

**Minutes of the Corporation Board
held on Thursday, 23 March 2017 at 5.00pm in Sketty Hall, Sketty**

Present:	Mr Colin Cornelius	Chair
	Dr David Ashelby	
	Mr Tim Clark	
	Mr Ryan George	
	Mrs Carol Green	
	Mr Mark Jones	Principal
	Mr Ceri Low	
	Mrs Chantal Patel	
	Ms Fiona Rees	
	Mr Gary Williams	
	Mrs Susan Williams	
	Mr Sam Williams	
In Attendance:	Mr Mike Glover	Head of Finance
	Mr Paul Harris	Vice Principal (Corporate Services)
	Mrs Kay Morgan	Vice Principal (Academic Services)
Recorder:	Mrs Sharon Barron	Clerk to the Corporation

28 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from: Mr John Britton, Mr Mike Day, Mr Andrew Donald, Mr Meirion Howells, Cllr Jennifer Raynor, Cllr Christine Richards, Mr Kieron Rees and Mr Ray Singh.

29 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 February were **approved** as a correct record.

The notes of the away-day event on 15 February were **approved** as a correct record.

30 Principal's Report

The Principal presented his report.

The Board noted the sector update which included information on current consultations on which the College and/ or Colegau Cymru were submitting responses, the publication of the Welsh Government's new Apprenticeship Policy and 5 year action plan, the Welsh Standards for Further Education and the Wales Audit Office report on 'Welsh Government Oversight of further education colleges' finances and delivery'. The latter had included 7 recommendations for the Welsh Government. Members noted proposals to change the structure of Colegau Cymru.

The Board noted that the £1.3 billion Swansea City Deal had now been signed, and noted the 11 identified projects to be included in the programme.

The Principal reported on discussions with Morriston Comprehensive School (Minute 23 refers) and the programmes to be delivered at the School by College staff, with members seeking assurance about the management of quality in the delivery, and

noting the benefits to the learners and College of undertaking this work; the anticipated completion of the Review of Post 16 Education currently being undertaken by the City and County of Swansea Council; and applications for full time courses starting in September 2017. In relation to work based learning the Principal reported that the deadlines for the new round for work based learning tenders were likely to be put back, and that the College had been approved for entry to the new Register of Approved Training Providers for delivery of apprenticeships in England and for which it was working with Track Training to develop a strategy.

The Board noted an update on the estates work at Tycoch to recover the buildings after the October 2016 fire, and progress with development of the link roadway, and front of house projects.

Members noted international developments, and in particular the developments involving schools in China. Members commented on the management of the quality assurance of the teaching and learning and discussed the model of delivery. In terms of accommodation the College was exploring a number of options. The Board **approved** in principle the further development of the model of provision proposed.

Members' views were sought on the proposal to submit bids to the Welsh European Funding Office for 4 discrete projects worth as much as £5.2m (over 3 years) with ESF funding of approximately £3.8m. The Board **agreed** to support the bids.

The Board noted that discussions were continuing with the Department for Education and Skills regarding the possibility of the College offering three new full-time courses in construction in September 2017.

The Principal reported on the final Learner Outcome Reports for all 13 FE colleges and Gower College Swansea's relative performance. Members noted the overall success rates, and the success rates for main qualifications.

The Board considered the proposal to establish a branch of the National Union of Students at the College and reviewed the Constitution which had been circulated. Discussion took place about the value to the learners and College in having an additional body to represent students and which would provide another avenue for consultation and liaison purposes. Consideration would be given to how the proposed sabbatical officer, the President, could represent the branch NUS views to the Board noting that the process for nomination of students members to the Board for 2017-18 was currently underway.

The proposal had been supported by the Learner Support Committee (Minute 18 refers) and was supported by the Board. The Corporation Board **approved** the Constitution for the College branch of the National Union of Students.

The Corporation Board **noted** the Principal's report.

31 Mid-Year Return

The Board received the updated budget for 2016-17 which had been reviewed by the Finance and General Purposes Committee and recommended to the Board. (Minute 37 refers). This would be submitted to the Welsh Government (the Mid-year Return).

The Finance and General Purposes Committee had noted in particular: the increase in the anticipated deficit for the year due to the movement in non-cash and exceptional items; the uncertain future of European income, and the bids currently being invited for European projects to ensure use of existing European money.

The Board noted that the Finance Committee had been satisfied that the College remained in good financial health.

The Corporation Board **approved** the Mid-Year Return for the period ending 31 July 17 and its submission to the Welsh Government.

32 Management Accounts for the Period ending 31 January 2017

The Corporation Board received and noted the management accounts for the period ended 31 January 2017 which had been recommended for approval by the Finance and General Purposes Committee (Minute 36 refers).

The Corporation Board **approved** the management accounts for the period ending 31 January 2017.

33 Committee Reports

The Corporation Board **noted** and discussed various items considered by the following committees and **approved** the decisions taken.

.1 Track Training Board of Directors 6 February 2017 and 13 March 2017.

The Board noted that internal and external auditors had visited Track Training and that the company were attending to the recommendations made.

.2 Curriculum and Quality Committee 28 February 2017

.3 Learner Support Committee 7 March 2017

.4 Audit Committee 9 March 2017

.5 Human Resources Committee 13 March 2017

.6 Finance and General Purposes Committee 16 March 2017

The Corporation Board **approved** the Gorseinon Campus Refectory Project at a cost of approximately £1m including VAT (Minute 39), **approved** the changes to the Financial Strategy as set out in the minutes and the accompanying report; **approved** the Management Accounts for the period ended 31 January 2017 (Item 24 above), and **approved** the mid-year return 2016-17 (Item 23 above). Members noted in relation to the Financial Strategy that in Andrew Clark's (Deputy Director Further Education and Apprenticeship Division Welsh Government) personal view the sector target for EBITDA should be 5% but that he would he 'would not have a problem' provided that it was above 3%.

34 Dates of next meetings

The next meetings would be held on 11 May 2017 and 29 June 2017.

Signed.....

Date.....