

THE CORPORATION

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2010**

Present:

Mr F Ahmed		Business member	Present
Ms S Ali		Independent Member	Present
Ms M-A Chong		Independent Member	Apologies
Ms K L Clifford		Principal	Present
Ms A Dixon		Teaching staff member	Present
Ms B Graham	(Vice Chair)	Co-opted member	Present
Mr T Grainger		Independent member	Present
Ms C Hau		Student member	Present
Mr J Hedges	(Chair)	Co-opted member	Present
Mr N A Hudson		Co-opted member	Present
Mr D Johnston		Independent member	Present
Mr O Adetola		Student Member	Present
Ms S Medd		Support staff member	Present
Mr H Nur		Parent Member	Apologies
Vacancy		Independent member	

Clerk to the Corporation:

Mr C Bond

Also Present:

Mr D Ball	Vice Principal: Corporate Affairs	Present
Mr P Ramella	Vice Principal: Curriculum & 14-19	Present
Ms P Cutler	Head teacher, Rush Croft School	Present (from 7.25 to 7.57).

Minute MC/43/10 (7.06pm)

Declarations of Interest

There were none

Minute MC/44/10 (7.08pm)

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mr Hussein Nur who was unwell

Minute MC/45/10 (7.10pm)

Corporation and Committee membership

(Document DC/15/10)

On the recommendation of the Search and Governance Committee, Shomsia Ali was appointed to serve as a member of the Corporation until 19 October 2014. The Corporation also approved the revised committee membership for 2010-11 as proposed in the paper presented by the Clerk

Minute MC/46/10 (7.11pm)

Appointment of Principal

This is the subject of a separate confidential minute

Minute MC/47/10 (7.20pm)

Appointment of Clerk to the Corporation

A selection panel consisting of James Hedges, Chair of the Corporation, Beverley Graham, Vice Chair of the Corporation and Tina Street Associate Vice Principal HR, had interviewed two candidates for the post Clerk to the Corporation on 8 October 2010. It was the unanimous decision of the panel to recommend to members that the Corporation should appoint Robert Smith to serve as Clerk to the Corporation with effect from 1 January 2010. It was noted that Mr Smith is currently the Clerk to the Corporation of Hills Road Sixth Form College in Cambridge and that he will retain this role. It was agreed by members that

holding this post concurrently with the post of Clerk to the Corporation of Sir George Monoux College presented no conflict of interest.

The Corporation agreed unanimously to appoint Robert Smith as Clerk to the Corporation with effect from 1 January 2010.

Minute MC/48/10 (7.25pm)

Future relations with Rush Croft School

(Document DC/16/10)

The Chair of the Corporation explained that a request had been received from Pat Cutler Head teacher of Rush Croft School to address the Corporation concerning the proposals made by the school to enter into a trust with Sir George Monoux College. The Chair noted, and it was agreed by the members, that the Corporation would hear Ms Cutler's proposal with an entirely open mind and that the merits or otherwise of the ideas put forward could be discussed after she withdrew and considered again at the meeting in December.

Ms Pat Cutler was then invited into the meeting and gave her presentation

She outlined:

- The particular context of Rush Croft school at the present time and the difficulties it has encountered
- The nature of a trust school
- The perceived benefits of trust status to the pupils of the school
- The benefits to Sir George Monoux College of being a trust partner

Members then put questions to Ms Cutler concerning the issues that she had raised relating in particular to:

- The proposed timescale for implementation of any proposals
- The ability of Rush Croft school to provide the college with specific numbers of students in each academic year
- The legal and financial commitments required of the Corporation
- The views of the Local Authority on this issue

Upon the completion of questions, the Chair thanked Ms Cutler for her presentation.

Ms Cutler left the meeting at this point.

There was then a wide ranging discussion of the issues raised. It was felt that the advantages for the college were not sufficiently clear for the corporation to wish to enter into a trust with Rush Croft School. It was resolved that no final decision would be made until the newly appointed Principal had the opportunity to consider the proposals, to take a view and to share that view with the Corporation.

Minute MC/49/10 (7.57pm)

Unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the Corporation held on 2 July 2010

(Document DC/13/10)

These were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting

Minute MC/50/10 (7.59pm)

Matters arising from the confirmed minutes of the meeting of the Corporation held on 2 July 2010 which are not the subject of separate items on this agenda

Minute MC/24/10 Healthy Hub

David Ball, Vice Principal Corporate Services reported that there had been no further developments on this matter since the meeting on 2 July 2010 and that the change of government and the consequent public spending cuts had probably significantly reduced the chances of the proposals being carried forward. It was agreed that the Corporation would continue to receive reports as and when there were further developments.

Minute MC/51/10 (8.02pm)

Unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the Search and Governance Committee held on 6 October 2010

(Document DS/17/10)

The minutes were received by the Corporation

Minute MC/52/10 (8.06pm)

Provisional Examination Results 2009/10

(Document DC/17/10)

Paola Ramella, Vice Principal: Curriculum gave a presentation on the examination results. He asked the Corporation to note that the college was now in a better position to predict the outcomes for most courses due to the tracking and monitoring system. He gave a detailed analysis of the changes in success rates to the courses offered by the college pointing out significant areas of improvement and decline. Members were pleased to note that the overall success rate had risen and was in line with both predictions and targets. Members questioned Mr Ramella about the ways in which the curriculum was reviewed and the ways in which courses were either added to or withdrawn from the college offer. Members were pleased to note that this process appeared to be robust, responsive and flexible.

Minute MC/53/10 (8.54pm)

Enrolment Report 2010

(Document DC/18/10)

David Ball: Vice Principal Corporate Affairs presented a report the enrolment for 2010. He reported that the enrolment had been good, the college having managed to recruit significantly above the target number. (Target 1,891 Recruited 2,142.) He reported that currently the college had 1,970 students on roll. He commented on the implication for future funding being based on "lagged student numbers" being potentially a positive development for the college.

The Corporation noted the contents of his report.

Minute MC/54/10 9.00pm

Ofsted Monitoring Visit

(Document DC/19/10)

Kim Clifford, Principal tabled the draft report which had been received after the Ofsted Monitoring Visit. She stressed that which was a draft report which had yet to be made final by the inspectors. Members were pleased to note the positive tone of the report and that the inspectors were noting that the college had made "reasonable progress" in areas which had been highlighted as a cause for concern in the inspection in December 2009.

Minute MC/55/10 (9.06pm)

Post Ofsted Action Plan and QIP

(Document DC/20/10)

The Principal presented the document and highlighted the particular items which she wished to draw to their attention. The Corporation received the report.

Minute MC/56/10 (9.13pm)

Year End Financial Statements 2009/10

(Document DC/21/10)

David Ball: Vice Principal Corporate Affairs presented a report. He asked members to note the following:

- The Income and Expenditure Account which showed a surplus off £322K after pension adjustments
- Pension Scheme Calculations and contributions
- Management Accounts to 31 July 2010

The Corporation noted the contents of the report

Minute MC/57/10 (9.14pm)

Any Other Business

There was none

Minute MC/58/10 (9.15 pm)

Future items

No future items were requested

Minute MC/59/10 (9.16pm)

Confidential items

The item concerning the appointment of Principal was to be the subject of a confidential minute for circulation only to Independent members,

Minute MC/60/10 (9.17 pm)

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Corporation is scheduled for Wednesday, 8 December 2010 at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 9.18 pm.