

Minutes of the Governing Body Meeting of Thursday 11th July 2024

Present: Judith Woodworth (Chair)

Also: D. Kelleher, M. Walsh, M. Carey, R. Lyness, D. Tiernan, A. Lenny, H. McCormack, T. Byrne, T. Doyle

In Attendance: R. Meehan [Acting Secretary]

Apologies: S. Quinn

1. Conflicts Of Interest

No conflicts of interest declared.

2. Minutes of the Governing Body Meeting of Thursday 9th May 2024 The meeting approved the minutes.

3. Matters Arising No matters arising.

4. Director's Report

The Director presented the annual review of the RIAM 175 strategy reporting on the 4 goals of:

- Investment in Access and Inclusion for a modern RIAM
- Embedding reflective practice in RIAM's 6 learner groups
- Leveraging benefits of the new campus
- Designing a new organisational model

This was followed by discussion by board members on the achievements and challenges set out in the Director's review.

5. RIAM, Diversity, Equality, Access and Inclusion (DEAI) Nothing specific tabled, as addressed in the Director's Report above.

6. Finance Committee Report

D. Tiernan summarised the meeting of the 19th June 2024.

Management accounts for period ending 30th April 2024 were reviewed noting the close proximity of actual figures to the budgeted numbers, with some minor variances. The ongoing learning phase regarding the costs of operating the new and expanded campus was noted.

The tendering process for an asset manager with respect to the proposed new endowment fund was proceeding and the new asset manager is expected to be in place at the start of next year.

The Director announced the commencement of the new CFO/Company Secretary, Gus McNamara, who will start on the 19th August.

The Director also updated the meeting on Purcell Construction Ltd.'s substantial claim in relation to delay and inflation relating the RIAM Campus re-development. She outlined the rationale behind the Employer Representative's response to the claims, which was due to be issued on Friday 12th July 2024.

7. Audit and Risk Committee

No update to report.

8. Governance and Nominations Committee

a. RIAM Member & Governor Nominations

Terry Neill and Trish Long were proposed as new governor members by Deborah Kelleher and seconded by Judith Woodworth. The meeting approved the memberships.

b. The Governors noted the verbal report of the G&N Meeting of the 11th June which reviewed 8 policies and included the new Equita Resolution Pathway (Independent Student Support Services). The Governors approved the policies following the recommendations of the G&N Committee.

9. RIAM Constitution – Charities Regulatory Authority (CRA)

The meeting reviewed a draft response prepared by Dennis Jennings to issues raised by the CRA in relation to RIAM's proposed new Constitution. In particular, the CRA highlighted the fact that active RIAM staff who were also RIAM voting Members were in direct contravention of the Charities Act 2009 and should cease to be voting Members immediately.

The Director confirmed that the relevant staff Members had been contacted and informed that their membership would have to cease. There were no objections from those Members. A formal resolution was proposed by Helen McCormack and seconded by T. Byrne to discontinue staff from being members of the RIAM. The follow-up will be reported to the Charities Regulator.

10. RIAM Professor Applications

The Director introduced applications for the title of professorship from the following staff:

- i. David Collins
- ii. Maria McGarry
- iii. William Butt

Approval was proposed by Theresa Doyle and seconded by Judith Woodworth with agreement of the GB.

It was agreed that for future approvals the GB would be provided with a brief outline of criteria by which to assess the applications.

11. Board of Studies

The meeting noted the minutes of the 3rd BOS meeting for 2023/2024 – 8th March 2024.

12. Pension Trustee Matters

The Governors noted the minutes of the Trustee meeting of 28th February 2024. D. Tiernan reported on the completion of the ORA (Own Risk Assessment) Summary in April 2024. He also reported on the upcoming review of the investment management arrangement and the need to appoint a professional trustee and review the administration of the scheme.

13. ICT Steering Committee

The Governors noted the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting of the 4th April 2024.

14. AOB

The Director sought approval to pursue the possible awarding of the Trinity College Gold Medal for high achieving RIAM Students.

T. Doyle asked if the GB would consider listing RIAM Members on the website publicly after the new constitution is finalised, and the Chair agreed to review this suggestion in light of other examples from similar Member organisations.

Signed:.....

Date:.....17/10/2024.....