



REGIONAL BOARD

MINUTE OF MEETING

Minute of the Meeting of the Regional Board of North East Scotland College, held on Wednesday 20 March 2024 at 1000 hours in the Boardroom of Fraserburgh Campus.

Agenda Item	<p>Present: Susan Elston, Regional Chair Neil Cowie Jim Gifford Bryan Hutcheson Sheena Ross Caroline Laurenson Leona McDermid Iain Watt Leanne Ross, Unison Mark Fotheringham David Blackhall Dave Anderson Laurence McLennan, SA Representative</p> <p>In attendance via Teams: Neil McLennan</p> <p>Trade Union Observer: Averil Watt, EIS-FELA</p> <p>In Attendance: Robin McGregor, Vice Principal, Curriculum & Quality Stuart Thompson, Vice Principal, Finance & Resources Susan Lawrance, Secretary to the Board Karen Fraser, Minute Secretary</p> <p>Guest Attendees: Susan Grant, Strategic Lead, Energy Transitions (for Agenda Item 50-23) Kimra Donnelly, Director of People Services (for Agenda Item 52-23) Robert Laird, Head of Planning and Academic Partnerships (for Agenda Item 64-23)</p> <p>Regional Chair S Elston welcomed all to the meeting and greeted new attendees, Leanne Ross and Laurence McLennan and observer Averil Watt.</p>
45-23	<p>Apologies for Absence Apologies were received in advance from C Dempster, D Cockburn and C Beaton.</p>
46-23	<p>Declaration of Potential Conflicts of Interest in relation to any Agenda Items J Gifford declared a potential conflict of interest by virtue of his position with Aberdeenshire Council. N McLennan declared a potential conflict of interest by virtue of his position with Moray Council. L McDermid declared a potential conflict of interest by virtue of her position with Aberdeen Foyer.</p>
47-23	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting (13.12.23)</p>

	The Minute was approved as a true and accurate record.
48-23	Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting (13.12.23) Members noted that both matters arising had been addressed with no further comments noted.
	Reserved Matters for Decision
49-23	Internal Audit Service
	Reserved Matters for Discussion
	Guest attendee S Grant joined the meeting at 10:14am
50-23	Energy Transition and Skills Hub Update (S Grant)

	<p>Guest attendee S Grant left the meeting at 11:15am</p>
<p>51-23</p>	<p>ASET Update</p>

	Comfort Break 11:43am – 11:58am
	Guest attendee K Donnelly joined the meeting at 11:58am
52-23	Voluntary Severance (VS) Scheme (K Donnelly)
	Guest attendee K Donnelly left the meeting at 12:09pm
53-23	AY2024/25 Budget and Funding (Presentation – S Thompson)
	Matters for Decision
54-23	<p>Governance manual – annual review Attention was drawn to Appendix 1 of the shared Paper in which highlighted updates to trade union representation and ToRs were itemised. Decision = approved. Action: Revised Governance Manual to be uploaded to NESCoI Website.</p>
55-23	Regional Board Succession/Officer Bearer positions

	<p>Endorsement of the continuation and of the appointments of Board Members to key roles was requested and approved, noting L McDermid to remain as Vice Chair; J Gifford to also become Vice Chair; C Laurenson to take over as Equalities and Diversity Champion from S Elston.</p> <p>Decision = approved.</p>
	Matters for Discussion
56-23	<p>Strategic Plan – next steps/timeline (R McGregor) R McGregor alluded to a project approach to the creation of the College's new Strategic Plan with key steps, milestones and timeline shared.</p>
	Reports to the Board
57-23	<p>Report by the Regional Chair (Verbal Update) S Elston highlighted meeting attendances and outcomes, including external engagement with Employers Scotland (as part of Negotiations Committee) RGU and local stakeholders. The wish to have a tri-partite meeting of the Boards of NESCol; RGU and UoA with Minister Graham Dey remains. Further details and potential dates to be circulated to Members when known.</p>
58-23	<p>Report by the Principal Reference was made by N Cowie to his shared Report.</p>
59-23	<p>Report by Committee Chairs Members were directed to the shared Report.</p> <p>L McDermid emphasised the People Service's Enhancement Plan and the huge amount of work required in consolidating and bringing together People Services teams.</p> <p>B Hutcheson referenced Education Scotland's Thematic Review, (and encouraged Board Members to read the review); the healthy credits position and the 24/25 applications discussions which will continue at the next C&Q Committee.</p> <p>J Gifford was thanked for his Interim Chair adoption at the 21/02/24 Finance and Resources Committee Meeting, where the Opportunities Register was reviewed and an update provided on the Fraserburgh Campus Nursery provision.</p>
	Matters for Information
60-23	<p>Strategic Risk Register Members noted the information provided.</p>
61-23	<p>Opportunities Register</p>
62-23	<p>PREVENT Annual Report Members noted the information provided.</p>
63-23	<p>College Enhancement Plan – Interim Review Members noted the information provided.</p>
	Reserved Matters for Information
	Guest attendee R Laird joined the meeting at 1:22pm

64-23	Credits Activity Update and Forecast (R Laird)
	Guest attendee R Laird left the meeting at 1:35pm
	Governance Matters for Information
65-23	Board Recruitment (Verbal Update - S Lawrance) The receipt of a number of expressions of interest and of applications was noted and Members were thanked for their awareness-raising of both Regional Board and ASET Board vacancies.
66-23	Any Other Business SFC Mid-Year Financial Return Information pertaining to the 2023-24 YE position was shared for information purposes. Members noted the information provided. Contract Approval Emails Mindful of a requirement to streamline procedures in relation to contract approval communication, S Thompson advised Members of his intention to address this.
	Summation of Actions and date of next meeting No summation or next Meeting date confirmation was requested.
	Meeting ended at 1:40pm Members were then invited to participate in a tour of Fraserburgh Campus to appraise recent updates to provision

Signed: S Elston, Regional Chair

Date: 19 / 06 / 24