheless important in the public sector. It is likely to be of greater public interest than the application of the going concern basis of accounting.
* Even in more routine times, cost pressures and reduced funding in real terms can cause financial stress and create risks to a public body’s financial sustainability. This has been exacerbated by the impact of Covid-19. However, this has no direct impact on the basis of accounting.
* The Code of Audit Practice requires auditors to conclude on the effectiveness and appropriateness of a body’s arrangements for financial sustainability as part of the wider scope of public audit. Auditors report their conclusion in their Annual Audit Report. Even where there are serious weaknesses in a body’s arrangements and remedial action is required, it does not impact on the going concern basis of accounting. Auditors do not report matters concerned with financial sustainability in the Independent Auditor’s Report.

**4.2.2** Keith Fulton asked about the situation with the college also being a charity and subject to charity law and whether this would make a difference to the colleges’ status.

***Action: Iain Clark would approach OSCR to raise this issue and report back to the next ARC and Board meetings.***

 **4.3 RGP Committee 20th May 2024:** Keith Fulton referred the Board to Item 5.1 - the update on BTO - and noted that Item 7 would be covered later in the Board agenda.

**4.4 Finance Committee 20th May 2024:** Paula Blackadder highlighted the discussion about the FFR and cash flow governance and the triggers for Finance Committee and Board approval referred to in the minutes.

**4.5 Chairs’ Committee 16th May 2024:** Ronnie Smith said that there had been some good news reported at the Chairs’ Committee and updated the Board as follows:

* The SFC had now, after some weeks, confirmed that they had accepted the mitigations for the credit targets being missed and there would not be a claw-back. This is a significant change and will represent a major improvement to the overall financial position for this year.
* NCL had finalized the agreement to set up an undergraduate school with UWS for a target number of 145 students – 120 had already been recruited. This represents a potential of funding income of c. £1 million per annum. A significant sum of additional funding from a new income stream. Furthermore, the number of students could go up to 200 depending on recruitment representing a further £500k.
* Christopher Moore said that therehad been informal feedback about the SFC’s view on the NCL Forward Planand it seems that there isfurther work to do to fully persuade the SFC of its merits. It has taken weeks to get a formal response from the SFC which is frustrating. However, a meeting has been scheduled with SFC Senior management regarding the NCL Forward Plan on the 5th June 2024. It was decided at the Chairs’ meeting that there should be Board attendance at this meeting.
* Christopher Moore also informed the Chairs’ Committee of an approach that had been made by a company called Novus which is the commercial arm of the Manchester Colleges’ Group which operates as an independent company. The approach was about a call that has gone out from the Scottish Prison Service for bids to deliver education services in Scottish prisons. This is a large contract - £5.5 million per annum – for a service that used to be delivered by Motherwell College and currently is awarded to Fife College. Novus already delivers 50% of the prison education service in England and 100% in Wales and has had a very successful bidding track record. They currently have a turnover of c.£100 million. The Chairs’ Committee agreed to the Principal pursuing the discussions and the potential partnership with Novus.

**5. NCL Travel Tender:** The Board received a paper on the tender process for contracting for travel services. The paper set out the process in detail and that there had been two bidders for the contract. The recommendation from the tender panel to the Board is as follows:

“Based on the results of the assessment by the Tender Panel, the recommendation is to award a Contract to **Blue Bus Ltd** for an initial two-year period, with the option to extend for two further twelve-months periods.”

**The Board noted that there were the following community benefits:**

* Blue Bus have committed to create 2 x six month long, 25-hour per week, work placements for 16-24-year olds by December 2025.
* NCL Students will be given the opportunity to attend Blue Bus depot and receive training on operational and/or mechanical aspects of the service provision (Quarterly sessions to be provided).
* Blue Bus have set a target of creating 2 x automotive Modern Apprenticeships who will complete a two-year programme culminating in an SCQF Level 5 Qualification. Once complete the Apprentices are guaranteed a job offer and the opportunity to progress to SCQF Level 6 or 7 Apprenticeship.

