

MORLEY COLLEGE LONDON



GOVERNING BODY

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Stockwell Centre on Monday 7 February 2022 at 5.40 pm

Present:

Ms Leisha Fullick, External Governor (**Chair**)
Mr Victor Olowe, External Governor (**Vice-chair**)
Miss Justine Brian, External Governor
Mr Alex Cole, External Governor
Mr Pedro Dias Ferreira, External Governor
Ms Gill Evans, External Governor
Ms Heather Fry, External Governor (by Teams)
Mr Jerome Godfrey, Student Governor (from Item 4)
Dr Andrew Gower, Principal and Governor
Ms Susan Lindsey, Student Governor
Ms Lesley Mills Tagoe, Student Governor (from Item 4)
Ms Moyra Samuels, External Governor
Dr Melissa Score, Staff Governor
Mr Jonathan Slater, External Governor (by Teams)
Ms Heather Smith, External Governor
Mr James Ward, External Governor (by Teams)

In attendance:

Mr Marco Macchitella, Deputy Principal
Mr Ralph Moran, Chief Finance Officer (CFO)
Mr Matthew Cunningham, Chief Marketing and Engagement Officer (CMEO)
Ms Alison McNamara, Chief People Officer (CPO)
Mr Martin McNeill, Clerk to the Governing Body and Company Secretary

Absent:

Mr Nic Durston, External Governor
Ms Pauline Egan, External Governor
Mrs Gail Le Coz, External Governor
Mrs Debbie Ryle, Staff Governor

RESOLUTIONS

- To appoint Jerome Godfrey and Lesley Mills Tagoe as student governors, to serve until 30 November 2023, and as members for the remainder of this College year of the Quality and Standards (QS) and Finance, Resources and Fundraising (FRF) Committees respectively (Minute 3.6)
 - To approve the appointment of Advance HE to conduct a review of governance at a cost not exceeding £12,375 excluding VAT and travel expenses (Minute 6.10)
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1. Apologies for absence and quorum

Apologies for absence were received from Pauline Egan, who was travelling abroad, and from Nic Durston, Gail Le Coz and Debbie Ryle, all of whom were unwell. The Board wished all three a speedy recovery. The Clerk confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

2. Welcome, introduction and declarations of interest

- 2.1. The Chair told the Board that the main purpose of the meeting was to consider the appointment of student governors and the selection of a partner to conduct an external review of governance.
- 2.2. All governors confirmed that they had no interests that they were under a duty to disclose in accordance with Article 5 of the College's Articles of Association.

3. Appointment of student governors

- 3.1. The Board considered the Student Council's nomination of Jerome Godfrey and Lesley Mills Tagoe and agreed that, subject to the Clerk checking the eligibility of each of them to serve as a governor, they should be appointed to the Board. The Board also agreed that Mr Godfrey should serve on the QS Committee and Ms Mills Tagoe on the FRF Committee.

Jerome Godfrey and Lesley Mills Tagoe joined the meeting at this point

- 3.2. The Chair welcomed the new student governors on behalf of the Board and thanked them for the contribution that they had already made in the strategy development session.

4. External review of governance

- 4.1. The Chair, as Chair of the Search and Governance Committee reported that the Committee had considered three proposals and had resolved to pursue further discussions with two organisations that had put forward very strong proposals. Following those discussions, she was happy to recommend the appointment of Advance HE, which had been the Committee's original preference on the basis of the written submissions.
- 4.2. See confidential minutes
- 4.3. Answering further questions from governors, the Clerk explained that the Board's policy was to conduct such a review every three years. This review had been postponed from 2021 because of the imminent change of Chair. The Department for Education (DfE) was currently developing proposals that would make three-yearly reviews mandatory for all colleges; this was likely to be a condition of government funding from 2022-23. In line with the draft DfE guidance, we would be expecting the review to confirm our compliance with the Code of Good Governance, but we would not be looking for a 'governance Ofsted' as one governor had suggested: we were seeking a review not an evaluation, and the main focus would be on ways of making our governance even stronger.
- 4.4. Asked whether the reviewers were asked to make recommendations to help us advance equality, diversity and inclusion (ED&I), the Chair said that, while there was no specific reference to ED&I in the terms of reference approved by the Board in December, the Committee had been concerned to ensure that prospective partners understood our ED&I agenda. She also told the Board that the one of the review team would be attending the next meeting of the Board and the forthcoming meetings of the FRF and QS Committees.
- 4.5. The Board agreed to appoint Advance HE as recommended, noting that the price quoted was a maximum: a decision on whether or not to survey all governors would be taken by the Chair, Principal and Clerk after interviews and observations had taken place. If the survey did not go ahead, the price would be reduced by just under £2k.

4. Other business

- 4.1. The Principal advised governors that a team from the FE Commissioner's office would be visiting the College on 25 February to undertake a diagnostic assessment. The team would be led by Deputy FE Commissioner Steve Hutchinson, who had been Morley's main point of contact through the merger process. The FE Commissioner had decided to look more closely at how Institutes for Adult Learning (IALs) and other significant providers of adult education had been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, which had caused the financial health of one leading IAL (City Lit) to be judged inadequate.
- 4.2. The Principal expressed his thanks to the Vice-chair and the Chairs of the Audit, FRF and QS Committees who had agreed to meet the FE Commissioner's team. Other governors offered their support if required.
- 4.3. The CMEO advised that the date and venue for the next development network event had now been decided. It would be on the terrace of the House of Commons on the evening of Thursday 28 April. He would be sending out invitations in due course, but asked all governors to keep the date free if possible.

5. Date of next meeting

Confirmed as Monday 28 March 2022 at 4.30 pm at the Waterloo Centre

The meeting ended at 6.00 pm

Martin McNeill
Clerk to the Governing Body

Confirmed as a correct record at the meeting held on 28 March 2022

and signed by

(Leisha Fullick) (Chair of that meeting)