

**MINUTES OF THE 23RD MEETING OF THE GENERAL
TEACHING COUNCIL FOR N.I., HELD ON FRIDAY 18TH
JANUARY 2008 AT MALONE HOUSE HOTEL**

Present

Mrs Sally McKee (Chair)	Mr Tony Lappin
Ms Aine Andrews	Mr Brendan McConville
Mr Ivan Arbuthnot	Mr Dominic McElholm
Mrs Rosemary Barton	Mrs La'Verne Montgomery
Mrs Dorothy Black	Ms Daisy Mules
Mrs Susan Campbell	Dr W Mulryne
Dr Leslie Caul	Mr Alistair Orr
Mr John Colgan	Mr John Pollock
Mr Joe Corrigan	Mr Peter Scott
Mr Malachy Doherty	Mr Keith Smith
Mrs Frances Donnelly	Mrs Audrey Stewart
Rev Lee Glenny	Mr Gordon Topping
Mrs M Karp	
Mr John Kerr	

In Attendance

Mr Eddie McArdle (Registrar, GTCNI)
Mrs Yvonne McCool (Corporate Services Manager, GTCNI)
Mr Barnaby Ball (Policy & Registration Manager, GTCNI)
Mr Gerry Devlin (Senior Education Officer, GTCNI)
Ms Deirdre Lavery (Finance & Admin Manager, GTCNI)
Mrs Carol Bailie (Minute Secretary)
Mrs Lesley Dickson (PA to the Registrar, GTCNI)
Mr Matthew Maclver CBE (Chief Executive/Registrar, GTCS)
Mr Gavin Boyd (Chief Executive, ESA)

Apologies

Mr Charles Glenn
Mrs Teresa Graham
Mr Theo Laverty
Mr John McGrady
Mr Damien Walls
Mrs Thea Patton

1. APOLOGIES

The apologies were noted. The Chair welcomed Matthew Maclver and congratulated him on his award of the CBE.

2. COUNCIL MINUTES (GTC/07/Min20)

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved, proposed by Tony Lappin and seconded by Brendan McConville as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Item 4

The Registrar informed Council that it was planned that Professor Becky Francis of Roehampton University will be attending the next Policy meeting on the 2nd April to present her research findings on the gender match of teachers and pupils.

Item 6

Mr Joe Corrigan commented that, if teachers take extended career breaks, when they return to school many changes will have potentially occurred resulting in the need for support and CPD. The Registrar agreed and indicated that the Council would bring forward proposals in regard to this issue.

Item 8

The Chair informed Council that 'Teaching: the Reflective Profession' has now been translated into Irish and will be launched on the 28th January by the Education Minister and that Mrs McKee will be attending the launch. It will then be made available to teachers working in the IMS.

4. CHAIR'S BUSINESS

The Chair expressed the sympathy of the Council to La'Verne Montgomery on the recent death of her Mother. She also passed on the good wishes of the Council to Brendan McConville with regard to his son's recent accident and wished him a speedy recovery.

The Chair noted the resignation of Mr W Mulryne as the representative of GBA. He is to be replaced by Mr Ronnie Hassard of Ballymena Academy. Mrs McKee also noted the resignation of Mr Dominic McElholm and informed Council that this would also be the last meeting attended by Mrs Yvonne McCool who has been with the Council since its early days.

The Chair informed Council that the invitations to the Annual Lecture will be issued next week (w/b 21 January 2008) and asked members to try to ensure their attendance and if possible to bring along 2 guests. The venue will be the Presbyterian Assembly Rooms in Belfast and the lecture will be given by President McAleese.

5. OFFICERS' BUSINESS

The Chair outlined the protocols for the Annual Lecture and asked for as many people as possible to attend.

6. BUSINESS PLAN – 9 MONTH UPDATE

The Registrar outlined the 9 month update of the Business Plan for Members and highlighted certain issues:

- Feminisation of the profession
- The roll out of Teacher Competences and PRSD
- The Approval of Qualifications
- The Accreditation of Courses
- The delays in relation to regulatory work
- Pramerica Spirit of the Community Awards
- Outreach activities in relation to the Assembly

The Corporate Services Manager addressed issues relating to finance, including:

- Risk Management issues
- Financial forecasting

7. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (GTC08/23/P2)

The Finance and Administration Manager presented the Income and Expenditure Report to members and notified them that there had been a slight change in the allocation of reserves and that a new paper had been provided for them.

Ms Lavery reviewed the paper giving figures for reserves and discussed potential regulatory cases and the need to budget for this. She indicated that the Council had obtained a significant refund of bank charges. She went on to inform members that the 2006/2007 CPD bursaries had been paid out and that it had been a successful year. Ms Lavery also set out the expenditure forecasts and financial projections and gave projected expenditure to 31 March 2008.

Mr John Colgan expressed satisfaction with the thoroughness of the paper and commended the staff involved and thanked the Corporate Services Manager for her efforts on behalf of the Council and wished her all the best for the future.

