

Meeting of the Corporation

Tue 11 October 2022, 18:30 - 20:30

Sir George Monoux College

Attendees

Board members

Professor Colin Grant, Dave Vasse, Alastair Owens, Angela Foster, Tim Stockings, Kwame Amoako-atta, Stephen Jones, Maurine Lewin, Nazia Shah, Sara Whittaker, Andrew Boucher, James Gould, Jamie Davies, Marian Orafu, Pamela Dube, Usha Puri-Dewage

Absent: Bush Jonathan, Stewart Maclean

Meeting minutes

1. Apologies for Absence and Quoracy

CG

Colin welcomed everyone, especially new guests, Marian Orafu and Pamela Dube.

Apologies were received from Stewart Maclean and Jonathan Bush.

The meeting was declared quorate.

2. Declarations of Interest

CG

None were received

3. Minutes of the previous meeting 5 July 2022

Decision

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

CG

A typo on page 3 - 'teachers'. Otherwise the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record

3.1. Matters Arising

CG

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere in the agenda

4. Governance Update

Decision

To consider the recommendations of the Governance & Remuneration Committee and, if thought fit, approve the nomination of Marian Orafu as a member.

Professor Colin Grant

AO noted that the Governance Committee had unanimously recommended MO to the Corporation. After brief discussion,

The Corporation resolved that Marian Orafu be appointed as an independent member to serve until 10 October 2026.

Marian was warmly welcomed as new member.

 MO CV Updated.pdf

4.1.

Information

To welcome Professor Pamela Dube as a co-opted member

Professor Colin Grant

CG welcomed Pamela, who was appointed by the Chair at the recent Governance and Remuneration committee. The appointment was especially welcomed by AB, noting Pamela's breadth of experience and passion for disadvantaged learners. CG congratulated PD on being appointed as Vice Chancellor designate of Central University of Technology at Bloemfontein

 PZD CV August 2022 SGMC.pdf

4.2. Resignations

AO noted that both Stewart Maclean and Jonathan Bush have resigned. Both are extremely busy with professional commitments, making attendance difficult. AO recorded the grateful thanks to both for their excellent service over many years. Both wish to remain in touch and retain a great interest in Monoux.

JB was a Drapers nominee, and a new candidate has been put forward by Drapers.

AO reminded members to consider using their own networks for recruitment opportunities.

In view of these two resignations, Kwame has agreed to serve as chair of the Audit Committee, Maurine has agreed to chair Governance & Recruitment, Committee and Tim has agreed to chair External Relations Committee.

CG also congratulated and welcomed the three new committee chairs.

5. Approval of Bye Laws

Decision

To approve the amended Bye Laws, and the Terms of Reference of the Governance & Remuneration Committee.

JK

TS commented that the Bye Laws were not easy to follow, and more lengthy than the law with which they comply. ML noted she has previously raised concerns about the drafting of the Bye Laws.

DV noted that the AoC provides standardised bye laws for sixth form college corporations.

JK was tasked to ask the ERG Reviewer about bye laws, and whether the AoC standard bye laws are different or preferable.

The Corporation resolved to adopt the amended Bye Laws, combining the duties, etc. of the Remuneration Committee into the newly created Governance & Remuneration Committee.

6. Principal's Report

Information

To receive a verbal report including an update on enrolment, and matters not covered elsewhere on the agenda

DV

DV warmly welcomed the new governors and invited them to visit the college at their convenience, either individually or jointly, and with tailored meetings with managers as appropriate for their committee roles.

DV noted there is more information to come on achievements as more data becomes available, which will be for formal submission to stakeholders.

Enrolment is on course to achieve target, though may possibly drop a fraction due to some non-attendance. The 42-day target is fast approaching and the 1745 still attainable.

Encouragingly, there is a larger cohort of new students who will be with us for next year, which is a considerable benefit compared to last year.

ALP already has 45 leaners on roll, which is very good for this early stage in the year. JG is negotiating with the Borough Council about an extended provision, which will be financially beneficial.

There is still a considerable drop in study skills resulting from the lockdown, which colours the achievements, but progress is clearly being made, and an improvement in A Level results is particularly encouraging.

There is still no news on the ONS review, nor on pay settlements, nor on additional government support that had been suggested, but now looks unlikely.

CG welcomed this rich and excellent report.

SW welcomed the enrolment target, and asked about the upper limit in future years, bearing in mind the suggestion of 1900.

