



The eighty-second meeting of the Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council was held on Friday, 15 May 2015 at 9.30am, at the SFC offices, Edinburgh

Present: Professor Alice Brown (Chair)
Laurence Howells (Chief Executive)
Robin Crawford
Professor Maggie Kinloch
Professor Anton Muscatelli
Paul McKelvie (Vice-Chair)
Douglas Mundie
Dr Keith Nicholson
Alan Stannett
Marlene Wood

Officers: Brian Baverstock
Dee Bird
David Cloy (Interim Secretary)
Sheila Meehan
Martin Smith
Paul Travers

Scottish Government: Aileen McKechnie

Apologies: Audrey Cumberford
Ali Jarvis
Lorraine McMillan
Professor Albert Rodger
Michael Cross (Scottish Government)
Rebekah Widdowfield (Scottish Government)

15/27 Welcome

The Chair welcomed Aileen McKechnie of the Scottish Government.

The Chair also welcomed David Cloy who was to provide temporary cover for the 'Secretary to the Council' role, when the Secretary was on secondment.

15/28 Chair's business: Declarations of interest

The Chair reminded Council members of their responsibility to indicate if they have, or may be perceived to have, a conflict of interest under any item.

15/29 Chair's business: Items for report

The Chair had no items for report.

The Vice-Chair informed that, along with two other members, he would be coming to the end of his term on the Board later in the year. The Chair confirmed that discussions were in hand with the Scottish Government on the succession plan for Board membership, taking into account the Chairing of Committees (as two Committee Chairs would be demitting in 2015).

15/30 Chief Executive update

The following three paragraphs are withheld from publication on the Council website under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act, 2002, Section 30 Prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs

[] × 3 paragraphs

15/31 College sector governance in Glasgow: update (SFC/15/14)

The Council received a paper providing an update on recent development in the Glasgow Colleges' Regional Board (GCRB) and on our review of governance at Glasgow Clyde College.

Glasgow Colleges' Regional Board (GCRB)

The Council noted that:

- The Chair of the GCRB had stepped down and Ali Jarvis, SFC Board member, had been appointed as Interim Chair
- Martin Fairbairn had started work as the GCRB's Interim Chief Officer

The two bullet points are withheld from publication on the Council website under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, Section 30: Prejudicial to the effective conduct of public affairs

[] × 2 bullet points

Glasgow Clyde College

The Council noted that:

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- [] × 1 bullet point
- The interviews had completed on 15 May and the evidence was being collated and would then be considered by SFC
- The Chair of SFC, Interim Chair of GCRB and the Scottish Government representative had offered to attend the next Board meeting of the Glasgow Clyde College being held on 19 May.

Glasgow Colleges' Regional Board and Glasgow Clyde College

In relation to both the Glasgow Colleges' Regional Board and Glasgow Clyde College, in discussion the Council noted that:

- There were concerns around:
 - Reputational damage to the sector
 - Impact on staff and students
 - Learner experience.

- The Scottish Government representative confirmed that:
 - The Cabinet Secretary and Ministers were concerned and wanted to work with the SFC to improve and progress the situation while continuing to operate in a spirit of openness and transparency
 - Ministers were clear that the reform programme was the right journey to take and were putting in place steps to ensure that inappropriate behaviours were dealt with and that there was no reoccurrence of this type of situation in future.
- The Chair confirmed that SFC appreciated the support they had received from the Scottish Government and Ministers
- It was confirmed that, due to the wealth of skills and knowledge the Interim Chair and the Interim Chief Officer brought to GCRB, they were the best people for these short term jobs and the aim was to have a permanent Chief Officer and Chair in place as rapidly as possible

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[] × 2 bullet points

The Council **agreed:**

- To fully support and endorse the approach taken by the Council executive
- That an update on the review at Glasgow Clyde College be provided to the June meeting.

15/32 Date of next meetings

The next meetings were planned to occur as follows:

- Strategic Development meeting – 15 May 2015
- Business meeting – 19 June 2015