***Decision: The Board approved the recommendation from the tender panel.***

**6. SLC Committee and Board Reports**

**6.1 Curriculum, Quality and Development Committee Summary:** The Lanarkshire Board was updated as follows:

**6.1.1 *Student Association Report:***

* Excellent initiatives to support student poverty and cost of living crisis were noted such as free breakfast and lunch provision;
* The Student Elections which were underway and promoted through the student newsletter, social media, curriculum areas, Teams channels including the Class Reps channel.
* Other activities to date include Care Day, LGBT History Month, Climate Action Activity, International Women’s Day, Easter Activities and Mental Health Awareness.

***Curriculum Quality and Development***

* The SLC Committee noted the update on the College credit position which is likely to outturn at 44,363 within the 2% upper tolerance threshold. From a regional perspective it was noted that the future credit split has not yet been agreed however South Lanarkshire College met with New College Lanarkshire who are experiencing a similar ethical challenge in not being able to meet local demand. An agreement was reached to adopt a joint approach and a regional positioning on this to the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) as the next stage in addressing the clear local demand;
* An update on strike action was provided indicating that the impact of strike action affects 3,500 students. In addition, it was noted that, under Action Short of Strike (ASOS), progress reports CARs (Candidate Achievement Records) which are a requirement of CITB were not being completed now.
* Education Scotland updates included a special note of thanks to Early Education and Childcare and Health and Social Care Teams on a positive Education Scotland Thematic Review and the then upcoming Education Scotland Annual Engagement Visit (AEV).

***Performance Indicators report for 2022/23:***

* The SLC Committee were pleased to learn of the real success story in relation to the attainment rates for FE at both FT and PT level for 2022 to 2023 session. FE FT attainment is 73% which is a 12% increase on the previous year with attainment FE PT at 82% which is an 8% increase.
* There has been a slight decline in HE attainment however the committee were assured that action planning has taken place in some areas and further action planning is underway on this.

**6.1.2** Kelly Withers – the SLC Student President was thanked for her contribution to both the SLC and Lanarkshire Boards and their Committees.

**6.1.3 SLC ARC -** The SLC Committee considered the above paper as submitted by the External Auditors. The terms of the draft Annual Audit Plan are already on the Board Portal and are in terms as might be expected. iTrent the new HR system will have audit scrutiny to gain assurance and capability of the new system. There are no issues to raise with the external audit.

 **6.1.4 SLC Finance and Resources Committee:** Elaine McKechnie’s paper highlighted the following:

* Updates relating to the financial sustainability of the College.
* Draft budget 2024/25
* Procurement update
* Finance Regulations
* Fee Policy 2024/25
* E-Signature Policy
* Procurement Policy & Procedures
* Quarter 3 management accounts & cashflow
* Facilities quarterly update
* Climate Change Action plan quarterly update
* Capital Expenditure Plan Scottish Funding Council (SFC) Funding Allocations 2024-25

**6.1.5 SLC HR Committee:** this committee has been appraised of progress plan for correction of pension contribution errors for part time staff and on VAT Charges.

**6.2 Board Update:** Douglas Morrison said that the SLC Board was going through a renewal process with appointments of new members as set out in the paper at Item 6.3 below. There will, be further recruitment of Board Members to take the Board to its full complement. Heather Anderson, the Chair of the SLC HR Committee, is now the Vice Chair of the SLC Board. Peter Scott has stepped back into the Governance Professional role on a temporary basis while SLC re-advertises the post. He also noted the consultation on the dissolution of the RSB.

**6.3 SLC Board Appointments:** The Lanarkshire Board approved the appointments of Laura Wright, Andrew Strelhaliuk and Graeme Forrester (as the TU member) to the SLC Board.

**7. Lanarkshire Board Minutes 18th March and Matters Arising:** The Board approved the minutes with no matters arising that were not on the Board agenda.

**8. Chairs Report**

**8.1 Chair’s Regional Overview:**

**8.1.1** Ronnie Smith updated the Board abouta meeting that took place with SFC Senior management regarding the NCL Forward Plan on the 5th June 2024. Keith Fulton and Yvonne Finlayson had joined him from the Board and the Principal and members of the Executive Board had also attended. There was broad support from the SFC at the meeting for the proposals in the Forward Plan.

**8.1.2** Ronnie Smith also reported that the Scottish Government were consulting on the dissolution of the Glasgow Colleges’ Regional Board and the Lanarkshire Board. He had asked the Scottish Government and SFC if changes could be made more quickly and “political cover” given to implement that change.