DV noted that on joining there were over 2,000 students, though less time and fewer activities were available to each learner. If more learners were to be accommodated there would need to be adjustments to the timetabling and the structure of the college day.

SW also asked if there was sufficient teaching provision for an expanded ALP provision. DV said that staffing would be increased in line with any increase in student numbers.

UPD noted that cost of living issues are affecting many families, resulting in students seeking employment as an alternative to study.

JD asked if there was better destination data. DV noted that the current data from SFCA only covered A Level students, and not individual university offers. Previous year's data was also incomplete, though students are always encouraged to keep in touch.

CG asked about vocational achievements, and how concerned we should be at 69% overall.

DV noted the switch from QCF to RQF has meant a more rigorous qualification, and the number of higher grades is expected to fall. Value Added data is not yet available, which will give a better picture of the true position. There is concern, and students do need to be better prepared for the greater frequency of examination.

AO asked if National Averages will be reliable,
DV ProAchieve software will give more reliable data

DV explained that RQF is still a 3-A level equivalent, but has more mandatory units, and more externally assessed, by examination, which have a much bigger weighting. It should be noted that students were still passing units, but not with as many merits or distinctions. NZ noted other difference regarding weighting given to examination and that passing a modules did not necessarily mean a pass overall.

Property & Climate

The property group will be looking to see if a funding bid is an option, and whether the groups should be a sub committee or reporting to the Resources Committee.

AB noted it was better to look for the relevant expertise more than the reporting method. This was supported by ML and JG

AB asked about terms of reference or required skills.

TS added that time commitment was important, and it was essential to make the group very agile, and ensuring contributions are as easy as possible.

CG asked for DV's view of the best way forward with the Property Group. DV will consult with JG and produce an invitation for volunteers in the next week.

DV would welcome volunteers for the Climate and Sustainability Group via email outside the meeting.

 PRINCIPAL REPORT 11_10_22.pdf

7. Safeguarding Policy

To receive and approve an update to the Safeguarding Policy

JG noted the importance of ensuring safeguarding of students, which will come in greater detail to External Relations Committee. The policy comes to the Corporation each year for approval.

At inspection, there were some concerns about challenges not being as detailed as expected, and given the numbers of under-16 learners, the KCSIE template has been a better guide than that from the local authority, and the comparison was a very useful exercise. There aren't major changes to practice though the language is updated and more compassionate, reflecting the most recent concerns affecting young people.

CG welcomed the report and congratulated JG and those involved for their great work.

ML welcomed the document, though this was too large for all staff to be familiar with everything in it.

It was agreed after discussion that a session for governors delivered by JG would be welcomed.

AO asked about the defined age for vulnerable adults. JG was clear that 18 year olds should also be treated the same as other learners.

SW asked about the section on Governors, and that it was unrealistic to expect occasional visitors to be fully familiar with it.

JG agreed that a summary would be a good idea.

SW asked about out of hours contact details JG said that staff all had the personal numbers for JG and Jonathan Service, which will be corrected.

AB asked if there was any risk if a summary document was provided. ML and JG said that inspectors would ask if staff were aware of it, rather than ever be tested on it 'word for word'.

TS recognised that it was needed to cover the legal requirements of understanding the policies. Is it possible to produce a summary and still meet the legal requirements

AF noted that all staff are very well trained in Safeguarding, and know exactly where to go to escalate any safeguarding

Receive

James Gould

concerns.

JG confirmed that governors were assured if that their current certificate was valid, they were fully compliant.

CG summarised that this was of vital importance, that the policy was crucial ,and that it was very helpful to read it. The three cornered approach is ideal: Read the policy, complete the training course, and attend a session delivered by JG.

The policy was approved.

 SGMC Safeguarding Policy 2223 draft.pdf

8. Committee Reports

Information

Committee Chairs

8.1. Report of the Quality & Performance Committee: Meeting 20 September 2022

Information

AO

AO Was happy to take questions as most matters had already been covered in the meeting

8.2. Report of the Governance & Remuneration Committee: Meeting 4 October 2022

Alastair Owens

AO Was happy to take questions as most matters had already been covered in the meeting

 Minutes_Governance & Nominations Committee_041022.pdf

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Information

Tuesday 13 December 2022 18.30

Professor Colin Grant

10. Any Other Business

Professor Colin Grant

11. Reserved Item

Information

There was a reserved item of confidential business

Dave Vasse