

Ruskin College

Minutes of a meeting of the Search Committee held by telephone conference on Friday 11 September at 12.30pm

Consulted: David Norman (Chair), Audrey Mullender, Ruth Hunt, Liz Mathews

Also involved: Rebecca Cox (Clerk)

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| 1. | Apologies for absence
Apologies for absence were received from Carole Orgell-Rosen, John Fray and Chris Wilkes. | |
| 2. | Minutes of last meeting
The minutes of the last meeting of the Search Committee held by telephone conference on 6 July 2009 were approved as an accurate record. | |
| 3. | Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda | |
| 3.1. | Membership of Council – Oxfordshire County Council
Noted: that, at the request of the Youth and Community tutors, the Principal had written to Tan Lea personally. She would follow this up with a phone call if necessary and report back at the next meeting.
Noted: that Antonia Bance, Councillor for Rose Hill and Policy and Communications Manager for Oxfam’s UK Poverty Programme had expressed an interest in becoming involved with Ruskin. The Clerk would look into this further. | AM

Clerk |
| 3.2. | Membership of Council – Fire Brigades Union
Noted: that Paul Fletcher, the Regional Officer, had sadly passed away. Liz Mathews would pass on the College’s condolences and in due course determine whether there might be an alternative contact. | LM |
| 3.3. | Membership of Council
Noted: that Louise Richards was now a member representing the Institute of Fundraising.
Noted: that Paul Hackett had not yet responded to a letter inviting him to become a member of Council. He had previously visited the College and expressed an interest in becoming involved.
Agreed: that the Clerk should contact him again in a month’s time at the end of the conference season.
Noted: that Dame Ruth Silver had been suggested as a potential Council member at a previous Governing Executive meeting. As Head of LSIS and a very prestigious former College Principal she would have a great deal of relevant experience and knowledge to offer. Dame Ruth had met the Principal recently and indicated that she would like to become involved with Ruskin and offered assurances that there would be no conflict of interest.
Agreed: that a letter should be sent inviting Dame Ruth Silver to become a member of Council.
Noted: that Carole Orgell-Rosen had suggested a potential candidate for Council with a media background, but was not available today to update the Committee on this. The Principal reported that Steve Taschini, Station Head of BBC Oxford, had been at the College today judging the competition to win a free degree, and could be a possible alternative.
Agreed: that this matter should be discussed at a future meeting when there was a suitable vacancy. | Clerk

Clerk |

Ruskin College

- 3.4. Replacement for Gordon Beesley on Governing Executive and Finance Committee**
Noted: that Anne Hock was now a member of Council.
Agreed: that David Norman would approach Anne to determine whether she would be willing to serve on Governing Executive and Finance Committee. DN
Noted: that Gordon Beesley's personal situation had now changed and he could have a little more time available once again to become further involved with Ruskin. He would not wish to travel to Oxford regularly, but his knowledge and expertise would be very useful should a vacancy for a co-opted member on the Audit Committee arise.
- 4. Attendance by committee members in 2008**
Received: report on attendance at Governing Executive and its committees in 2008.
Noted: that the only issue of concern was attendance at Governing Executive Chris Baugh. He was very pro-Ruskin and enthusiastic but, as Deputy General Secretary, had a lot of pressure on his time and a long way to travel.
Agreed: that the Principal should approach PCS informally to determine whether David McEvoy, as Education Officer, might be nominated to attend instead.
Agreed: that the report on attendance should be referred to the Governing Executive for consideration. A minor amendment should be made to the Governing Executive table – the column named 'Organisation' should be re-named "Organisation nominating to Council" to clarify that members are elected as individuals rather than representatives of a particular organisation. Gov Exec Clerk
- 5. Update on Governing Executive training**
Noted: the Clerk reported that the Association of Colleges had recommended a trainer with a particular interest in the proper role of governors, the need to take a strategic view and how to undertake this.
Agreed: that the training session should take place following the meeting of the Governing Executive on 27 November. In order to ensure adequate time for this, the meeting should start at 10.30am. The Clerk would contact members as soon as possible to inform them of the change and the need for them to be in the College for the day. The possibility of extending the invitation to staff members was discussed, but it was agreed that it would be more helpful to focus on the Governing Executive specifically, with a follow-up session to explain protocol generally to be organised for a wider audience at a later date if it would be helpful. Clerk
- 6. Date of next meeting**
Noted: that this would be arranged when required.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.55pm.