**8.1.3** He had held one to one’s with Board Members and thanked them for what had been positive and interesting meetings.

 **8.2 National Committees:** The Scottish Government’s ministerial Tripartite Alignment Group (TAG) had made a recommendation on the disposal of college assets. There was previously a cap of £500k and any monies received from disposals in excess of that sum could not be retained by the college with those monies going to the SFC. The TAG was recommending that there would in future be a 70%: 30% split with 70% to the college and 30% to the SFC. Ronnie Smith said that the UK government would have to agree this recommendation and looked forward to a decision and getting this formally in writing.

 **8.3 TU Nominations to the Board:** the TU’s had been contacted on this but as yet there was no further progress.

 **8.4 Board Mentoring:** A programme of Board Mentoring had been considered by the Chairs and was presented to the Board. Board Members were invited to take part in the programme.

 **8.5 Board Self Evaluation:** A draft self- evaluation report was received by the Board. Ronnie Smith thanked those who had responded but noted that a number of Board Members had not responded and this was an issue. Keith Fulton also said that he had had difficulty in getting responses for the Chair’s Evaluation.

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**8.5 Board Self- Evaluation *Action: Ronnie Gilmour to have a look at whether there is a better way of doing this using technology.***

 **8.6 Date December 2024 Board Meeting:** Due to a clash in the Chair’s diary, it was agreed to move the Board to Tuesday 10th December 2024.

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**9. Update from College Employers’ Scotland (CES):**

**Elaine Turkington informed the Board as follows:**

**9.1. Voluntary Severance Scheme:** As part of the College’s strategic response to the continuing deficit challenge, approval was given by the Board of Management to implement a deficit reduction plan that will seek to secure the liquidity and financial stability of the College in the short-medium term. One proposal towards the achievement of this aim was to open a further self-funded Voluntary Severance Scheme to all staff from 14th May 2024, with applications being accepted for consideration until 3rd June 2024. The business case for this new Scheme was recently approved by the Scottish Funding Council. There have been 44 applications for the VS scheme.

**9.2 Executive Board Restructure:** The restructure of the Executive Board has concluded with an appointment to the new position of Deputy Principal for Professional Services, which was being filled previously on an interim basis.

**9.3** **Professional Services Review:** The Professional Services Review aligns closely with NCL Strategy 2025 with particular emphasis on the following two strategic priorities: prioritising resource close to the student and simplifying how we work. The scale and complexity of the various Professional Services departments necessitates a phased approach and the next step is to share the proposals for Stage 1 with the trade unions, before opening up discussions with the relevant departments as follows: Key Support, Management Information Systems, Professional & Work Based Learning, Systems Development.It is important to note there are no plans to reduce overall staffing numbers and there will be no compulsory redundancies as part of this Professional Services Review process.

**9.4 Employment Tribunal Update:** There are six claimants in total and the claims remain sisted.

**9.5** **CES:** Keith Fulton updated the Board on the latest pay award discussions.

**9.5.1** **Professional Staff:** The National Joint Negotiating Committee (NJNC) – Side Table (Support) met on 9th May 2024, where the management side tabled a revised three-year offer to the support staff trade unions (UNISON, Unite and GMB). The pay elements are as previously presented and have not changed since the employers’ full and final three year pay offer was made in November 2023 - £2,000 for AY 2022/23, £1,500 in AY 2023/24 and £1,500 for AY 2024/25.Unite and GMB members have previously accepted the pay offer. UNISON is now progressing this three year pay offer to a formal consultative vote of their members.

**9.5.2** **Lecturing Staff:** The National Joint Negotiating Committee (NJNC) – Side Table (Lecturing) met on 28th March 2024. The management side confirmed to EIS-FELA that there has been no change to the overall funding available and that the current full and final three-year pay offer (£2,000 for Academic Year (AY) 2022/23, £1,500 in AY 2023/24 and £1,500 for AY 2024/25 on all lecturing scale points) remains in place. It was agreed that further discussions would take place between the Joint Secretaries in an attempt to break the current impasse. EIS/FELA are asking for a fourth year to be included in the pay award. There will be a further meeting on the 13th June 2024.

