NOTRE DAME SIXTH FORM CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Minutes of the **Search and Governance Committee** meeting held via Teams on: **TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 1.00PM**

PRESENT John Barnes Graeme Brown

David Wright

IN ATTENDANCE: Susan Francis – Clerk to Corporation

1.00 1.01	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND MEMBERSHIP MATTERS All Committee members were present.	ACTION
1.02	Following a recruitment text that had been sent to all parents, three application forms had been received. Of these, only two were eligible to be Foundation Governors. The two other application forms had been shared with the committee and they were discussed to see how best they would fit into the Corporation given that there was only one role for a non-Foundation Governor. Both had skills that would be of use. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that they could be Associate Members for a one-year term of office, to be reviewed annually. The Foundation applicant details would be sent to the Diocese to be processed.	
	SF would liaise with the applicants before the next meeting. This decision would be recommended to the Full Corporation on 13 December.	SF/ Full Corp
1.03	The terms of office for governors were discussed and agreed that no further action would be taken at the minute as the priority was to recruit a full complement of governors.	
2.00 2.01	ITEMS NOW IN PLACE The agenda listed all the systems and processes that had been introduced and implemented in the last nine months. That governance was moving in the right direction.	
3.00 3.01	OUTSTANDING ITEMS A draft copy of the amended <u>Standing Orders</u> had been shared in advance of the meeting. That the outdated title of Clerk to Corporation be replaced and used consistently in every document moving forwards. The specific job title would be reviewed at the appraisal meeting on 30 November. The committee agreed to review the document and send a final copy through to SF, who would then ensure they tallied with the Instrument and Articles. This would need to be done before the next Full Corporation meeting.	Govs Full Corp
3.02	The College had adopted the <u>Corporate Governance Code</u> in 2015. The code was to be referenced in the annual statement. DW commented that many of the Colleges with whom he was working in his role as National Leader of Governance were using the English Sixth Form Code of Governance. A synopsis of the three main codes was shared by SF after	

the meeting and governors were asked to send any comments through to SF/DW. A Code would be recommended, and the final decision would be taken by Full Corporation in the December meeting.

Govs Full Corp

3.03 Governor training was explored and the need to ensure all governors completed safeguarding training every three years. SF had looked into this with various members of the Safeguarding team and was investigating an online programme that could be used for 12 months. It was suggested that SF continue to pursue the option of in-house training to see if that would be suitable for governors.

SF

3.03.1 Ongoing governor training would be a regular feature of Full Corporation meetings, utilising the 30 minutes before the start of the meeting to deliver training. Aspects such as GDPR/Audit and Risk/Health and Safety, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) would be covered. The Strategic Away Day planned for June 2023 would also be an opportunity for governor training.
SF would check on who was the Health and Safety governor.

SF

- 3.04 The role of <u>Link Governors</u> was discussed, that ideally all governors (possibly not Chair/Vice Chair or Committee Chairs) should have a link. To be in line with other Sixth Form Colleges, these roles would be EDI/ Health and Safety/Audit and Risk and Careers. (*Thank you, GB for taking*
 - Health and Safety/Audit and Risk and Careers. (*Thank you, GB for taking on SEND and Safeguarding*). SF had shared information on this previously and would follow this up at the next Full Corporation meeting. The committee agreed to standardise the visit pro forma, and SF would share examples of good practice.

SF

3.04 It was suggested that the College have a separate Remuneration committee to approve pay increments of senior post holders (to recommend to full corporation as a confidential item).

"The remuneration package for senior staff must be disclosed and justified in college accounts. A comparison between the principal's remuneration and that of other staff must also be disclosed."

DW and JB clarified that this was done through the HR committee, any pay award benchmarked and then ratified by the Full Corporation. This information would now be included on the Terms of Reference for the HR committee and reflected in the scheme of delegation.

Full Corp

SF

4.00 ITEMS TO ENSURE THE CORPORATION IS FULLY PREPARED FOR EXTERNAL REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE

4.01 Due to a lack of time remaining in the meeting, the following items were briefly reviewed and would be further discussed at the next meeting.

SF was currently looking at an <u>Annual Review of Governance/Self</u> - evaluation, this was on the agenda for the next Curriculum and Standards committee

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4.02 <u>Student Governors</u> – was an ongoing piece of work to try and get them fully engaged with governance.

4.03 <u>Greener Governance</u> and document sharing platform. SF mentioned that she had met with a company called Decision Time which provided a governance portal, but felt it lacked functionality and was very expensive. A meeting between SF and the IT Manager was scheduled for 1 December, where they would look at what College systems could be used in the future and also look at the good practice SF had seen elsewhere.

SF

4.04 It was agreed that a <u>skills audit</u> should be carried out to identify where there are gaps in skills and experience of Board members currently, this would inform future recruitment. SF would produce a simple version, using existing examples of good practice and share it with all governors after Christmas.

SF

4.05 The Chair of Governors will discuss with the Principal the Governance section for inclusion within the College SAR in December.

DW

4.06 The final probationary meeting of SF would be carried out by DW/Principal on 30 November at 2.30pm. Information regarding this would be shared with the Full Corporation under confidential items.

DW/Principal

Full Corp

5.00 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

5.01 Tuesday 31 January 2023 at 5.00pm on Teams.

The meeting closed at 3.00pm.