



Minutes of the Search and Governance Committee Meeting

held 23 April 2009

Present: Phil Osborne (*Vice Chair*), Keith Bate, Andrew Hanson, Alison Perks, Gloria Smith

In attendance: Jennifer Sunter (*Clerk*)

1 Apologies

Apologies were received on behalf of Pam Thomas and David Prain.

2 Declarations of Interest

Andrew Hanson declared an interest in agenda item 4, Governor appointments with regard to consideration of recommending re-appointments to the Corporation.

Gloria Smith declared her standing interest in relation to partnership working arrangements between the College and Prospects Services Limited.

3 Minutes of Meeting held 29 January 2008 and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting held 29 January 2009 were approved as a true record. The Clerk reported on actions achieved. There were no matters arising.

4 Governor Appointments

With reference to the skills matrix and the table of Corporation Membership the Clerk reported required action in relation to six governor positions.

The Clerk reported that following a student governor nomination process that Claire Smith and Daniel Willetts were nominated and elected unopposed to the positions of student governors for the academic year of 2009/10.

With reference to completion of terms of office the Clerk reported that both David Prain and Nicholas Ronan would be retiring at the end of their terms of office in September 2009 and that both Paul Downing and Andrew Hanson wished to be considered for re-appointment.

Keith Bate reported that following the advertisement for prospective governors five expressions of interest had been received and that each applicant had been invited to meet with the Chair and the Principal.

Members further discussed the importance of replacing financial and legal professional and operational experience. Phil Osborne suggested that in addition to the current recruitment process a direct application could be made to the Alliance for the Black Country.

In light of the current skills balance and the effect on this from the forthcoming loss of both David Prain and Nicholas Ronan, the financial, business and environmental experience and qualifications of Paul Downing and Andrew Hanson in addition to their continued commitment to the College as demonstrated in their contribution to the work of the Corporation were noted.

The Search and Governance Committee resolved to recommend to Corporation

- that Claire Smith and Daniel Willetts be appointed as student governors to Halesowen College Corporation for the academic year of 2009/2010 subject to set eligibility clearance.
- that Paul Downing and Andrew Hanson be reappointed as governors to Halesowen College Corporation for a further term commencing October 2009.
- that following meetings with the Chair and Principal prospective governors be invited to meet with members of the Search and Governance Committee.
- that the Corporation continue to search for applicants with operational legal and financial experience.
- that a further meeting of the committee be held to consider appointments to the forthcoming vacant positions.

5 Governor Co-options

Keith Bate reported that co-options from local higher education partners were being progressed and that current applicants may provide additional co-options to committees.

Andrew Hanson noted that effective mentoring of co-optees and new governor appointments would be important.

6 Corporation Development Plan

The clerk outlined the progress against the current year Corporation Development Plan.

In response to a question from Andrew Hanson on value for money, members discussed the content of the Annual Governance Conference. Both the Clerk and Vice Chair noted the workshops of value and which of the key note addresses had been informative.

7 Strategic Issues

Keith Bate described the planned content for the Corporation strategic planning meeting on 16 May 2009, including Machinery of Government Changes and white papers, the Strategic Plan and performance against priorities, revisions to the Self Assessment Report and the Quality Improvement Plan.

Keith Bate noted the need to focus on future Strategic Priorities and Transformational Projects in preparation for prosperity, including the Higher Education strategy and the College charity.

Members noted the need to review corporate identity and profile linked to mission and to address infrastructure and staff development.

8 Any other business

There was none.

9 Date of next meeting

An extra meeting of the Search and Governance Committee was agreed for Thursday 25 June 2009 at 6pm.

Closed: 7.05pm