



REGIONAL BOARD

Minutes of the meeting of the Regional Board held on 15 December 2021 at 1000 hours via Microsoft Teams.

Agenda Item	
	<p>Present: David Anderson David Blackhall Sasha Brydon Neil Cowie Abdul Elghedafi Susan Elston Henry Evans (from agenda item 35.21 onwards) Jim Gifford John Henderson Leona McDermid Ken Milroy - Regional Chair Andy Rodden Sheena Ross Andrew Russell Gwen Watt</p> <p>In attendance: Peter Smith, Vice Principal Finance & Resources Susan Lawrence, Secretary to the Board Karen Fraser, Minute Secretary Lorraine Garden, Minute Secretary</p> <p>Trade Union Observers: J Slater, UNISON Sue Porter, EIS/FELA</p>
22-21	<p>Apologies: Apologies were received from N McLennan and R McGregor.</p>
23-21	<p>Declaration of any Potential Conflicts of Interest in relation to any Agenda Items L McDermid declared a potential conflict of interest by virtue of her position with Aberdeen Foyer. S Brydon declared a potential conflict of interest as a member of Unison with regard to Support staff pay claim as contained within the Principal's Report. J Gifford and S Elston declared a potential conflict of interest in relation to item 39-21.</p>
	<p><i>S Porter joined the meeting</i></p>
24-21	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting – 6 October 2021 The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record, subject to the addition of J Gifford who had erroneously been missed off the attendees list.</p>

	Action: S Lawrance to amend the Minute of the Previous Meeting.
25-21	Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting Members noted the matters arising report with no additional matters noted.
	Reports to the Board
26-21	Report by the Regional Chair Members noted the Report by the Regional Chair. The Regional Chair supplied Members with an update on his recent meeting, as Chair of Colleges Scotland with the Scottish Government to discuss the budget and the College and University Sector offer, as announced on 9 December. Members noted the willingness of the Minister to engage further with the sector on how this is managed. The Regional Chair highlighted an amendment to his Report, as he did not attend the CDN College Awards.
27-21	Report by the Principal Members noted the Report by the Principal. The Principal gave a verbal update to Members on Covid related planning and advised that 2 additional days leave have been afforded to staff in recognition of the hard work undertaken and to support staff mental health and wellbeing. The College will now close from Tuesday 21 December until Wednesday 4 January (inclusive); additionally, member noted staff and students are to be working and learning from home until Monday 17 January. The Principal re-assured Members the Leadership Team remain well informed with constant contact with NHS Grampian and other stakeholders and continue to go "above and beyond" Scottish Government guidance. Members noted the offer made to NHS Grampian to use NESCol campuses as vaccination centres. The Principal advised the scheduled North East Pathfinder meeting will now take place in early 2022. J Gifford advised members that at a recent tertiary education workshop he attended the NESCOL/RGU partnership was highlighted as a flagship of good collaboration. The Principal gave an update to Members on the Lecturing Staff pay offer mentioned within his report. The Principal gave Members an update on GTCS Registration rollout, and noted the volume of work required. Members noted the ongoing dialogue with GTCS and Scottish Government regarding different registration pathways and the legislative challenges. S Porter highlighted the added "real industry experience" lecturing staff can bring to students. The Principal highlighted the College's commitment to lecturing staff TQFE qualifications, a requirement to GTCS registration.
28-21	Report by Committee Chairs D Anderson as Chair of the Audit and Risk gave additional information and commended the Internal Audit Report that noted no observations and no recommendations. D Anderson thanked P Smith and his team for their support throughout this year with regard to internal audits. Other Committee Agendas are as noted in Board Agenda.

	<p>J Henderson gave a summary of the recent F&R Committee Meeting, and highlighted to Members the challenges the College and the sector faces with regard to meeting credit targets, possible clawback and flat-cash financial settlement. Members noted the 5% increase to course fees as agreed at the recent F&R Committee.</p> <p>D Russell gave a summary of the recent C&Q Committee Meeting, and highlighted to members the Approval of the new SA Partnership Agreement and the review of the SA budget proposal (equivalent level as last year), for the next year. Members noted the undertaking to supply a monthly update on the credits position to C&Q Committee members.</p>
	Governance Matters
29-21	<p>North East Scotland Further Education Foundation Membership – Appointment of Trustee</p> <p>Members considered the Report by the Regional Chair. The Regional Board approved the recommendation that L McDermid become a Trustee of the Foundation.</p>
30-21	<p>Regional Board – Interim Office Bearer Appointment</p> <p>Member considered the report by the Regional Chair with K Milroy summarising the current position, noting that legislation forbids K Milroy from remaining as Regional Chair beyond early March 2022. Members gave their formal approval of the recommendations to appoint the current Vice Chair (J Henderson) to Interim Regional Chair and appoint the current Board Committee Chairs to Interim Vice Chairs (D Anderson; S Elston; A Russell).</p>
31-21	<p>Regional Board Development Plan (Update)</p> <p>Members noted the updated Board Development Plan. The Board Secretary highlighted the offer for Procurement Training and Cyber Training in early 2022.</p>
32-21	<p>Governance and Nominations Committee</p> <p>Members considered the Governance and Nominations Committee proposal summarised by the Regional Chair. The Board Secretary advised that if accepted the Governance Manual will be updated and circulated to Board Members.</p> <p>Members of the Board agreed to adopt the proposal that the Selection and Nominations Committee be subsumed within the Governance Steering Group, and the amended Terms of Reference.</p> <p>Action: Governance Manual to be updated by Board Secretary.</p>
	Matters for Discussion
33-21	<p>Strategic Risk Register</p> <p>Members considered the Strategic Risk Register as considered by the Audit and Risk Committee at their meeting of 1 December 2021, now presented for information. P Smith highlighted the actions from the A&R committee are included in this iteration.</p>
34-21	<p>Modern Slavery Policy</p> <p>Members considered the Modern Slavery Act Statement 2021. P Smith summarised the due diligence process which utilises national framework arrangements and APUC membership and procurement strategy.</p>

