

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SEARCH AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2019 AT THE ISLE OF WIGHT COLLEGE

Governors Present: Prof Nigel Hastings Chair
 Mrs Debbie Lavin Principal
 Dr Kavita Hayton
 Mr Martyn Pearl

In Attendance: Mr Brian Bowker Clerk
 Dr Nick England Chair of Corporation

Apologies: Mrs Christina Conroy, Mr David Hodgkins

The Chair thanked, in her absence, Mrs Christina Conroy for her contribution to the Search & Governance Committee during her time as a governor.

ACTION

24/19 DECLARATION OF INTEREST
There were no declarations of interest.

25/19 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 JUNE 2019

The Minutes were APPROVED as a true record of the meeting.

26/19 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 12 JUNE 2019
It was noted that all matters arising had been addressed with the exception of one item. The Clerk was asked to circulate the information relating to “Asking powerful questions” and the merits of Carver governance. **Clerk**

The Committee CONSIDERED the report.

27/19 MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD, COMMITTEES, VACANCIES AND NEW APPLICATIONS
The Clerk provided an update on current membership and recruitment matters. Following discussion it was recommended that Mr Martyn Pearl should be recommended for re- appointment for a second four year term; Mr David Hodgkins should be recommended for a further two year term and Dr Nick Sinnamon should be considered for a further two year term and, failing that, be appointed as a co-optee to the Audit Committee. The Clerk was asked to speak to Dr Sinnamon and action the above re-appointments. **Clerk**

Members were pleased to note that expressions of interest in becoming a College governor had been received from five individuals and the Clerk and Principal were following up on these, prior to formal interviews being conducted.

A lengthy discussion then took place regarding succession planning and the need to replace the Vice Chair of Corporation in July 2020. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Chair of the Search & Governance Committee would speak to a potential candidate.

Clerk

It was agreed that Dr Kavita Hayton should take on the role of Vice Chair of Search & Governance Committee, following the retirement of Mrs Christina Conroy.

NH

The Committee RECOMMENDED to Corporation the

- (i) Re-appointment of Mr Martyn Pearl for a further four year term
- (ii) Re-appointment of Mr David Hodgkins for a further two year term and the
- (iii) Clerk to speak to Dr Nick Sinnamon regarding his future governor role.

28/19 GOVERNANCE REVIEW PROCESS 2018/19 AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2019/20

The Chair asked for Members' views on the process adopted to self-assess governance performance during the 2018/19 academic year. The view was that the process had worked well but the Principal stressed the need to distinguish between how the governing body functions in its governance role and separately, the assessment of governance impact on the College and student outcomes. She added that it would be helpful to conduct the self-assessment session later in October to enable relevant data to be considered by Governors.

Clerk

A lengthy discussion then ensued, with Members stressing the importance of being a self-critical board and continually striving for improvement.

The Chair stated that it was important to assess how the governing body functions in its governance role and that he was now more confident regarding governors' contribution and the self-assessment process, given the extensive bench-marking and identifying of best practice in outstanding colleges.

Members recognised that the Corporation would not achieve outstanding status in governance until student outcomes were at a similar level but stressed the importance of ensuring that the Board performed as well as it could. The Clerk was asked to give consideration to relevant governors visiting an outstanding college to observe their governance self-assessment process or seeking an external representative from an outstanding college to observe the Isle of Wight self-assessment process. The Clerk reminded Members that the internal audit plan for 2019/20 had been revised, in light of governance issues identified in failing colleges, and this will provide external scrutiny of Corporation performance.

The Chair summarised the discussion by stating that the current self-assessment process should be retained for 2020 but the refinements discussed above should be considered, along with any implications for the process by the new Ofsted inspection framework.

The Committee CONSIDERED the report.

29/19 GOVERNANCE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2019/20

Members considered the areas for improvement identified during the governance self-assessment process. They then focused on the need to closely monitor all under-performing curriculum areas. The importance of this was recognised and the Chair asked how, and when, governors would have the opportunity to undertake this monitoring. The Principal stated that a 'rag rated' table of performance would be provided at Corporation meetings to enable governors to better understand and challenge curriculum performance.

DL

The Chair stressed the importance of this monitoring and added that following the first exception reports, governors can agree a schedule for further scrutiny, if required.

The Committee CONSIDERED the report.

30/19 GOVERNANCE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2019/20

The Committee CONSIDERED the report and NOTED the satisfactory progress to date.

31/19 GOVERNANCE COMPLIANCE REGISTER 2019/20

The Committee considered the report and noted the need for updating on the part of four Governors. The Clerk was asked to monitor the implementation of this.

Clerk

The Committee NOTED the report.

32/19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of any other business.

33/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 9 June 2020 at 11.00am – room A7

Chairman _____ Date: _____

MISSION STATEMENT
Putting Students First
Working for Employers

Supporting Our Community