

NOTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY, 26th FEBRUARY, 2018 AT 16.00

IN THE BOARDROOM, DR. T.K. WHITAKER BUILDING

Declarations of Interest

Nil

G.243.1 M.242 Minutes of the Meeting of 29th January 2018

The minutes of the Governing Body of 29th January were approved.

Proposed by: Mr. Paschal McGuire

Seconded by: Mr. Paddy Matthews

G.243.2 Matters Arising

G.241. 2 Revised Draft Policy in relation to correspondence received by members of Governing Body.

The President sought legal advice on behalf of the Governing Body. The revised policy was circulated to Governing Body prior to the meeting. The main points are (i) *If a member of the Governing Body receives correspondence directly relating to the Institute a copy of the correspondence should be sent to the President's Office within two days* and (ii) *Protected Disclosures: In the event that a member of the Governing Body receives information which may constitute a protected disclosure, the information should be provided to the Chairman of the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee in accordance with the Institute's Protected Disclosure Policy.*

The President stated that if any Governing Body member is in doubt in relation to receiving correspondence, to contact him directly.

The Revised Draft Policy in relation to correspondence received by members of Governing Body was approved:

Proposed by: Mr. Paddy Matthews
Seconded by: Mr. Paschal McGuire

Unanimous decision.

G.242.7 Correspondence from the Student Union President re College Bar

The President recapped that prior to the SU President bringing this matter to Governing Body he engaged with him through Student Services and offered, in response to his survey, to develop additional recreation space for students - a space to be called the Student Hub or some other suitable name.

Following the last Governing Body meeting the President took soundings from the Leadership Team. There is no particular appetite for provision of College Bar (serving alcohol). There is a view that a Student Hub would be a positive addition to the student experience and that this should be the focus in addressing the issues highlighted by the SU President.

The President outlined the following observations from the Leadership Team and their colleagues.

- DkIT Campus is a workplace from the time it opens, 8.00 a.m. until close at 9.00 p.m.
- The campus is a learning environment for 5,000 students including 500 international students. Any level of alcohol impairs concentration and does not enhance learning. Availability of alcohol for those students who may be considered vulnerable is not desirable.
- Achieving a set up that maintains a safe workplace, ensure vulnerable students are protected and that learning is not impaired would require a very restricted facility.
- Since Sept 2016 Sports & Societies have been using the space which used to house the bar and it is now heavily timetabled for health and welfare type facilities for students.

The DkIT Student Union has referred to surveys:

In relation to survey data collected through Irish Survey of Student Engagement (ISSE) which is centred on teaching and learning there is an option on the survey to complete i.e. free text comments. The following comments were made in respective years which preceded the Student Union Survey:

Year	Respondents	Free Text Comments
2014	499	Teaching and timetabling. Need bigger sports facilities
2015 (Bar Closed)	607	One person requested the bar to reopen. More places to sit around college. Access to computing and upgrading equipment.
2016	416	Good social activities, top of range sports.
2017	1074	One student looked for the bar. Comments from other students on the following issues: “Bigger Library and more computers” “Sleep/nap area for tired students” “More bean bags” “More space to study, more computer access” “More common computer rooms” “Access to study rooms” “more consultation rooms” “for students that don’t have practical based classes it’s hard for students to socialise with each other”

It appears from the above data that the bar is not a priority for students.

Student Services undertake a survey of students at the end of each academic year in relation to satisfaction of their services.

- In 2014 when the bar was open out of the 194 surveyed, two raised the issue of non-academic activities with one of those stating “there should be more fun activities that don’t include drinking”.
- In 2015, after the closure of the bar, there was no mention of Bar or recreational facilities.
- In 2016 one respondent looked for the bar to be re-opened.
- In 2017 students highlighted lack of places for students to meet outside of college hours with one respondent detailing the lack of life in the college with no bar or society nights, with the place being empty after 4pm.
- Social spaces ‘reserved’ for mature students or relaxing social spaces for all categories of students don’t really exist. The SU has a room in the Carroll Building which is relatively quiet and is used by students on

programmes in the Carroll's building.

There is an onus on the Institute to provide a safe working environment for students, staff and for the public too.

A discussion followed and there is a general consensus supporting recreational facilities for students and staff and improving current facilities. A comment was also made that this topic is a matter for the President and the Leadership Team. Another member of the Governing Body suggested that the President, Leadership Team and the Student Union work together to draw up a feasible proposal. The President stated that he will discuss the feedback from the meeting with the Leadership Team.

The President reiterated that the Leadership Team are committed to supporting the need for an additional recreational facility but feel that this should be free from alcohol.

G.242.8 Presentation DkIT AMBITION

The Chairman recommended the nomination of Mr. Paschal McGuire to DkIT AMBITION.

Proposed by: Cllr. Clifford Kelly

Seconded by: Ms. Margaret Swords

Unanimous decision.

G.243.3 Correspondence

1. Email from Neil McDermott, System Funding HEA on behalf of Sheena Duffy, Interim Head of System Funding HEA dated 12th February 2018 re Correspondence "Public Accounts Committee Report on Higher Education Sector re Protected Disclosures.
2. Email from Neil McDermott, System Funding HEA on behalf of Sheena Duffy, Interim Head of System Funding HEA dated 12th February 2018 re Correspondence on "Survey on international student recruitment services".
3. Email from Neil McDermott, System Funding HEA on behalf of Sheena Duffy, Interim Head of System Funding HEA dated 13th February 2018 re Correspondence on "Information request from Public Accounts Committee (PAC) referencing letter dated 31st January 2018 from the PAC to Graham Love, CEO HEA.

G.243.4.1 Personnel Report

The recent appointments were noted and confirmed.

G.243.5 Finance Audit & Risk Committee (FAR)

Minutes of Meeting MF169 (A) dated 22nd December 2017

The minutes of the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee, MF 169 (A) were noted.

Minutes of Meeting MF169 (B) dated 3rd January 2018

The minutes of the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee, MF 169 (B) were noted.

Minutes of Meeting MF70 (A) dated 23rd January 2018

The minutes of the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee, MF 170 (A) were noted.

Minutes of Meeting MF70 (B) dated 26th January 2018

The minutes of the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee, MF 170 (A) were noted.

G.243.6 Governing Body Representatives (x2) to Academic Council

Ms. Sadie Ward McDermott and Mr. Paschal McGuire were nominated as Governing Body representatives to the Academic Council.

Proposed by: Mr. Bill Sweeney

Seconded by: Mr. Paddy Matthews

G.243.7 Seal

The Institute's seal was applied to Leasing documents for Nova Leah.

G.243.8 AOB

Contracts for Renewal

Ms. Antoinette Rourke enquired when the following contracts were due for renewal (i) Canteen Services, (ii) Car Parking. She also requested that feedback should be sought from staff and students in relation to both services prior to the contract renewal date.

Governance

The Chairman reminded Governing Body that Mr. Seamus Given will give a presentation on Governance on the 6th March at 4.00 p.m. in the Boardroom, Dr. T.K. Whitaker building.

Meeting concluded at 16.45

Chairman _____

Date: _____