	<p>Following a minor amendment to the Due Diligence Section text Members approved the Modern Slavery Act.</p> <p>Action: P Smith to ensure slight amendment to wording is made prior to publication.</p>
	<p><i>S Grant and R Laird joined the meeting.</i></p>
35-21	<p>Regional Outcome Agreement</p> <p>Members considered the Regional Outcome Agreement for AY2021-22 and the supporting data (Appendix A) and the College's Self Evaluation for AY2020-21 (Appendix B). Members further noted that the draft, which is subject to approval by the Board, has been submitted to the SFC.</p> <p>The Principal advised the "next steps" for the ROA would be discussed at his meeting with the College's ROA Manager scheduled for later this week, but confirmed the documents, once finalised, will be published on the SFC website.</p> <p>Minor amendments to the document, including the Strategy Planning Actions inclusion to be made to the Regional Outcome Agreement before final submission to the SFC.</p>
	<p><i>H Evans joined the meeting.</i></p>
	<p><i>R Laird and S Grant left the meeting.</i></p>
36-21	<p>Solar Panel Installation – Award of Contract Ratification</p> <p>Members considered the paper presented for ratification of the earlier decision made by Members via email for the award of the Contract for the Installation of Solar Photovoltaic arrays at the Colleges Campuses. Members agreed the ratification and noted the slight extension to the spend window to July 2022.</p>
	<p>Matters for Information</p>
37-21	<p>Priority Enhancement Initiatives</p> <p>Members noted the Priority Enhancements Initiatives paper and the progress made against each Priority Enhancement. Members thanked the Leadership Team for taking on board their comments and suggested the Leadership Team consider prioritising these further in light of the most recent SG Covid guidance.</p> <p>Action: Principal to take the recommendation to perhaps further prioritise these due to current circumstances back to LT.</p>
38-21	<p>First Impressions Survey Results AY2021-22</p> <p>Members noted the First Impression Survey Results for AY2021-22, and the overall 94% satisfaction rate (an increase on previous academic year).</p>
	<p>Reserved items of Business</p>
39-21	<p>Any Other Business Gordon Centre</p>

40-21	<p>Summation of Actions and Date of Next Meeting The Board Secretary gave a summation of the Actions. The next meeting of the Regional Board is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 23 March 2022 at 1000 hrs via Microsoft Teams.</p>
	<p>Reserved Items of Business – Matter for Decision</p>
42-21	<p>Financial Statements for the Year to 31 July 2021</p>
42-21	<p>Annual Report of the Audit and Risk Committee to the Regional Board</p>
43-21	<p>Land at Clinterty Campus</p>
	<p>Reserved Items of Business – Matters for Discussion</p>
	<p><i>R Laird & S Grant re-joined the meeting</i></p>
44-21	<p>Overview of activity and credit position</p>

45-21	Spending Review/Budget
46-21	VS Scheme
	Any Other Business The Vice Chair acknowledging this will be the Regional Chair's last Board Meeting extended his, the Board's and the wider Community and national

	<p>sector's thanks and respect to the Chair for his leadership during the challenging years and since NESCol's inception.</p> <p>The Regional Chair recorded his own thanks to Board Members and staff, past and present for their support over the years, and declared his pride in being associated with the College and to be its Chair for the last 8 years. The Regional Chair also noted his commitment to continue as an associate albeit on a more information and observation basis.</p>
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Agenda Item	Actions from Regional Board Meeting 15/12/21	Responsibility	Deadline
24-21	Minute of previous Meeting to be amended to show J Gifford as present	Board Secretary	Asap
32-21	Governance Manual to be updated to show changes to Committee	Board Secretary	asap
34-21	Modern Slavery Act Statement wording to be amended before publication	P Smith	asap
37-21	Priority Enhancement Initiatives to be reviewed to perhaps further prioritise	N Cowie	asap
	Reserved Items of Business		
39-21			
42-21			

Signed:.....

Date:06.04.21.....