

NCHNL Board Meeting

26 April 2022

Hybrid online and face to face 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. Re-election of DC as an independent governor

The Chair proposed that DC was reappointed as an independent governor for a period of two years from this Board meeting.

The appointment of DC for two years was APPROVED.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The previous minutes from the 25 January 2022 were APPROVED.

4. Matters Arising

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

5. Chairs Action

There were no Chairs actions to report.

6. DoF's Update.

6.1. The DoF updated the Board on academic matters.

6.1.1. The mobility students were back in Boston or home after the spring semester. This process had gone smoothly, and the College would be welcoming some Global Connexions students in the near future.

6.1.2. The NCH on ground students were preparing for exams with Trinity Term just starting.

6.1.3. The apprenticeship programs were running smoothly and the majority of KPI's were tracking and there were no issues to report to the Board.

6.1.4. A lot of time was now going into recruiting Faculty for 2022/23 academic year for both on ground and apprenticeship programmes to cope with the increased student numbers as well as prepare new courses.

6.1.5. Research was moving forward with the recruitment of Institute of Network Sciences hires in London moving forward. There were a number

of Boston faculty who would be on sabbatical in London and there had been awards of Northeastern Tier 1 grant funding to a number of NCH Faculty.

- 6.1.6. One issue to note in terms of research was that NCH as an institution was not eligible for UKRI funding and that there were hurdles to be cleared to achieve that and a plan was being prepared as to how to do that, for example was one that 30 PhD students would need to be supervised. This would mean there was a need for close partnerships / collaborations with other institutions which was achievable.
- 6.1.7. There was also work looking at how to grow partnerships with other types of organizations such as corporations, government and NGO's across on-ground and apprenticeship programmes to support research activity.
- 6.1.8. DoF then went on to update the Board about the work being done on developing on ground Double Degrees with colleagues in Boston, with Masters and Apprenticeship degrees slated for possible later development. She talked through the slides sent with the Board papers and there was a discussion about the work to date and approach proposed.

The work on double degrees and the support of the Board for this strategic approach were NOTED.

7. CEO Update

- 7.1. The CEO started the operational update with the integration project between NCH and NU that was ongoing, and which is making progress. The focus was on the student experience for Fall 2023 when double degrees were introduced. Additionally work on the second floor of Devon House had started and the College was still being told that it would be ready for the next academic year.
- 7.2. The CEO invited Bex Morrison, Director of Academic Services to present the findings of the report into the student death that had been included with the Board papers. There was a discussion on how to support students' mental health.

- 7.3. The CEO then update the Board on the work done in response to the letter about Graduation sent to the Board from a number of third year students. A survey had been held and there was a proposal with alternative date and venue.
- 7.4. The Chair said that Graduation details were a management decision but that the Board should feel confident that a proper process to deal with the concerns raised had been taken.

The process followed to come up with a response to concerns was APPROVED.

ACTION: CEO to share details of the new Graduation to the College community.

- 7.5. The CEO then covered the regulatory area.
 - 7.5.1. The CEO updated the Board on progress in the application for University title. He reported that it was with the OfS and that a response was expected in the next month or so. If the application was unsuccessful the Plan B that the shareholder had requested was a name change to Northeastern London. This would be enacted by a shareholder's resolution.

The shareholders wish that Plan B was a name change to Northeastern London was NOTED.

- 7.5.2. The CEO then noted the Quality Assurance update sent with the Board papers.
 - 7.5.3. Lastly, he added that an Ofsted inspection was still expected soon for the apprenticeship provision.
- 7.6. The CEO then gave an update on progress on EDI.
 - 7.6.1. One update was the training of three members of staff as sexual violence liaison officers (SVLO) which raised a question about how both parties to an accusation were supported.

ACTION: CEO to ask the Head of Student Support and Development to respond that that question to then provide feedback to the Directors raising the query.

8. AVP Update

- 8.1. The mobility programmes were hugely popular with NU.in and NU Bound being oversubscribed for 2022/23 in London.
- 8.2. In order to support that an application had been made to UKVI for more visas which had been successful, so the College now had 635 visas. Additionally, we had our lawyers do an audit of our Visa team that showed some areas for development, but which was very positive.
- 8.3. In respect of traditional NCH residential degrees for UG the numbers were tacking to the proposed budget, but it was an unusual year with deadlines pushed back and lots of Russell Group institutions not yet making offers. The PG programmes were both NCH validated, and one NU validated course. The two largest students number targets were Computer Sciences (NCH validated) and Project Management – PJM (NU validated). There were two challenges with both these course for Computer Science the delay in getting Univ title meant that we still were called NCH with Humanities in the title, which was a challenge, for PJM there was a query still with UKVI about Post Study Work Visas for non-UK degrees. Depending on how these the targets in budget would be a challenge.
- 8.4. Apprenticeships were over 160+ now and were recruiting strongly (from major UK companies and government departments). Whilst that showed strong growth it meant that they would miss the FY22 forecast.
9. Any other business (open agenda).
 - 9.1. There being no other business the Chair declared the open agenda had been covered and that the reserved agenda would now be covered.
10. Date of next meeting was noted as June 21st.
11. SA left the meeting.

Reserved Agenda

12. CEO financial update
 - 12.1. The CEO started by inviting TW, as chair of the audit committee, to report on the FY21 audited accounts
 - 12.2. TW Reported that she had spoken to Crowe, the auditors, who said it was the best audit so far for NCH and whilst there were minor control issues highlighted these were being addressed.

12.3. 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.

12.4. The CEO then ran through the slides that updated the slides from the January Board on the FY22 reforecast and the FY23 budget. Both sets were included in the Board papers.

12.5. Redacted - restricted information.

12.6. It was noted that there would be a review on any significant changes to the proposed budget in the June Board as we would have more of a view then.

The reforecast for FY22 was NOTED. The budget for FY23 was APPROVED.

13. HR update

13.1. The CEO noted the previous mentions of the recruitment ongoing for 2022/23 academic year and reported that the search for the Dean of the London College was ongoing.

14. There being no other business the Chair declared the reserved agenda had been covered and the meeting closed.

Matters Arising

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	COMPLETED
2	Invite a member of staff to discuss the findings of the case review with the Board at the April Board Meeting	CEO	April	COMPLETED

Action Number	Action Item	Action Owner	Expected Completion Date	Progress/Update
3	Addition of the Director of Academic Services to Exco	CEO	ASAP	COMPLETED
4	Sign and file audited accounts	CEO	ASAP	COMPLETED
5	Communicate approval to start recruitment	CEO	ASAP	COMPLETED

26 April 2022

Action Number	Action Item	Action Owner	Expected Completion Date	Progress/Update
1	Share details of Graduation	CEO	ASAP	
2	Respond to the Governor rising the question about support to students around sexual violence allegations	CEO	ASAP	