

BOSTON COLLEGE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SEARCH AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ON 20 APRIL 2016

1. PRESENT

Steve McCracken (Chair), Peter Cropley, Amanda Mosek and Nick Worth

Also in attendance: Janet Hemmant (Clerk to the Corporation).

Meeting attendance: 80%

For item 4 members were joined by:

- Stephen Brown, Rowan Dalton, Mick Gallagher, Jayne Mitchell, Chris Pett, Helen Wright (Corporation members)
- George Harrison, Ben Webb (Corporation nominees)
- Atholl Stott (AoC National Leader of Governance)

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2015 were reviewed and approved.

3. CORPORATION MEMBERSHIP

Members considered vacancies and noted that the two leads previously identified had not proved productive.

Mick Gallagher had submitted a statement to the committee outlining his willingness to be appointed for a further term of office and providing supporting information. The committee reviewed the information and particularly noted the skills which Mick brought to the Board. The committee felt that his enthusiasm, lateral thinking and commitment to the local community justified reappointment and agreed to recommend this to the Corporation.

4. REVIEW OF BOARD EFFECTIVENESS

Amanda Mosek explained the background to the review and outlined the questions the Board might want to ask itself. Atholl Stott outlined his own role and background and explained that the process should encourage the Board to look at opportunities to improve its effectiveness.

A discussion took place about the Board's compliance with the Code of Good Governance and steps already being taken to enhance its performance against identified best practice. It was noted that as part of this the Board would carry out an annual review of its performance.

A discussion took place and key principles and issues were identified:

- The Board needs to clearly steer the strategic direction of the College within the context of a constantly changing external environment including the effects of devolution.

- The Board needs to measure its performance against the principles of good governance and determine whether it has the right balance of skills, the correct focus and appropriate working practices.
- The question of whether members are sufficiently well informed to carry out their role and give good advice should be considered.
- Is the structure and frequency of meetings appropriate?
- Are committees being used effectively and in a way which allows the main Board to focus on strategy?
- Is there an appropriate balance between overseeing the existing business and setting the strategic direction?
- Would it be useful to look at benchmarks, guidance etc to identify best practice?
- Is there a place for less formal working together (governors or governors and staff) to focus on specific issues such as devolution?
- Would it be useful to have thematic leads (or teams) as well as or instead of curriculum links?
- Is it clear how the College's priorities align with those of funders?
- Are there ways in which the student body could have more input?

Members felt that the Board was functioning well but that it would be helpful for it to increase its strategic focus.

Peter Cropley thanked everyone for their attendance.