Coventry University

Board of Governors
Monday, 12 May 2014
1600hrs at the Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC), Ansty Park, Coventry

Document GM153

Minutes

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Governors were taken on a tour of the Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC) and received a presentation from Dr Clive Hickman, Chief Executive in respect of the work of MTC.

153/1
Present:
Prof A Richardson (Chair), Mr I Caulfield (Deputy Chair), Mr K Bissett, Mr G Berry, Mr P Ashdown, Dr M Short, Mr T Matthews, Dr B Dhadda, Mr S Calvin, Mr D Clarke, Mr S Parker, Mr G Long, Mr N Crockett, Mr A Majithia, Dr V Cox, Mr R McGroarty, Mr J Ltaham (Vice-Chancellor)

Apologies for Absence:
Prof J Norton, Mr M Reeves, Mrs L Noble, Mr M Stone

In Attendance:
Mr M Challoner (Clerk), Mr A Riggs (Interim Deputy-Vice-Chancellor (Planning and Resources)), Prof G Daly (for Minute 153/3), Mr B Leslie (for Minute 153/4)

153/2
Declarations of Interests

.1 Dr Val Cox declared an interest in Minute 153/3 as an employee of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences.

.2 Mr Ross McGroarty and Mr Anil Majithia declared an interest in Minute 153/9 as Trustees of CUSU.

153/3
Presentation: NHS Provision and the Impact of HEFCE Cuts

.1 The Board received a presentation from Prof Guy Daly, Executive Dean Faculty of Health and Life Sciences in respect of the opportunities and threats for the Faculty as a result of the external market and the impact of Government funding cuts to NHS commissioning bodies.
.2 Following the presentation the Board sought clarification of those institutions that were considered to be in competition with the Faculty. The Board was advised that whilst competition tended to be at subject level the Faculty was predominantly competing with post-1992 universities although there was an ambition to compete more with the pre-1992 universities. Competition from the private sector was also increasing on the basis that private providers were able to bid to NHS commissioning bodies for student numbers. A number of universities were also looking to develop medical schools.

.3 The Board discussed embedding values in graduates in order that they were able to gain competitor advantage in the employment market. The Executive Dean reported that the Faculty pursued a number of initiatives that sought to develop the softer skills of students and were embedded into the curriculum.

153/4 Health and Safety Annual Report

.1 The Board noted a report presented by Mr Bill Leslie, Assistant Director Safety, who attended the meeting for this item (Document G153/2).

.2 The Board noted the arrangements for monitoring student accidents.

153/5 Items from the Chair

.1 The Chair referred to a recent publication by McKinsey & Company highlighting the importance of Boards spending a greater share of their time shaping an agenda for the future.

.2 Resolved that the Clerk circulate the article to the Board.

153/6 Confirmation of Minutes and Matters Arising

.1 The Minutes of the 152nd meeting held on 17 March 2014 (Document GM152) were approved and signed as a correct record.

.2 Further to Minute 152/3 the Board requested that the minute be amended to reflect more accurately the discussion at the meeting and the Board’s view that equality and diversity should be embedded within the University rather than being a matter of legal compliance.
The Vice-Chancellor reported that a number of initiatives were running in order to enhance equality and diversity within the University.

Resolved that the Vice-Chancellor provide the Board with quarterly reports in respect of the progress of the equality and diversity initiatives.

153/7
Vice-Chancellor’s Report

Consideration was given to an oral progress report of the Vice-Chancellor. Of particular note was:

(i) The University had moved up 7 places to 51st in the Complete University Guide 2015;
(ii) A major Teaching and Learning Conference would be held on 26 and 27 June;
(iii) The University had submitted to two THE Education Awards: Coventry University College for Widening Participation or Outreach Initiative of the Year and IEMS for Outstanding Support for Students;
(iv) The executive had commenced work to develop the 2020 Corporate Plan;
(v) Potential opportunities for the University Group arising from the Government’s ‘cold spot’ initiative;
(vi) Progress of the research recruitment campaign.

153/8
Updates from Committee Chairs

The Board received an update from Mr Graham Long in respect of the Finance and Estates Committee held on 7 April and the Audit Committee held on 11 March 2014.

153/9
Update from Student Governors

The Board noted an annual report of the Coventry University Students’ Union (CUS) achievements in 2013/14 (Document G153/4).

Consideration was given to proposal from CUSU Board of Trustees to amend the CUSU Articles of Association in respect of Article 12.11 and the appointment of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Board of Trustees.

The Board was advised that CUSU was unusual in that all other Student Union Board of Trustees were chaired by a student. Despite this, a number of Governors were of the view that the Chair of Trustees should be independent and not a student.
.4 **Resolved** that the proposal be rejected and that the Board of Trustees be requested to amend the Article such that a student cannot be appointed as Chair of Trustees.

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**153/10**
**Final Report: Review of Coventry University Governance Structure**

.1 Consideration was given to the final report of the Working Group established to review the University’s Governance Structure presented by Mr Graham Long (Document G153/6).

.2 The Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, Mr Geoff Berry, proposed a number of minor amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Audit and Risk Committee.

.3 Following consideration of the report the following points were noted from the discussion:

(i) That the name ‘Principal Committee’ be reviewed;
(ii) That as part of the implementation of the new structure consideration be given to ways in which full-time employed Governors are able to contribute more;
(iii) That as part of the Subsidiary Governance Framework the scheme of delegation for the subsidiary companies be tailored for each;
(iv) That Standing Committee of Chairs review the arrangements for oversight of the subsidiary companies;

.4 **Resolved** that the recommendations contained in the report be approved subject to minor amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Audit and Risk Committee and the comments outlined above.

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**153/11**
**Repurposing of Academic Board**

.1 Consideration was given to a report of the Clerk to the Board (Document G153/7).

.2 **Resolved** that the revised Terms of Reference and membership of Academic Board as set out at Appendix 1 of the report be approved.

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**153/12**
**Any Other Business**

None
The Board noted that the next meeting of the Board was scheduled for 4.00pm on 21 July 2014.

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