Commercial in Confidence

Coventry University

Board of Governors
Monday, 17 March 2014
1600hrs in the Board Room (ABG20), Alan Berry Building, Coventry University

Document GM152

Minutes

152/1
Present:
Prof A Richardson (Chair), Mr G Berry, Mr K Bissett, Mr N Crockett, Mr A Majithia, Mr D Clarke, Dr B Dhadda, Dr M Short, Mr G Long, Mr T Matthews, Mr S Calvin, Mr S Parker, Prof J Norton, Mrs L Noble, Dr V Cox, Mr R Beasley, Mr M Stone, Mr J Latham (Acting Vice-Chancellor)

Apologies for Absence:
Mr I Caulfield (Deputy Chair), Mr P Ashdown, Mr M Reeves

In Attendance:
Mr M Challoner (Clerk), Mr R McGroarty (Coventry University Students’ Union), Mr DGM Soutter (Deputy-Vice-Chancellor (Planning and Resources))

152/2
Declarations of Interests

None

152/3
Presentation: Governing Bodies’ Responsibility for Advancing Equality and Diversity.

.1 The Board received a presentation from Mr David Ruebain of the Equality Challenge Unit providing details of the work of the Equality Challenge Unit and the Board’s responsibilities in relation to advancing equality and diversity (Documents G152/2).

.2 Governors highlighted the challenges associated with improving the diversity of the Board of Governors. Mr Ruebain referred to a number of initiatives which other Universities have undertaken to improve the diversity and of guidance available from the Equality Challenge Unit.

.3 The Board sought confirmation from the executive whether there was more which the Board could do to advance equality and diversity. The Director of Human Resources reported that the Board provided appropriate support and challenge through the University Committee structure. In
addition, the Human Resources Committee was reviewing the nominations process in order to improve the equality and diversity on the Board.

.4 Members sought confirmation of the performance against the objectives set out in Equality Scheme 2012-16. The Equality and Diversity Manager reported that whilst some objections had been achieved, a number had not. A full review of the objectives was to be undertaken in due course and an action plan prepared. With regard to disabled staff and students the Board sought an assurance that adequate facilities were in place. The Board was advised that whilst the University had a dedicated resource to support staff and students, more could be done. It was also recognised that the University needed to keep pace with changes in technology in order to support staff/students. The Acting Vice-Chancellor reported that equality and diversity training formed part of the Coventry Essentials training for all senior managers and staff.

.5 Resolved that the support in place for disabled staff and students be referred to the Human Resources Committee for consideration.

152/4 Appointment of Vice-Chancellor

.1 The Board considered a recommendation from the Chair of the Board in respect of the appointment of a new Vice-Chancellor. It was reported that following a rigorous selection process the Search Committee was recommending the appointment of Mr John Latham.

.2 Resolved that Mr J Latham be appointed as the University’s Vice-Chancellor with immediate effect.

152/5 Items from the Chair

The Chair highlighted the importance of good governance and the responsibilities of the Board and Governors. Going forward there would be opportunities for Governors to support the executive on a number of initiatives.

152/6 Confirmation of Minutes and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the 151st meeting held on 27 January 2014 were approved and signed as correct record (Documents GM151).

152/7 Vice-Chancellor’s Report

.1 Consideration was given to a report presented by the Vice-Chancellor (Documents G152/3).
It was reported that the University would be modelling the financial implications associated with the HE funding letter from BIS to HEFCE for 2014/15. The Board was also provided with details of the University’s SNC allocation for 2014/15 and noted that current capacity constraints had been taken into consideration.

152/8
Updates from Committee Chairs

.1 The Board received an update from Mr Graham Long in respect of the meeting of the Finance and Estates Committee held on 17 March 2014 and Mr Keith Bissett in respect of the Human Resources Committee held on 10 February 2014. Mr Geoff Berry also provided an update on those key risks which would be the subject of discussion at the next meeting of the Audit Committee.

.2 The Board discussed the contractual implications associated with recruiting research staff to support the delivery of the University’s Research Strategy and the risks associated with such an approach.

152/9
Update from Student Governors

.1 The Board received an update on matters of interest and recent activities within CUSU Ltd from the Student Governors. A progress report was circulated at the meeting. It was noted that Chair and Deputy-Chair would be resigning from the CUSU Board of Trustees and there would be a formal process to fill the vacancies.

.2 Consideration was also given to a report presented by the Clerk to the Board in respect of CUSU Governance (Document G152/4).

.3 Resolved:

(A) That the Protocol for Relationship between the University and Coventry University Students’ Union be approved.

(B) That the Code of Practice for the Students’ Union, as contained within the University’s General Regulations, be approved.
152/10
Update on International Joint Ventures

Redacted for reasons of confidentiality

152/11
Coventry University Governance Review: Final Draft

.1
Consideration was given to a final draft of a report presented Chair of the Working Group, Mr Graham Long in respect of the review of the University’s governance (Document G152/6).

.2
Following consideration of the report the Board made a number of suggested amendments for incorporation prior to the final report being presented at the next meeting of the Board.

.3 Resolved that the report be approved in principle, subject to the amendments proposed, and that the final report be submitted to the next meeting of the Board on 12 May 2014.

152/12
Committee of University Chairs (CUC) - New HE Code of Governance

.1
Consideration was given to a report presented by the Clerk to the Board setting out a draft new HE Code of Governance prepared by the Committee of University Chairs (Document G152/7).

.2
The Code was intended to replace the current Governance Code of Practice and General Principles and institutions had until 31 March 2014 to respond to the consultations.

.3 Resolved that Governors provide comments to the Clerk prior to the consultation deadline.

152/13
Appointment of Student Governor

.1
Consideration was given to the appointment of a Student Governor on the Board and a student representative on Academic Board, both of whom would replace Mr Ryan Beasley who would be leaving the University on 11th April 2014 to take up a position at University of Creative Arts.

.2
The Board congratulated Ryan on his recent appointment and wished him every future success.

.3 Resolved that Mr Ross McGroarty be appointed to the Board of Governors as Student Governor and Mr Patrick Agholor to Academic Board.
152/14
Any Other Business

None

152/15
Schedule of Meetings 2013-14

The Board is asked to note the schedule of meetings for 2013/14. All meetings start at 1600 hrs in the Board Room (ABG20), Alan Berry building unless otherwise stated.

12 May 2014
14 July 2014 (followed by annual dinner)

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