



NCHNL Board Meeting

25 January 2022 – via online meeting

Minutes

1. Attendance and apologies

1.1. Attendance:

Dr Gregory Abowd (GA)

Saxony Anders (SA, in attendance)

Darren Campili (DC)

Julietta Dexter (JD)

Rob Farquharson (CEO, Secretary)

Dr Naomi Goulder (Interim Dean of Faculties (DoF), in attendance)

Prof A C Grayling (ACG, Founder and Principal, in attendance)

Camille Kluttz-Leach (CKL, in attendance)

Diane MacGillivray (DM)

Thomas Nedell (TN, Chair)

Dr Deanna Raineri (DR, Vice Chair)

Martin Smith (Assistant Vice President for Recruitment and Marketing for Global Campuses (AVP), in attendance)

Patricia Wood (PW)

1.2. Apologies:

Jonnie Goodwin (JG)

1.3. Notice of meeting:

1.3.1. Notice of this meeting had been given to all Governors

1.3.2. All the Governors present confirmed that they had no personal interests to disclose matters to be transacted in the meeting in accordance with

sections 177 or 182 of the 2006 Act and the Company's articles of association

1.3.3. The meeting was quorate.

2. Election of the Chair of NCHNL

DR, as Vice Chair, opened the meeting by recording that Ralph Martin had stepped down as Chair of the NCHNL Board on his retirement from Northeastern which took effect on January 24th, 2022. Therefore, DR proposed that TN was appointed Chair of the Board.

The appointment of TN as Chair of the Board was APPROVED

3. New Directors

3.1. The Chair reported that both Ralph Martin and Ken Henderson as Northeastern appointed directors had left the Board on January 24th and that Diane MacGillivray Dr Gregory Abowd had been appointed to replace them.

ACTION: CEO to arrange required filings and inform relevant teams internally about the new chair and the new directors.

4. Minutes of last meeting

The previous minutes from the 29 October were APPROVED with one small change to show that DR was present at the meeting.

5. Matters Arising

5.1. The matters arising from the previous Board meetings were all reported as complete.

6. Chairs Action

6.1. There were no Chairs actions to report.

7. DoF's Update.

7.1. The DoF updated the Board on academic matters.

7.1.1. It was the third week of term/semester with NCH UP and PG students, mobility students and apprenticeship students all studying at Devon House or online.

7.1.2. We had been able to welcome two visiting professors from Other Colleges (DMSB and CSSH) which was great for building relationships across faculty.

7.1.3. A major focus had been on support for all students to access education (remotely and face

to face) with the continuing pandemic and the Omicron variant in particular.

- 7.1.4. In addition to that immediate work there was the work going on planning for the development of the educational and research offerings in London as part of Northeastern's system, on double degrees, subject expansion, personalization, and experiential learning using the apprenticeships model (as delivered by EDGE) as the inspiration.
- 7.1.5. There was a visit next month from David Luzzi who is the Senior Vice Provost for Research to look at a research strategy for London and that would be factored into the budget if needed in time for the April Board and even if not, an update would be provided on the strategy for research.
- 7.1.6. In terms of the approach to research there is the foundation of the humanities expertise from NCH's foundation (especially around ethics) and specific approaches such as NSI (Network Sciences Institute) looking to hire staff directly in London. Over and above that there was work going on to look at what should be the distinctive signature of London
- 7.1.7. TW asked about research compliance support, the CEO said that there was some funding in the budget to support that but as mentioned by the DoF more work on that would be done.
- 7.1.8. A question was asked about how EDGE were developing, for the benefit of the more recent directors DR answered explaining that EDGE (Experiential Digital Global Education) was a team that focused on work based and lifelong digital learning, in particular apprenticeships but also skills bootcamps and non-credit learning. The learner numbers were building well and the student and employer feedback was positive.
- 7.1.9. JD asked around the inclusion of ethics in this online learning. DR said it was a key request from employers and the EDGE team worked with employers to shape the courses.

8. CEO Update

- 8.1. The CEO started the operational update with reporting to the Board the passing of a student recently. He added that a case review was ongoing and that he invites someone to talk through that in the April Board.

ACTION: CEO to invite a member of staff to discuss the findings of the case review with the Board at the April Board Meeting.

