

Minutes of the Board of Governors Meeting of Thursday 3rd June 2021

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

1. Conflicts of Interest

The Chair advised a potential future conflict of interest with respect to family members working in the entertainment sector. No other conflicts advised.

2. Minutes of the Board of Governors Meeting of 8th April 2021

The meeting approved the minutes agreeing an amendment to item 12 as follows:

T. Corcoran also mentioned that issues to do with adequate receipting of expenses, for many organisations, has become a reputational matter with the C&AG and PAC. The Secretary has been requested to draw attention again to the importance of this issue, to all relevant staff in the Academy.

3. Matters Arising

No matters arising not covered in the agenda

4. Governing Body – A New Model

The meeting approved by acclamation the adoption of the new Governing Body model.

5. RIAM Member Regulations, Nomination Form and Conditions of Membership

All applicants for RIAM Membership must be nominated by at least two existing RIAM Members, or by one RIAM Member and the Director.

New member applications must be approved by the Governing Body or rejected by one-third of the Governors.

Renewal will be automatic for annual members, on payment of the subscription.

The Governing Body noted and agreed that the Members are intended to represent the external stakeholders of the Academy and that, excepting those who are already Members, RIAM staff and students may not become RIAM Members.

6. Approval of Membership Nominations/Applications

The new process was used to consider a new application. Proposed by D. Jennings and seconded by J. Carty, Manus Carey was approved for membership by acclamation.

Concern was raised that the approval process at the Board could take up too much time if many nominations were up for consideration. If this happens then a membership nominations sub-committee will handle them. Refusal of an application will always come to the Board.

All applications received prior to 1st January 2021, specifically Judith Woodworth and a number of RIAM Staff are automatically approved for membership.

7. Regulations on Filling Governor Vacancies

Candidates for co-option to fill RIAM Member Governor Vacancies must be RIAM Members in good standing, and must be nominated (proposed and seconded) by two RIAM Member Governors or one Governor and the Director.

Future nominations will be circulated for consideration at the next available meeting of the Governors.

8. Updating the RIAM Constitution

Mark Pery-Knox-Gore, of Beauchamps Solicitors, has been retained to advise on submitting the amended constitution to the Charities Regulatory Authority.

The submission will include (1) a copy of the original blue Scheme, (2) an electronic version of the original, (3) an indexed version incorporating all proposed additions, deletions and amendments and (4) a supporting document to itemise and justify the proposed changes.

9. Director's Report

The Director tabled her 3rd report for 2021 and summarised the highlights:

- Covid-19 response update. Junior and Tertiary student intake is satisfactory given the increased fee adjustment to match the benefits of a new campus. RIAM summer exams at €742k are close to €750k target. How the winter session performs will depend on Covid vaccination programme for the younger population and the incidence of variants.
- Special Update: ICT Security and Ransomware Protection. A risk assessment exercise recommends spending circa €21k for additional security measures to mitigate the risks of cyber-attack.
- Management focus – Performance Management Reviews. HR Consultant, Louise Simpson observed the process and gave feedback on the formats utilised, what went well, what was not successful, barriers observed, possibilities to build on and suggestions the future.
- DFHERIS update: Invitation to Minister Harris to launch the 175 Strategy; still chasing the department for a meaningful meeting on funding support.
- RIAM 175 in focus: Tertiary RIAM Bachelor curriculum review – approval to combine Bmus Perf. and Bmus Comp. into a Bachelor of Music or Mus.B; RIAM holistic revised programme approved by committees and TCD ACDC; work begins on Principal Study and Performing in Context module reviews. Junior RIAM young artist programme selections for 2021-22 and modules offered.

A slide presentation - Keyboard Principal Study Review 2021 was circulated.

10. RIAM Building Development and Steering Committee update

The Director shared a live camera feed from the site showing progress on installing precast panels.

Approval from DPER is required to raise the €3m bank loan and DES advised it could take six months. In light of this and the fact the QS is still working through detailed costs, the decision to proceed with the 'Option' is deferred for the moment.

The contractor advises early March 2022 for access to the new teaching block and early July for the recital hall.

The board noted that Declan Tiernan has joined the Finance committee and has a long list of potential donors in the UK. There is also a possibility of some Chinese funding through a Department of Justice investment programme.

11. Summary of the Finance Committee meeting of 25th May 2021

D. Jennings summarised the meeting: - Management accounts to April 2021; the building development cash position and initial plans for reporting of financial information in the future. In the computerisation report, the meeting noted again the ransomware mitigation measures.

12. Governance Committee Report of 18th May 2021 meeting.

RIAM membership and constitutional matters covered in earlier agenda items.

13. ICT Steering Committee Minutes 12th March 2021

The meeting noted the minutes.

14. RIAM Professors 2021

On the proposal of D. Kelleher and seconded by J. Murray, the Governing Body approved by acclamation, RIAM professors for 2021.

Fergus O'Carroll, professor in French Horn

Peter Tuite, professor in Piano

15. AOB

The meeting congratulated L. Doherty on the publication of the recent RIAM library review.

Signed

Date