

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE



THURSDAY 20 MARCH 2014

GATESHEAD COLLEGE

Report: Minutes of a meeting held on 27 February 2014
Author: Clerk
Action: Approve
Status: Open

Present: Keith Cann Evans (Chair)
Ivan Jepson
John McElroy
David Mitchell

In attendance: John Holt
Mick Brophy
Clare Sample (Clerk)
Gwyneth Jones (Minutes)

F/1678 Welcome/Apologies

Keith Cann Evans welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Judith Doyle, Robin Mackie and Ian Renwick.

The Chair invited members to declare any interests on any item on the Agenda. No interests were declared at this stage in the meeting; however, members noted that should the direction of debate on any item result in a potential conflict of interest, this should be indicated during the meeting. Members were also reminded to advise the Clerk of any changes to be made to the Declaration of Interest.

F/1679 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14 November 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14 November 2013 were accepted as a correct record.

F/1680 Matters Arising

The Chair pointed out that the paper on Payments to Partners was due to be presented by John Holt (JH) at this meeting. JH responded that a paper had been presented to the December 2013 Board meeting instead. There was a short discussion regarding whether the meetings should be held at other sites. The general opinion was that this should be possible once a quarter.

F/1681 Draft minutes of the Joint meeting of Finance and General Purposes Committee and Audit Committee held on Wednesday 4 December 2013

The Committee agreed that the draft minutes of the Joint meeting held on Wednesday 4 December 2013 were a true reflection of the meeting.

F/1682 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Agenda No: 2

F/1683 Management Accounts: November 2013

The Director of Finance presented the Management Accounts for November 2013.

There were no questions.

F/1684 Management Accounts: December 2013

The Director of Finance presented the Management Accounts for December 2013.

There were no questions.

F/1685 Management Accounts: January 2014

The Director of Finance presented the Management Accounts for January 2014. The Chair commented that it was helpful to have the benefit of seeing three months' accounts together but he was concerned that revenue is above budget and profit below budget for each month. He wanted to see a better return soon as the months were running out. Another member agreed with this, noting the level of risk and saying that he was concerned that when JH said there was a great deal of challenge this was possibly an underestimation.

JH said that now that they had more accurate SFA data it was easier to challenge the spending in particular departments. The College is looking at alternative ways to replace people who leave. As an example of the difficulties they face, they have teachers employed to do HE and some only have three quarters of a timetable so the income is gone but the costs remain. These staff need to be utilised in other areas where possible or engaged in improving the student experience. The College has now centralised the ability to recruit casual staff so it is now not possible for Heads of Department to engage casual staff themselves.

JH also stated that following the Ofsted visit where they were not graded as high as they had hoped, there would be greater focus on increasing the learning experience and grades etc. There is a continuing downward pressure on funding and the College has always paid staff above the market rate. The cost of examinations is also higher as there is a tendency for students to do more exams and take multiple attempts to get the highest possible marks. The College often pays for exams and then students do not turn up. JH stressed it was important that students are made aware how important it is to attend examinations.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report

F/1686 Property Strategy

The report and the record of discussion on it are 'closed to the public' until such time as they are considered to be no longer commercially sensitive

F/1687 Charge Your Car Ltd

The report and the record of discussion on it are 'closed to the public' until such time as they are considered to be no longer commercially sensitive

David Mitchell and John McElroy left the meeting at 1.50pm so the Committee was no longer quorate.

Agenda No: 2

F/1688 Gazelle Update

The report and the record of discussion on it are 'closed to the public' until such time as they are considered to be no longer commercially sensitive

F/1689 Any Other Business

There were no items for discussion.

F/1690 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed to be Thursday 20 March 2014 at 12.30pm.