- 8.2. The CEO proposed that membership of Executive Committee (ExCo) be extended to include the Director of Academic Services.

The addition of the Director of Academic Services to ExCo was APPROVED

ACTION: CEO to action the addition to ExCo.

- 8.3. The CEO then covered the regulatory area.
 - 8.3.1. The CEO updated the Board on progress in the application for University title. He reported that it was still with the DfE, and that the response was expected in the next month or so. If the application was unsuccessful a Plan B would be needed.
 - 8.3.2. GA wondered whether this could be an issue on other countries as Northeastern expanded.
 - 8.3.3. The CEO then went on to cover the Quality Assurance update and highlighted the growth in welfare meetings held with students in Michaelmas term and the OIA report where one case had been referred to them which was currently under appeal by the student.
- 8.4. The CEO then gave an update on progress on EDI.
 - 8.4.1. Training on Racial and Cultural Literacy supplied by Northeastern had been rolled out to students and staff.
 - 8.4.2. A Head of EDI (as a part time role) had been made.

9. AVP Update

- 9.1. The AVP started by saying that as described by the DoF there were three main offerings: NCH traditional degrees (UG and PG), NCH Apprenticeships degrees and mobility programmes.
- 9.2. In respect of traditional NCH residential UG degrees the big deadline in the UK is the UCAS deadline, which is later this

year on 26 January, so far, the applications were a bit softer than last year both for NCH and overall, for several factors.

- 9.3. For the traditional NCH residential PG degrees we were ahead but for PG degrees priced higher such as the NCH validated CS programme and the NU validated PJM programme, there is a target of 100 which is a real stretch target especially if there is no change to the post study work visa situation where a student studying a foreign degree (e.g. a NU validated degree) cannot get a visa to work after their studies following a recent change. A question to review this is with UKVI.
 - 9.4. Apprenticeships were over 100+ now and were recruiting strongly (from major UK companies and government departments) although it is still early days to be able to predict with any certainty and there is significant growth forecast for FY23.
 - 9.5. The last point the AVP made was that we had received confirmation that UKVI were going to grant us the extra CAS's that we had requested (600) which will allow the expansion that would be covered in the CEO's financial update.
10. Any other business (open agenda).
 - 10.1. There being no other business the Chair declared the open agenda had been covered and that the reserved agenda would now be covered.
 11. Date of next meeting was noted as April 26th.
 12. SA left the meeting

Reserved Agenda

13. CEO financial update
 - 13.1. The CEO started by inviting TW, as chair of the audit committee, to report on the FY21 audited accounts
 - 13.2. TW Reported that she had spoken to Crowe, the auditors, who said it was the best audit so far for NCH and while there were minor control issues highlighted these were being addressed.
 - 13.3. The CEO then proposed that the draft accounts were approved, and the CEO authorized to sign them and to arrange the necessary filings

FY 21 Audit was APPROVED, and the CEO was authorised to sign the audited accounts and file as required.

13.4. The CEO then ran through the slides on the FY22 reforecast and the FY23 budget

13.5. *Redacted – restricted information*

The reforecast for FY22 was APPROVED. The budget for FY23 was NOTED with understand recruitment activities could start before approval the April Board.

ACTION: CEO to communicate this internally and to send further information to DC

14. HR update, the CEO reported that there was no update
15. There being no other business the Chair declared the reserved agenda had been covered and the meeting closed.

Matters Arising

29 October 2021

Action Number	Action Item	Action Owner	Expected Completion Date	Progress/Update
1	Arrange required filings and inform relevant teams internally re appointment of Independent Governors	CEO	ASAP	COMPLETED
2	Submit SPP to OfS	CEO	ASAP	COMPLETED
3	Submit Prevent submission once finalized	CEO	December	COMPLETED
4	Communicate reforecast approval	CEO	ASAP	COMPLETED

25 January 2022

Action Number	Action Item	Action Owner	Expected Completion Date	Progress/Update
1	Arrange required filings and inform relevant teams internally re appointment of new Chair and new Northeastern Governors	CEO	ASAP	
2	Invite a member of staff to discuss the findings of the case review with the Board at the April Board Meeting	CEO	April	
3	Addition of the Director of Academic Services to ExCo	CEO	ASAP	