

Minutes of the Board of Governors Meeting of Thursday 4th February 2021

- Present:** D. Jennings [Chair]
- Also:** B. Breslin, J. Carty, D. Conroy, T. Corcoran, L. Doherty, L. Hennessy, I. Fox, D. Kelleher, V. Kerr, D. McDonagh, J. Murray, D. O'Donnell
- In Attendance:** K. Kelleher [Secretary]
- Apology:** A. Lenny

1. Conflicts of Interest

The Chair asked for and received confirmation of no conflicts of interest

2. Welcome to New Governors

The Governing Body welcomed member Virginia Kerr, member Governor elected by teaching staff, to her first meeting.

3. Minutes of the Board of Governors Meeting of 17th December 2020

The meeting approved the minutes.

4. Matters Arising

Item 7: The Chair had a meeting with the pension members and there was a frank exchange of views. He reiterated the Governing Body decision that two of the five trustees for the new trustee committee would be pension scheme members.

5. Committee Members 2021

The Chair proposed that there would be no changes to committee members in 2021. With no objections raised, committee chairs are asked to confirm the willingness of members to continue to serve.

6. Director's Annual Review

The Governance committee is overseeing the process for review. Following an outstanding performance review for 2020, the Chair will review the objectives for 2021 with the Director and bring a summary to the April meeting of the Board.

7. RIAM Connect Update

B. Breslin updated the Board of RIAM connect activity. He gave a slide presentation outlining the RIAM Connect Vision and Values, its three strategic themes (Assessments & Learning Resources; Teacher Support and Share & Play).

He gave a summary overview of the 2020 RIAM Exams and the current outlook for 2021, operating within the ongoing constraints of Covid-19.

Finally, he outlined the proposed phases of development for the Online Applications System (OAS).

8. Director's Report

The Director tabled her 1st report for 2021 and summarised the highlights:

- RIAM Covid-19 response update for Junior and Tertiary divisions and RIAM Exams.
- Management focus – new appointments in educational support and additional faculty hours
- RIAM Connect Office - refresh of scope and job descriptions
- Marketing Manager, ICT/AV technician and Adviser on commercial potential of the RIAM Campus
- Submissions and contact with the Department of Further and Higher Education, Resource, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS)
- RIAM Erasmus audit – final report
- RIAM 175 Strategy: Year 1

9. RIAM Building Development Financial Status

The Director tabled a report covering costs, financing and a programme update for the building works.

She outlined a funding summary and target proposals for bridging any gaps in financing to ensure completion of the project. The decision on go or no-go for the 'option' is extended to the end of March. The Government cannot increase its funding for the project but can provide essential maintenance finance for health and safety works e.g. stabilising the Georgian toilet block.

The Finance committee is keeping a close eye on the cashflows and continually challenges the assumptions and the many moving parts.

10. Summary of the Finance Committee meeting of 26th January 2021

L. Hennessy summarised the meeting, noting in particular, the amended projections for 2021 based on reduced exam income of 30% due to extended covid-19 restrictions.

11. 2021 Budget Projections

Proposed by L. Hennessy and seconded by D. McDonagh, the Governing Body approved by acclamation, the final 2021 budget as tabled, showing an amended budget surplus of €193k.

12. Board of Studies minutes 23rd Oct and 20th Nov 2020

The Director summarised the changes to the academic committees in the Academy and how the Board of Studies is now reserved for review of strategic matters. A high level of activity and achievement is being seen between meetings and in the standing committees, which are highly focussed on getting things done.

The meeting approved the minutes of the two meetings tabled.

13. Governance Committee Update

D. McDonagh summarised the January meeting of the Governance Committee, which looked at updates on the RIAM constitution, RIAM membership matters, pension trustee proposals, Codes of Conduct and performance management progress.

14. ICT Steering Committee Minutes 11th December 2020

The meeting noted the minutes and acknowledged the overall importance of ICT in the future of the Academy.

15. AOB

- i. The meeting passed a motion of thanks to recently retired RIAM staff members, for their significant contribution and dedication to student education over many years: James Cavanagh, Jean Archibald, Brendan Murray, Veronica Dunne, Aisling Drury-Byrne and Anne Woodworth.
- ii. Condolences were offered for Alison Casey, recently deceased wife of Frank Casey, former RIAM Governor and former chair of the Finance Committee.

- iii. An appreciation was tabled in memory of soprano, Cara O’Sullivan, who was recently lost to the classical music world.

Signed

Date