***9.6* Lecturer Registration:** Discussions have been taking place at CES regarding lecturer registration, given the substantial number of staff in the sector who must complete the Teaching Qualification for Further Education (TQFE) within 5 years. While the requirement seems reasonable, there are financial implications for colleges, considering the remitted hours per staff member, which raise concerns about affordability. If staff fail to meet the TQFE completion timeline, the responsibility for determining consequences rests with employers at individual college level. Added to this, GTCS has advised it can only process a very limited number of applications per year. As a result, an updated NJNC circular is being prepared between CES and EIS-FELA using a draft phasing plan, which has been produced along with GTCS, to register the current lecturing workforce. This phasing plan runs until 2033, providing many lecturers a longer period to achieve full registration. The National Agreement should allow colleges to manage the registration process at a local level as well as allowing GTCS time to process applications based on their available resources.

**9.7 Job Evaluation:** Progress has been slow since the last update on Job Evaluation, despite ongoing discussions between management and the trade unions to find a way forward. Informal discussions have now commenced on developing a resourced and costed Project Plan, to include a Business Case, milestones and project completion, with a view to presenting to presenting to the CES Executive Group and then to the Scottish Government. Scottish Government officials have indicated that funds for the outcomes of Job Evaluation are recognised as a liability on their balance sheet and that access to these would require a jointly agreed approach between employers and trade unions. There remains concern about the validity of the data used for the original Job Evaluation exercise, not least because it is now considerably out of date.

**10. Regional Outcome Agreement**: Ann Baxter informed the Board that the SFC had advised on the 28th May 2024 that there would be no ROA in the coming year. There would be a six -page submission due on the 2nd December 2024 along with case studies. The SFC had published and outcome framework on the 6th June 2024 which would make the SFC expectations clearer and hopefully reduce the burden using existing data. The SFC had published the current OA and case studies on the 5th June 2024.

**11. Regional Risk Register:**

**11.1 Ronnie Gilmour updated the Board on the Regional Risk Register as follows:**

* **Risk Movements:** There is no change to 18 risks. Risk H - "Failure to deliver SFC Credit targets" moves down to a likelihood score of 2 (from 3) and a residual score of 1 (from 2) due to the fact that the credit target has been met for AY23/24, subject to audit. Risk L - "Failure to maintain and improve students’ retention and achievement has also been reduced to reflect the improvements made to KPIs in AY22/23. All other risks remain the same as per January 2024.
* **Two risks are above** the committee's threshold level and therefore are subject to Control Action Planning. These are a) Financial: "A" Unable to maintain operating budget while delivering high quality, relevant and responsive education - very high (Above Amber [high] threshold **b) Financial**: "D" Inability to secure appropriate levels of funding to respond to operational and strategic priorities - very high (Above Amber [high] threshold)

**11.2** Elaine McKechnie said that SLC had alsoreduced the risk of failure to meet credit targets.

**11.3** There wasrecognition thatthere was controllable and uncontrollable financial risk. Funding decisions are made by the SFC and this presents an uncontrollable risk. This is now reflected in the risk register. Keith Fulton raised the issue of risk 0 inability to be able to invest in ICT being too high given the recent investment and upgrading.

***Action: Ronnie Gilmour will review the level for Risk O.***

**12. Lanarkshire Colleges’ finances update:**

**Iain Clark referred the Board to the Finance Committee minute as follows:**

**12.1 NCL Update and FFR Submission**

* The Supporting Financial Forecasting Return (FFR) 2024/25 was prepared to support the Forward Plan, covering the academic years 2023/24 to 2024/25 and was based upon the Mid-Year Return (MYR) 2023/24.
* The Mid-Year Return (MYR) 2023/24 submitted to the SFC on 28th March 2024 shows an Underlying Operating Deficit of **£-935k (-1.57% of Total Income)** for the College and subsidiary Amcol, compared to the revised Forward Plan Supporting FFR position of £-957k deficit. The assumptions used are per the MYR Guidance. The College deficit is forecast at £-1,185k offset by Amcol surplus of £250k.
* The Supporting FFR for the year 2024/25 forecasts a surplus of **£1,022k for the Group** **(1.72% of Total Income).** The College surplus is forecast at £772k and Amcol surplus remains constant at £250k. This was based upon a high-level MYR extrapolation, adjusted for known variables such as FWDF cessation, known staffing changes, pension changes of which SPPA was assumed fully funded, payrise upon current offer, assumes inflationary increases on income and expenditure and incorporates VS savings plus income from NCL Digital and the Under Graduate School. I Clark cautioned that this was an extrapolation exercise at a point in time and that the more detailed FFR on a granular basis would be necessary to provide a more definitive position. The 2024/25 year-end cash balance is assumed to equal the surplus at £1,022k, the primary assumption being achievement of I&E and the SFC write-off.

