

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE  
GENERAL TEACHING COUNCIL FOR NORTHERN IRELAND  
HELD ON MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2005,  
AT THE GLENAVON HOTEL, COOKSTOWN**

**Present:**

Mr Ivan Arbuthnot	Mrs Sally McKee
Ms Rosemary Barton	Mrs La'Verne Montgomery
Mrs Jeannette Chapman	Mr Alistair Orr
Mr John Colgan	Mrs Thea Patton
Ms Monica Cummings	Dr Derek Poots
Mr Malachy Doherty	Mr Philip Sheerin
Mrs Frances Donnelly	Mr Peter Scott
Mr Eddie Ferguson	Mr Gordon Topping
Mr Tony Lappin	Mrs Grace Trimble
Mr Paddy McAllister	Father John Walsh
Mr Dominic McElholm	

**In Attendance:**

- Mr Eddie McArdle (Registrar, GTCNI)
- Mr Barney Ball (Policy & Registration Manager, GTCNI)
- Mr Gerard Devlin (Senior Education Officer, GTCNI)
- Mrs Yvonne McCool (Corporate Services Manager, GTCNI)
- Ms Deirdre Lavery (Finance Officer, GTCNI)
- Mr Mark McLaughlin (PR Officer, GTCNI)
- Mr Michael McLaverty (Willis Ltd)
- Ms Roisin Mallon (Equality Commission)
- Ms Geraldine Garnett-Frizelle (Minute Secretary, GTCNI)

**Apologies:**

Dr Leslie Caul	Dr Marie Murphy
Ms Maria Graham	Mr Ray McGuigan
Mrs Teresa Graham	Ms Aedín ní Ghadhra
Ms Miriam Karp	Mr David Oldfield
Dr Wilfred Mulryne	

The Chair welcomed a new member of Council to her first meeting; Ms Rosemary Barton, who is replacing Mr Ian McInnes. He also introduced two members of staff to the Council – Ms Deirdre Lavery, the Finance and Administration Officer, and Mr Mark McLaughlin, the PR Officer.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were noted.

## **2. Council Minutes (GTC/05/Min13)**

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the last meeting, (proposed by Mr Alistair Orr and seconded by Mr Paddy McAllister).

## **3. Matters Arising**

The Registrar informed members that the Policy and Registration Manager would be presenting a Registration Fee update to them and that the revised response to the Review of Public Administration was being presented as Paper 2, item number 7 on the agenda.

## **4. Chair's Business**

The Chair informed members that he and the Registrar had recently attended meetings with both the Minister and the Permanent Secretary to discuss a number of issues, including the Review of Public Administration, the proposed Charter for Education and the new SENDO legislation. The Chair and Registrar had discussed with Mr McGinn the issue of resourcing the implementation of the new SENDO legislation but, although the Permanent Secretary acknowledged their concerns, there was no indication that further funding would be made available to schools.

## **5. Officers' Business**

The Registrar informed members that the Education Northern Ireland Conference would be taking place at the King's Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October 2005 and GTCNI would have a stand in the exhibition hall. The stand would be manned by officers, and several members of Council, and officers would be attending the seminars taking place over the course of the two day event.

The Registrar then went on to notify members of the dates, times and venues of the information seminars to be held over the course of October and November 2005 across the province. He reminded members that the seminars were being held as part of the outreach strategy of the Council as outlined in the Corporate Plan.

The Registrar informed members that he and the Policy and Registration Manager had recently attended a meeting of the Teacher Education Stakeholders Group at which the Osler report had been discussed. The purpose of the report was to consider the aims, objectives and policies on which the current model of teacher education (initial, induction, early professional development and continuing professional development) in Northern Ireland is based, and to offer an opinion on how well current provision fits, identifying gaps as necessary. The report had been informed by various documents, including the Council's own recommendations regarding Teacher Competences and CPD. A number of recommendations within the Osler report, if implemented by DE, would mean an increased role for GTCNI in the coordination of provision of all stages of teacher education in Northern Ireland.

The Corporate Services Manager informed members that preparations were underway for the Council's inaugural Annual Lecture, due to be held in March 2006. The Great Hall at Queen's University has been booked as the venue and the speaker is Professor Geoff Whitty, Director of the Institute of Education in London.

**6. DEVELOPING A SYSTEM OF PROFESSIONALLY-LED REGULATION FOR TEACHERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND (GTC14/05/P1)**

The Policy and Registration Manager presented this paper, which looked at some of the issues regarding regulatory processes and procedures. He informed them that, in writing this paper, he had attempted to summarise the current thinking on professionally-led regulation and outline for members the possible application of best practice to GTCNI. The Council's aim is to establish an appropriate regulatory narrative and underpinning values. He said that the regulatory process should be based on excellent practice and benchmarked against the processes in place in other jurisdictions. Members agreed to adopt the five principles of better regulation, developed by the BRTF and, of the models discussed in the paper, the consensus amongst members was that Council should be in favour of a compliance-based approach within a four layer model.

Members asked whether the Department of Education had drafted the necessary Regulations and the Policy and Registration Manager informed them that, as yet, this had not been done, but that officers were due to meet with representatives of the Department of Education on 7<sup>th</sup> October and would discuss this with them then. He undertook to report back to members on progress with the drafting of Regulations, as well as the writing of a comprehensive and comprehensible regulatory narrative for teachers, as and when progress had been made.

