**SIR GEORGE MONOUX COLLEGE**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Corporation**

**Tuesday 10 May 2022 (6.30pm) via Zoom**

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| **Present** | Alastair Owens (Acting Chair) (AO), Sara Whittaker (SW), Stewart Maclean (SM) Mariam Benamer (Student Governor) (MB), Wasif Khan (Student Governor) (WK), Adenike Betiku (AB), Dave Vasse (Principal) (DV), Tim Stockings (TS), Maurine Lewin (ML), Usha Puri-Dewage (Parent Governor) (UPD), Stephen Jones (SJ), Kwame Atta (KA), Nazia Shah (Staff Governor) (NS), Angela Foster (Staff Governor) (AF), |
| **In Attendance** | Colin Grant (CG), John Kirk (JK) (Interim Clerk to the Corporation). |

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| **1** | **Apologies**  Apologies were received from Jonathan Bush.  The meeting was declared quorate. |
| **2** | **Declarations of Interest**  None. |
| **3** | **Minutes of the Previous Meeting 4 April 2022**  The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true and accurate record. |
| **4** | **Matters Arising**  None that would not be covered elsewhere in the agenda. |
| **5** | **Governance Issues**  **5.1** Angela Foster was welcomed at the non-teaching nominee Member of the Corporation. Angela was welcomed, and described her work at the College.  AO extended his thanks to Gabriella Rollino for standing as a candidate.  **5.2** AB described the procedure of the Governance and Nominations Committee working with Peridot to select the candidates for the post of Chair.  AO thanked all those involved in the selection process in addition to Peridot: AB, SJ, & JK.  SM expressed grateful thanks to AO for all his hard work in stepping into the void at a very busy time in his own life. These sentiments were echoed by all those present.  The Corporation unanimously approved the recommendation of the Governance and Nominations Committee that Colin Grant be appointed a Member of the Corporation and Chair to succeed Alastair Owens as Acting Chair, who now steps down.  **It was resolved that Prof. Colin Grant be appointed as an independent member of the Corporation from 10 May 2022 to 9 May 2026, and to serve as Chair of the Corporation.**  CG introduced himself and expressed his eagerness to join the Corporation, and emphasised just how impressed he was when he visited the College.  Members then introduced themselves and welcomed Colin to the Board.  AO reported that another outstanding candidate who interviewed for the post of chair has expressed an interest in joining and would be very suitable take the chair of the Resources Committee upon Jonathan Bush standing down at the expiry of his term.  AO reported another positive conversation with Jamie Davies, through Aspiring Governance, works at GLA in connecting local businesses with students. |
| **6** | **Principal’s Report**  DV welcomed both Angela and Colin to the Board, which has now added considerably to its strength.  1. The Accelerated Learning Pathway, the provision for 15-year-old, newly arrived students, some who arrivehere without their families, has had its first formal quality review by the client, the Borough. Students come from as far afield as Afghanistan, Ukraine, Columbia, and the College is privileged to be entrusted with their care. The review scored this provision at the highest grade of Excellent in every area, save for guidance, planning and progression, which was one grade short of excellent.  Staff within this provision felt extremely positive, with comments showing high levels of satisfaction in their work. DV expressed grateful thanks to NS who leads on the area.  2. Applications are well on target to meet the critical 1730 learners by the 42-day cut-off period. Over 2,000 offers have been made to date, which is 20% up the same time last year, and compares with the highest estimate planned figure of a total 2,500  Applications are above 3,000, 7.5 % up on the best figure in the past 5 years, and the interview attendance rate is up by 7%.  It is not possible to determine the number of ‘walk ins’, and numbers may reflect that general post-pandemic learning and attendance behaviour is still a major problem throughout the area.  On behalf of the Corporation, AO recorded thanks to Dave, Nazia, and the team for this achievement of the Excellent review by the Borough on the ALP.  SW Welcomed this Excellent review grade, and asked if there is a long-term vision for this area of provision.  DV noted that there are currently forty-five students enrolled, with a budget allocation for fifty, which has remained unchanged by the Borough at the expiry of the March renegotiation period. Space is fairly limited at present, though the Borough has considered expansion in June to admit Year 10 students. This is seen as a notable expression of confidence in the College for this alternative provision. Approaches have been received from other boroughs about taking their migrant children.  