

GOVERNING BODY

Minutes of a Meeting at the Chelsea Centre on Monday 31 October 2022 at 4.30 pm

Present:

Ms Leisha Fullick, External Governor (**Chair**)
Mr Victor Olowe, External Governor (**Vice-chair**)
Mr Alex Cole, External Governor
Miss Justine Brian, External Governor
Mr Pedro Dias Ferreira, External Governor
Mr Nic Durston, External Governor
Ms Gill Evans, External Governor
Ms Heather Fry, External Governor
Dr Andrew Gower, Principal and Governor
Mrs Gail Le Coz, External Governor
Ms Susan Lindsey, External Governor
Ms Jessie Peramal, External Governor
Mrs Debbie Ryle, Staff Governor
Ms Moyra Samuels, External Governor
Dr Melissa Score, Staff Governor
Mr James Ward, External Governor
Mr Raymundo Zuñiga, External Governor

Absent:

Mr Jerome Godfrey, Student Governor
Mr Jonathan Slater, External Governor
Mr Matthew Cunningham, Chief Marketing and Engagement Officer (CMEO)
Ms Alison McNamara, Chief People Officer (CPO)
Mr Matias Shortcook, Centre Principal, Chelsea
Mr Colin Johnson, Head of Media, Chelsea Centre (Items 1-3 only)
Mr Martin McNeill, Clerk to the Governing Body and Company Secretary
Ms Katherine Cleator, Policy and Governance Officer

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Services department of the local authority, but sometimes the police). The CFO added that the College had a hardship fund that it used to support students in need.

6.5. Governors also sought further information about Prevent training. The Deputy Principal said that threats of radicalisation now came from a wide spectrum, with far-right groups playing the largest part. It was important to train staff to recognise reportable behaviours without stifling free speech. A staff governor who had recently undertaken Prevent training commented that it had been very well balanced.

6.6. The Chair concluded this section of the meeting by reminding governors that their obligations were threefold:

- to be alert to possible safeguarding issues;
- to ensure that appropriate systems and processes were in place; and
- to keep their knowledge of safeguarding up to date.

She commended the ETF online training module to any governor wishing to refresh their understanding of these important responsibilities.

7. Principal's report

7.1. Introducing his report, the Principal said that as well as summarising the main factors having an impact on the performance of the College since the Board had last met on 18 July, he had identified four specific points to note and four strategic issues that would require further consideration over the course of the year.

7.2. The four points to note were:

- the current funding and accountability consultation by the Department for Education (DfE), which (if adopted by the Greater London Authority (GLA)) posed a potential risk to current Community Learning provision as it appeared to focus exclusively on employability outcomes: the Institutes for Adult Learning (IALs) were emphasising the need also to consider broader social outcomes such as health and wellbeing. Governors noted that a new ministerial team was now in place at the DfE, including key players who had in the past shown some understanding of the social mission of Morley and other IALs;
- the recruitment of a new Centre Principal for the Waterloo Centre for Adult Education following the appointment of Gerald Jones as Director for Community Learning. Governors were asked to use their personal networks to make this opportunity more widely known;
- a very full programme of activities celebrating Black History Month; and
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the Office for National Statistics, following a process that did not involve consultation. The Principal reminded governors that (unlike FE Corporations) Morley and other IALs had hitherto consistently been classified as private sector entities. The Clerk agreed to report further to the Audit Committee on the implications; he had requested guidance from the Charity Commission, although he did not expect any decision to have a direct effect on Morley's charitable status;

- the impact of the rising cost of living on the student body: in answer to a question, the Principal said that the CPDO was preparing a demographic analysis of students enrolled on unaccredited courses, to determine whether external factors, combined with the four per cent increase in the majority of fee rates, had had any impact on the number of disadvantaged students enrolling; and
- the need to update the longer-term financial plan to show when and how the College would achieve a financially sustainable ongoing level of financial performance.

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7.3. Governors welcomed the approach that the Paphinor-6 (m)-5.9 (anc)-2r.6 (har)-tanceege89 Td@07

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- 10.7. Governors also approved the Board Development Programme for 2022-23, noting that the proposed webinar on funding and finance was likely to be replaced by a seminar at the start of the 6 February Strategy Development Session. The Chair thanked the Policy and Governance Officer for her work in putting in place what appeared to be a well-supported Governor Engagement Programme.
- 10.8. The revised terms of reference for the Curriculum and Quality, External Relations, People and Remuneration Committees were approved without further discussion.
- 10.9. In relation to the appointment of a replacement Clerk and Company Secretary, the Board was content to delegate the management of the recruitment and selection process to the Governance and Nomination Committee, while reserving the right to make the final appointment and to agree its terms. The Committee was asked to keep an open mind on whether the role was part-time or full-time: while the advantages of the current model of a part-time Clerk supported by a full-time Policy and Governance Officer (with other non-governance responsibilities) was agreed to work well, it was important not to limit the pool of potential candidates.

41.

SCHEDULE OF OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Minute Action

Minute	Action	Responsible	By when	Progress
31 October 2022				
10.6	Consider creating Sustainability page on College website	Principal/ CMEO	31 December 2022	