**12.1.2** There are a set of Key Assumptions which impact on the financial position as follows:

* MYR Cash Deficit of £4,530k is fully funded by the SFC at 31st July 2024, leaving an opening balance of £nil.
* Voluntary Severance (VS) cost of £850k is fully funded by the SFC at 31st July 2024. I Clark cautioned that this may have to be funded from NCL given the decision not to claw-back funding for under-delivered credits.
* Savings relating to VS are incorporated in the 2024/25 staffing costs at £1.5m.
* Income and expenditure from the Under Graduate School and NCL Digital is incorporated in 2024/25.

**12.1.3 2024-25 cash flow executive summary:** Cash flow is a key issue for the college with the timing of the pay awards critical to the cash flow position and to when there is extreme pressure on the cash flow. There are potential approaches which could be used to try to smooth the position but they come with caveats:

* Phasing payment of the pay settlements – e.g. the unions may not settle at the same time
* Working capital considerations e.g. the time taken to make payments to creditors
* Cash Transfers from the subsidiary AMCOL. The process for any transfers would need to be set out in a detailed paper and agreed by the Finance Committee and then the AMCOL Board and then the Lanarkshire Board. A draft had been drawn up by Amcol.
* Cash advances from the SFC which will be needed in June 2024.
* The Finance Committee agreed that there would be a special meeting of the Committee if necessary to recommend the way forward with these options. Senior management were to formally document a cash management policy/procedure with agreed governance/risk triggers including when board approval would be required e.g. for loans between AMCOL and the college.

***Decision: The Board approved the Finance Committee recommendation that the draft FFR be submitted to the SFC. The Board will receive the final version at its next meeting for approval.***

12.2 SLC Update:

12.2.1 Stella McManus said that SLC would be looking for efficiency savings and would come back to the Lanarkshire Board at its next meeting if necessary.

12.2.2 Elaine McKechnie highlighted the update to the Procurement strategy and action plan and the Finance Regulations. Income and expenditure for third quarter to 30 April 2024 shows a YTD deficit of £639k. The full year expected position is a deficit of £748k. The cash flow report submitted to the SFC is yet again a stark reminder of how precarious College funds will be once salary awards and general ongoing inflationary pressures are factored in. While there may be circa £2.3m in the bank at the of the year, with further cuts to grant funding in real terms, this would be eroded in 2024-25 in the absence of a strategic review and rationalisation of operations in the current year.

**13. Student Association Reports:** These papers are published on the web.

**13.1 NCL Student Association (SA) Report**: Ann Baxter informed the Board as follows:

**13.1.1** The student elections had taken place and the elected full- time presidents were as follows for the 2024 – 2025 term

* Chloe Sandilands (NQ Computing Science) – Motherwell Campus
* Karen Calpin (NQ Art and Design) – Coatbridge Campus
* Julie Webster (NC Psychology) – Cumbernauld Campus

**13.1.2** To support students to improve their wellbeing and remain on their programme of study, NCL has invested in three Wellbeing Academies (WA’s) situated in each of our main campus sites, Coatbridge, Cumbernauld, and Motherwell. The Academies are a pioneering initiative designed to prioritise wellbeing at the core of the student experience.

**13.1.3** The Reps Awards Lunch - The Students’ Association and Learner Engagement team were excited to announce an awards lunch at the MLOne Training Restaurant, where the SA partnered with hospitality events students to honour the outstanding achievements of class representatives who went above and beyond their responsibilities.