AO asked if this reflection of the quality of the College’s performance can be used to enhance our provision in other areas?  DV Agreed that it gave impetus to multiple areas, including the possibility of declaring to ESFA an intention to take 14–16-year-old students.  UPD asked if we can leverage the positive experience in marketing campaigns, as it is wonderful success story to share.  DV Agreed this was an excellent message, and the reach from the social media marketing strategy is continuing to gain considerable traction with young people. It is also encouraging that we are seeing more parents arriving their children to visit the college. Parental engagement is a very important indicator of student attendance and outcome.  DV invited members to join meetings of the External Relations Committee to see the effectiveness of the marketing strategy. |
| **7** | **AoC Code of Good Governance**  JK reported that following the suggestion of Scrutton Bland, Internal Auditors, the corporation agreed to instruct the Governance and Nominations Committee to consider whether the Corporation should formally adopt the Association of Colleges Code of Good Governance.  Considerable discussion took place about whether a ‘one-size fits all’ approach is sufficiently robust.  It was agreed to have the Governance and nominations Committee take a detailed and pragmatic approach in considering the adoption of the this Code |
| **8** | **Committee Meetings – Minutes and Reports**   1. **External Relations Committee 15 February 2022**   TS Commented on how impressed he was with the impact achieved by the marketing team in connecting with local young people, especially given the very tough experiences of the last two years.   1. **Resources Committee 15 March 2022**   DV noted that a historic error in MIS led to a penalty in funding the allocation. The data is now being resubmitted and the issue is expected to be resolved. It will not be known if expected income of £171k will be agreed by ESFA until the End of May, at which time the matter will be reviewed. There had still been no response from the ESFA   1. **Quality & Performance Committee 22 March 2022** 2. **Audit Committee 31 March 2022**   KA Reported on the risk review, and discussion on including cyber security phishing stress tests and cost of living and inflation. Discussion about a board portal has also moved forward.  TS noted the massive increase in phishing attacks that he receives in his main business is quite alarming. DV noted that following from an audit report on cyber security being satisfactory, the College has routinely been introducing additional levels of security, as this is such a dynamic issue.  TS Commented on the excellent levels of support to both staff and students, and wondered what additional consideration had been given to the impact cost of living increases and inflation.  DV reported that there were numerous additional resources being made available to support the most vulnerable students in these extraordinary times.   1. **Governance & Nominations Committee 26 April 2022**   AB noted the importance of reviewing and updating the induction program in the light of the new members strengthening the Corporation, and the Committee is reviewing options to introduce a recruitment, induction and mentoring policy.  Adequate succession planning will require completion of the skills audit by all members in order to produce a matrix to identify any skills gaps.  It is planned to introduce the ETF Governance Development Programme once this becomes live on the new Future Learn website.    SW asked that all members receive all the induction document and continuous professional development. This was noted.  All committee minutes were received |
| **9** | **Date and Time of Next Meeting 2022-23**  ***Tuesday 5 July 2022 (6.30pm)***  AO welcomed the prospect of a face-to-face meeting with a time of social interaction afterwards. |
| **10** | **Dates and Times of Corporation Meetings 2022-23**  These were received, and it was agreed to have discussions on whether future meetings were to be in-person, hybrid, or remote. |
| **11** | **Any Other Competent Business**  To consider any other competent business   1. **JK** Reported the Charities Act 2022 has received royal assent. 2. **Stone King** working with AoC on the Charity Commission decision that, “Student governors are being constitutionally prevented from performing their legal duties”. The AoC position is that this is a safeguarding matter, which overrides the Charity Commission position. 3. **Following** the success of pilot scheme, the DfE will shortly be publishing new guidelines for External Reviews of Governance. Anecdotal reports so far indicate that this has been a positive experience for college boards, and is very different to an Ofsted style inspection. |
| **12** | **Reserved Item**  **Audit Committee 31 March 2022 Minutes (Reserved)**  The minutes were received |