

New College Telford

Search Committee

Tuesday 7 October 2008

Minutes

Present: Cllr I Fletcher (Chairman)
Dr R Hargreaves
Mr J Shaw
Mr D Hopkins
Mr G Clark

In Attendance: Mr P Taylor (Clerk)

1 Election of Chairman

Cllr Fletcher was elected Chairman of the Committee for the meeting.

2 Apologies

None.

3 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Search Committee of 11 December 2007 were confirmed, and the record of the informal meeting of members of the Search Committee of 17 June 2008 was received.

4 Declarations of Interest

None.

5 Corporation Vacancies

The Clerk introduced the report (copy in Minute Book) for the Committee explaining that it provided a summary of Corporation vacancies, and set out decisions that fall to the Search Committee. The Clerk reported that Ms Rosser, Assistant Principal, had been working with students on representation matters and was optimistic that two nominations for student members of the Corporation would be forthcoming shortly.

The Clerk referred to the conditions surrounding the appointment of 'General Members' of the Corporation. He invited the Committee to consider the re-appointment of Mr Hopkins.

[Clerk's note: at this point in proceedings Mr Hopkins left the meeting which remained quorate]

The Clerk referred to Mr Hopkins' very good attendance record during the period since his re-appointment in 2004, with an attendance rate of 82%. He also referred to his significant contribution to the Corporation through his role as Vice Chairman of the Corporation, Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and member of Search, Remuneration and Student Achievement & Standards Committees. Members of the Committee commented favourably on Mr Hopkins' contribution to corporate governance. Having taken account of the fact that there were currently no names on the list of potential Corporation members, the entries in the skills audit register and the recommendations of the Nolan Committee, the Committee resolved to recommend that Mr Hopkins be re-appointed to the Corporation.

[Clerk's note: at this point in proceedings Mr Hopkins rejoined the meeting]

The Clerk invited the Committee to consider the re-appointment of Mr Shaw.

[Clerk's note: at this point in proceedings Mr Shaw left the meeting]

The Clerk referred to Mr Shaw's good attendance record at Corporation and committee meetings since his re-appointment in 2004, with an attendance rate of 63%. He also referred to his contribution to the Corporation through his Chairmanship of both the Remuneration and Search Committees. The Clerk referred also to Mr Shaw's health problems, which he had outlined at the last Corporation meeting in June 2008. Members of the Committee commented that despite his health issues, Mr Shaw continued to add significantly to the corporate governance of the college, and welcomed his willingness to continue as a governor, notwithstanding his intention to withdraw from the chairmanship of committees. Having taken account of the fact that there were currently no names on the list of potential members, the entries in the skills audit register, and the recommendations of the Nolan Committee, the Committee resolved to recommend that Mr Shaw be reappointed to the Corporation.

[Clerk's note: at this point in proceedings Mr Shaw rejoined the meeting]

On the matter of the vacancy for a General Member of the Corporation, the Clerk reported that two nominations as 'local authority' members had been received from Telford and Wrekin Council. He reported that although such nominations were erroneous, he had consulted the Chairman and Principal who had concluded that there would be merit in considering the appointment of those identified by the Council as General Members of the Corporation. The Clerk sought the advice of the Committee as to the response to the Council on the nominations, and members of the Committee made a number of helpful comments as to how the Council might best be approached. The Committee agreed that there would be merit in exploring the opportunity of appointing one of those cited by the Council to the current vacancy, and agreed that it would be invidious for the Corporation to specify to the Council which of the nominees the Corporation might first consider for appointment. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Council setting out the changes to the arrangements for governor appointments arising from the College's new Instruments and Articles of Government, requesting that the Council should identify which, if any, of the two persons identified they would wish first to be considered for Corporation membership.

The Clerk undertook to correspond with the Council reflecting the views of the Committee.

6 Date of next meeting

The next provisional date for the Search Committee is Tuesday 9 December 2008. In accordance with agreed procedures the meeting will be called only if there is competent business to conduct.