**13.2 NCL Student Association Constitution:** The Board received the NCL SA constitution.

 ***Decision: The Board approved the constitution.***

 **13.3 SLC Student Association Report:** Angela Pignatellihighlighted the following from theSLC SA report:

* **Student engagement:** SLC celebrated Care Day, Love Your Planet, LGBT History Month, Purple Friday. As part of SLC’s Climate Action activity students took part in a litter picking event and also went on a visit to a windfarm.
* **SA elections:** SA elections for AY 2024/25have taken place. The elections were promoted through the student newsletter, social media, emails to all Curriculum Areas, and various Teams Channels, including the Class Reps channel. Voting took place between 1 and 15 May; the results were announced on 17 May.
* **Student poverty:** The SA is committed to tackling student poverty and continues to ensure students are fully supported during the current cost of living crisis by providing free soup and sandwich, as well as a healthy breakfast. Student uptake of this has continued to be very positive with over 3,000 servings to date. In addition, the SA continues to operate a food larder directly from the SA office where students can take what they need at any time.
* **Care day:** Care Day took place on 16 February and is the world’s biggest celebration of people with care experience.  The College celebrated Care Day by hosting a free hot chocolate and cookie event, arranged student reviews of SLC’s Corporate Parenting Plan and one of the teaching staff created an article providing an overview of the day and highlighting the college’s responsibilities as Corporate Parents.  The College also created a Care Day 2024 SLC Pledge for staff to sign to show their support.
* **International Women’s Day:** The theme for this year was ‘Inspire Inclusion’. The Painting and Decorating Department kindly made a beautiful selfie frame. The SA went around campus getting photos of students and staff to celebrate this day.
* **Mental health: positive solutions for students:** Mental Health Awareness Week runs from 13-19 May and is hosted by the charity, Mental Health Foundation.

**13.3** The Board thanked both Amy McLaughlan and Kayleigh Wither for their contribution to the Lanarkshire Board during their terms as Student Presidents and wished them well for the future.

**14. Principals’ College Update Reports**

**14.1 SLC Update: Stella McManus highlighted the following from her report.**

* The Lanarkshire Regional Strategic Body (LRSB) has now been informed that dissolution is progressing, and all stakeholders will be participating in a 12-week consultation.
* Financial challenges faced by South Lanarkshire College (SLC) and next steps.
* The external environment relating to the pay disputes is very challenging, and details of the national talks are provided. As the Board are aware, while colleges are making individual decisions regarding pay deductions colleges are sharing these decisions collectively, with nearly all colleges making 100% pay deductions for breach of contract.
* A further 12 days of national strike action has been announced, and some students are unlikely to achieve/ graduate in this academic year.
* Unison members have voted to accept the pay offer.
* Colleges Scotland manifesto has been shared.
* The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice is expected to visit SLC on 19 June 2024.

**14.2 NCL Update:** Christopher Moore highlighted the following:

* As reported at 4.5 above, the SFC had now, after some weeks, confirmed that they had accepted the mitigations for the credit targets being missed and there would not be a claw-back. This is a significant change and will represent a major improvement to the overall financial position for this year.
* There is another VS scheme following discussion with the SFC. This follows a tough period over 3 years of VS schemes which have resulted in significant numbers of staff leaving the College. NCL is not the only college putting VS schemes in place – there are a number of colleges across Scotland implementing VS schemes.
* The College has met its credit targets for the year.
* The new Undergraduate School in partnership with UWS was going well with 145 places so far and the potential that this could go further in terms of numbers. This represents a significant potential new income of c£1.4 million.
* There is a new commitment to digital delivery with a new Innovation Team established.
* There was a new partnership to deliver a 4year dental nursing course at £200k per year to Inner Mongolia. There was also a joint bid for the Scottish Prisons education activity with NOVUS.

**15. Approval of Publication of Papers from the Board:** The Board approved the publication of papers as follows:

* The agenda
* The minute
* 8.4 Board Mentoring Paper
* 9. NCL College Registrar’s Report
* 13.1 and 13.2 SA Presidents reports

**16. AOB:**

**16.1** Moira Jarvie raised the issue on indemnity cover for staff on union business.Ronnie Smith said that Colleges Scotland had looked at this and the unions should be aware of this.

***Action: Elaine Turkington is in the process of dealing with this and will clarify.***

**16.2** Keith Fulton commented that there was a need to review the RGP committee Terms of Reference in relation to this being a committee that SLC do not attend. BS to liaise with him on this matter.

**17. Date of Next Meeting:** The scheduled date of the next meeting of the Lanarkshire Board is 7th October 2024 at the Coatbridge Campus.