8. AUDIT REPORT (GTC08/23/P3)

The Finance and Administration Manager presented the Audit Report prepared by Moore Stephens, Registered Auditors for the year ended 31 March 2007 and reviewed the Executive Summary. Their audit of the Council's systems incorporated an audit on all income, expenditure, salaries, travel, bursaries, hospitality, petty cash, purchasing, procurement and policies.

A clean audit report was issued for the period 2006/2007 and any recommendations had been complied with and incorporated into working policies.

9. PRESENTATION BY GAVIN BOYD, ESA

The Chair thanked Gavin Boyd for his attendance at the meeting and said that she hoped that the Council would develop a good working relationship with ESA. Mr Boyd's presentation covered major reforms in education and the need to invest in education infrastructure, the requirements of change management and challenges ahead and public accountability.

The Chair thanked Mr Boyd for an interesting and challenging presentation and said that this can only be achieved if teachers are given the opportunity of ongoing professional development and that she looked forward to working with ESA, sharing research and supporting teachers and raising standards for all children. Mr Boyd then took questions from the floor.

Members raised a number of issues including:

- The apparent escalation of costs in relation to the development of ESA
- The quantum of savings to be achieved
- The timeframe for establishment and the likelihood of "slippage"
- ESA's stance in relation to teacher professional development
 - CPD approaches
 - Mixed economy & individualised bursaries
 - Nursery Sector access to CASS
- Class sizes and the implementation of the new curriculum
- Success criteria

11. REGISTRATION AND APPROVAL OF QUALIFICATIONS UPDATE (GTCNI08/23P5)

The Policy and Registration Manager presented the Registration and Approval of Qualifications paper and informed Council that responsibility for approval of qualifications passed to GTCNI on 19th October 2007.

He asked members to note that the Council was operating in a 'transitional context'. He briefed members on the five agreed categorisations of applicant currently being used by GTCNI: NI Graduates; DE Recognised Teachers; UK Applicants; EU/EEA Applicants and Rest of World Applicants and explained that Table 1 to the paper represented completed applications, and gave further figures for actual applications received.

He then went on to set out for members of how 'Rest of World Applicants' will be processed, including consideration of teaching experience and additional relevant qualifications/certified courses.

He reminded members that the Council's registration/approval of qualifications processes will be the subject of continuous review, and application forms and assessment procedures will be amended in response to the 'operational learning' that will arise from ongoing processing of applications. The Council will also continue to benchmark its processes against emerging best practice and will seek further legal advice as and when required.

Mr McConville thanked Mr Ball for his work. Mrs Black also thanked Mr Ball for coming out and speaking to her students. Mr Colgan raised the issue of problems associated with non-fluency in language, and asked if it would be a key consideration.

Mr MacIver, GTCS noted that this is an issue dealt with in the European Directive 2005/36, and commented that a language proficiency test may have to be introduced. Mr Ball informed members that in Northern Ireland the issue of language proficiency was currently a matter for employers.

Members noted and approved the conclusions as set out in the paper.

12. BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE (GTCNI08/23/P4)

The Registrar summarised this paper. He made reference to the recent report of the Carnegie Trust: 'The Shape of Civil Society to Come' (Oct 2007). Amongst the 'drivers' that report identified, are: a growing socio-economic divide, rising individualism reflecting amongst other things the increasing complexity of family structures and new technologies, shifting identities arising from a variety of factors including an enhanced mobility of labour in response to economic pressures or pulses and disengagement with formal politics and issues arising from a more complex relationship of the state with the individual. Mr McArdle discussed the Draft Programme and the need for structured policies, and the Chair thanked the Registrar for his input.

Mr Colgan referred to the implications for teacher education training. The Registrar pointed to Competence 2 in our publication and said that teachers

should be regarded as to lead intellectuals in the wider community, especially on matters related to education.

Mr Devlin then briefed members on details of the submission.

13. COMMITTEE MINUTES

(i) Audit Committee (AC/07Min 15)

Ms Rosemary Barton presented the Audit Committee minutes to Council as an accurate record of the meeting. She outlined the IT Disaster Recovery and the Audit Report and Management Response to members.

(ii) General Purposes and Finance Committee (GP&F/07/Min21)

Mr Orr presented the General Purposes and Finance Committee minutes to the Council as an accurate record of the meeting. He reviewed the Appointments and Promotions Procedure and outlined the Income and Expenditure for 1 April 2007 to 31 October 2007. Mr Orr updated members on Staffing and Hospitality. Mr Orr thanked Mrs McCool for her work for the GP&F Committee.

(iii) Policy Committee (PC/07/Min23)

Mr Tony Lappin informed members that the minutes of the last Policy Committee were an accurate record of the meeting and briefly discussed the Pilot Bursary Scheme Year 3 and recommendations. Mr Lappin thanked the Senior Education Officer for his work with the bursaries.

(iv) Risk Management Committee

Mr Brendan McConville presented the Risk Management Committee minutes to Council and outlined that an Action Plan will be created to address risks in order of priority.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Council meeting will be held in the Armagh City Hotel on 17th April 2008.

Signed _____ Date _____