

Ruskin College

Minutes of a meeting of the Search Committee held on Friday 25th November 2011 at 10.30am

Present: David Norman (Chair), Audrey Mullender, John Fray, Liz Mathews, Carole Orgell-Rosen

In attendance: Chris Wilkes, Helen Jeffries (Clerk)

1. **Apologies for absence** **Action**
Apologies were received from Mike Bradley
2. **Minutes of the last meeting**
The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting of Wednesday 19th October 2011
3. **Matters arising**
There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.
4. **Membership of Council**
- 4.1 **Noted:** that Carey Oppenheim, Lord Prescott, Andrew Smith and Ed Sweeney had reached the end of their annual; terms of office as co-opted members.
The Clerk drew members' attention to an e-mail received from the office of Ed Sweeney, which stated that he had resigned from Council.
The Principal noted that Carey Oppenheim had attended one Council meeting and no others, and it might then be assumed that her membership of Council had lapsed.
Carole Orgell-Rosen raised concerns about the possibility of a skills shortage within Council and consequently within the reporting committees, particularly Audit and Finance. The Principal agreed with Carole and reminded the Search Committee of her paper on representativeness within Council.
Agreed: that the Clerk should write to Carey Oppenheim to enquire if she was interested in continuing with the membership of Council and report back Clerk✓
Agreed: that the space for a co-opted member left vacant by Ed Sweeney should remain open to allow for any nominations during the year.
- 4.2 **Noted:** the Principal's nomination of Marva Small as a co-opted members.
The Principal explained that Marva Small is a former student of Ruskin College and trained in marketing. She has been working hard in Reading promoting the College including fostering a link with New Directions Adult Learning in the town. She also has close links with a black church and Southern Housing. She holds strong views on positive presentation and would provide excellent value.
Approved: the nomination of Marva Small as a co-opted member of Council. Clerk✓
Clerk to send welcome pack.
- 4.3 **Noted:** the nomination of Jenny Fox, CEO of Aspire, and Kate Cocker, Head of Crisis Skylight, by Aspire and Crisis respectively.
The Principal noted that both organisations are ones with which Ruskin works closely and that they were amongst our partners in winning the Beacon Award.
Agreed: the nomination of Jenny Fox and Kate Cocker to the Council.
- 4.4 **Noted:** the resignation of Mike Bradley from Council as of December 2011.
It was noted that John Fray is a GFTU rep to Council, and that GFTU may provide two reps in total. John Fray informed the committee that Mike Bradley has decided to give up all his positions.
Agreed: that a formal letter be sent to GFTU inviting them to nominate a replacement to Council Clerk✓
5. **Noted:** that following his resignation from Council, Mike Bradley will also resign from the Governing Executive in December.
The Chairman commented that the committee needed to give careful thought to the skills mix of the Governing Executive. The Principal suggested that the

Ruskin College

obvious place from which to draw a replacement would be the three new people on Council, but that Jenny Fox does not work on Fridays so that would mean that she could not easily attend meetings.

It was noted that though new members of Council have been fast-tracked to the Governing Executive previously, that there is some merit in allowing them to “get the feel” of Ruskin before nomination.

The Principal then raised the concern that there were not enough people on Council who were also able to give the time to travel and attend committee meetings, and that people were needed who would be able to attend and participate.

Carole Orgell-Rosen suggested both Gordon Beesley and John Chastney as possible replacements.

The Principal noted that the Audit Committee could not afford to lose John Chastney, and that she was worried about quorum on that and other committees.

Approved: Gordon Beesley as replacement for Mike Bradley. The Chair to approach him and enquire Chair

Approved: Marva Small to be approached by the Principal if Gordon Beesley does not accept the invitation. Principal

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.41am