

EMBARGOED UNTIL MEETING

Agenda Item 14.05 – BOM 11.09.14



BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Minute of the Extraordinary meeting of the Board of Management held at 4.30pm on Monday the 23 February at Langside Campus.

PRESENT:	
G Chalmers (Chair)	
R Leggett	
B McCrindle (Student President) (part)	
A Clocherty (Student Vice President) (part)	
J Hamilton	
E Proudfoot	
S Pickles (Support Staff Member)	
P Laverie (Teaching Staff Member)	
K McKie	
IN ATTENDANCE:	
S Miller	Simpson & Marwick
L Howells (part)	SFC
Linda McLeod (part)	SFC
C Adam	Secretary to the Board
APOLOGIES:	
G Reid	
L Jacobs	
A Ponton	

		ACTION
23/0201	Welcome and Apologies	
	Apologies have been received from A Ponton, L Jacobs and G Reid.	
23/02/2	Declarations of Interest	
	No declarations of interest were noted.	
23/02/3	Determination of other Business	
	No other business was noted.	
23/02/4	Briefing for Board of Management	

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	<p>G Chalmers welcomed the Board support in the matter of the suspension of the Principal of Glasgow Clyde College.</p>	
	<p>S Pickles would like it noted that as an individual board member she could not support a decision to suspend the Principal as that decision had already been made and implemented. She was not made fully aware of the facts or reasons leading to the suspension at which at no time during this meeting were they divulged.</p>	
	<p>Under clause 15.03 of the Glasgow Clyde Constitution the Student members of the Board were asked to withdraw because the topic for discussion was to be the suspension of an employee of the College and they were reminded that they had no vote on any question relating to the matter.</p>	
	<p>The student members objected to being asked to withdraw from the meeting on the basis that they had not been informed that they could not remain in the meeting in advance and had made arrangements for childcare to attend the meeting. No other objection was made on any ground.</p>	
	<p>The student members withdrew from the meeting.</p>	
	<p>G Chalmers asked the Secretary to the Board if the meeting was quorate. The Secretary to the Board confirmed that the meeting was quorate under clause 10.0 which states that 'A quorum shall not be less than one half of the members, 50% of whom must be external members of the Board appointed under items 2.5.3 and 2.5.4 of the Constitution and Articles of governance.' Currently the Board of Glasgow Clyde has 13 members of whom 7 attended the meeting after the student members were asked to leave the meeting and of which 5 are external members of the Board of Management.</p>	
	<p>[REDACTED]</p>	
	<p>[REDACTED]</p>	

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	<p>The media have been contacted and appointments are to be made for PR and HR advice. Andy Denham of the Herald has been in contact with the EIS. J Brown has been asked to meet with the G Chalmers, J Hamilton and S Miller after this meeting to discuss the PR issues.</p>	
	<p>Any comments made should be on behalf of the Board of Management and should not be personal.</p>	
	<p>A discussion took place around the wording of the press release and a form of words was agreed with the Board of Management.</p>	
	<p>A break in the meeting was agreed in order to get the press release into the papers for the next day.</p>	
	<p>A discussion took place outside the meeting and it was agreed that the Student members could return to the meeting to see the press release.</p>	
	<p>G Chalmers read out the press release to the student members and B McCrindle and A Clocherty, having initially asked that their absence from the decision process be referred to in the press release, agreed the press release. B McCrindle and A Clocherty left the meeting at 5.45pm.</p>	
	<p>L Howells and L McLeod of SFC joined the meeting at 5.50pm</p>	
	<p>The Chair explained to L Howells and L McLeod that this was an Extraordinary Board meeting, detailed the powers which had been used to suspend the Principal in line with the constitution, that the student members were constitutionally not permitted to be present and that the meeting was quorate. L Howells noted these explanations and moved on to make comments and ask prepared questions on the suspension from the perspective of the SFC.</p>	
	<p>L Howells said he understood the Principal had been suspended pending an investigation and offered assistance should the Board of Management need any.</p>	
	<p>He went on to say that the situation is of concern to SFC as</p>	

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	Colleges need to be governed and managed effectively and that HR practice needs to be exemplary in this instance.	
	L Howells stated that he was surprised to hear of the suspension and also surprised because of his own relationship with the Principal and the fact that the merger process had been regarded as a success.	
	S Miller asked L Howells to explain the basis on which he was asking questions. L Howells then agreed it was Part 1 of the Financial Memorandum paragraph 7 and paragraph 8 and stated that SFC will request further information and specify what action needs to be taken to resolve this matter.	
		
	L Howells cited a phone call which took place on the 13 February where there was no mention of issues. He felt that if there were concerns they should have been raised with S Walsh and she should have been offered an opportunity to improve.	
		
	L Howells was made aware of the process following, during and after the suspension, and the steps which had been taken to comply with the Constitution and the applicable disciplinary policy. He asked that the Board consider carefully the responsibilities of the College. He also said that SFC can offer assistance when Colleges are in difficulties and that M Fairbairn would be in touch as key resources can be mobilised from across the sector. He requested that he be kept fully	

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	informed as the process moves forward.	
	L Howells said that he would be taking advice on these matters.	
	G Chalmers said that the Regional Chair has already been notified and will be kept involved.	
	L Howells and L McLeod left the meeting at 6.20pm.	
	[REDACTED]	
	[REDACTED]	
	[REDACTED]	
	[REDACTED]	
	[REDACTED]	
	The Board of Management will get a copy of the press release and it will be sent to the Principal by post.	
	G Chalmers said that he was disappointed that the Principal did not take up the offer of paid leave.	
	P Laverie suggested that staff need to be told officially and that this should come from E Harris.	
	There is to be a meeting with Senior Management Team on the 24 February at 11.45am at Langside Campus.	

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