**7. DRAFT RESPONSE TO THE REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND (GTC14/05/P2)**

The Registrar presented this paper to members and informed that, since its last presentation to Council at their meeting in June 2005, it had been substantially rewritten. The Policy Committee had met at the beginning of September to consider the new draft of the response and further suggestions for changes had been made. The paper had then been amended accordingly and circulated to all members of Council for comment before being reconsidered by an extraordinary meeting of the Policy Committee at the end of September, which had given the revised document their endorsement and it had then been submitted to the Review body. This had been necessary as no extension of the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2005 deadline had been granted and Council was not due to meet before the deadline expired.

Members of the Council expressed their thanks to the Policy Committee and officers for the work involved in redrafting this paper and endorsed it fully.

**8. GTCNI ELECTIONS 2006 – TIMETABLE (to be tabled) (GTC14/05/P3)**

The Corporate Services Manager tabled this paper for Council members and took them through the proposed timetable for the election of the next Council in 2006. The Corporate Services Manager also informed members that the existing election

scheme had been brought to the General Purposes and Finance Committee for their comment before being circulated to all other committees. Members of the General Purposes and Finance Committee had suggested that the reference to “qualified” teachers should now be changed to “registered” teachers to reflect membership of GTCNI. The scheme has now been amended and forwarded to the Department of Education for their comment.

#### **9. CHARTER FOR EDUCATION (GTC14/05/P4)**

The Registrar presented this paper to Council. He reminded members that he and the Chair of Council had met with representatives from the various stakeholder groups including the Education Spokespersons of the political parties, the Education and Library Boards, Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta, CCMS, the Trade Unions, and others, and that the Council’s call for a Charter had been widely supported. He also said that, in order that a wide range of stakeholders would feel able to sign up to the Charter, it sought to be aspirational rather than a specific list of requirements. Council thanked the Registrar for his work on this document and endorsed its circulation to stakeholders and the profession.

#### **10. REGISTRATION FEE COLLECTION – UPDATE (GTC14/05/P5)**

The Policy and Registration Manager took members through this paper which included a summary of the work undertaken over the course of the summer months on updating the Register and collecting fees from those not included in the deduction at source exercise and then deregistering those who had not paid a fee. Members asked for clarification on how the issue of deregistration would be taken forward. The Policy and Registration Manager explained that lists of registered teachers would be sent to each school and the school would be asked to check their own records against GTCNI’s list and send an updated return to the Registration Team.

Members were informed that, of the 1301 ‘not on database’ queries which had arisen following the fee deduction, 600 had subsequently been found to be eligible to teach. The Department was still investigating the remaining queries and they hope to have resolved the majority in the near future. The Policy and Registration Manager said that when this process is completed, there will be another batch transfer of data from the Department to update the Register. However, there would remain a core of people who are not qualified and therefore not eligible to teach, and consequently not able to be registered with the Council. He informed members that this issue will need to be a subject for further discussion by the Registration Committee.

#### **11. PRESENTATION BY WILLIS LTD ON PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE**

The Corporate Services Manager informed members that Council had now appointed its Insurance Brokers, Willis Ltd and introduced Mr Michael McLaverty from Willis who gave members a short presentation on the professional indemnity insurance cover being provided for Council Members and officers. Members thanked Mr McLaverty.

## **12. PRESENTATION BY THE EQUALITY COMMISSION ON DISABILITY LEGISLATION**

The Corporate Services Manager introduced Ms Roisin Mallon from the Equality Commission to the Council. Ms Mallon gave a Powerpoint presentation in which she explained how the changes in legislation on disability law, which had come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2005, affect the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland.

Members thanked Ms Mallon for her informative presentation.

## **13. A POLICY ANALYSIS ON THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE SURVEY: 'THE INDUCTION AND EARLY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF BEGINNING TEACHERS (GTC14/05/P6) (For Information)**

The Senior Education Officer informed members that this item, which had previously been presented to the Policy Committee, was brought to them for information only.

## **14. Committee Minutes**

### Audit Committee (AC/05/Min8)

The minutes were presented to Council as a record of the Audit Committee meeting by the Vice-Chair.

### General Purposes and Finance Committee (GP&F/05/Min114)

The minutes were presented to Council as a record of the General Purpose and Finance Committee meeting by the Committee Chair. The Committee Chair informed the Council that a number of the policies discussed in Committee had been forwarded to NIPSA for their input and it was hoped to have a response from them at the next Committee Meeting in November. The Corporate Services Manager informed members that, in relation to the Financial Memorandum, the Department of Finance and Personnel had raised the issue of GTCNI's financial independence. A meeting has already been arranged with DE for 7<sup>th</sup> October and the Corporate Services Manager undertook to bring this matter to their attention.

### Policy Committee (PC/05/Min15)

The minutes were presented to Council as a record of the Policy Committee meeting by the Committee Chair. The Committee Chair thanked members of the Committee, as well as member of Council and officers, for the work which had gone in to the shaping of the Review of Public Administration submission.

### Registration Committee (RC/05/Min11)

As the Chair of the Registration Committee had had to leave Council early and the Vice-Chair was not in attendance, the Policy and Registration Manager informed members that the issues addressed in minutes (RC/05/Min11) had been, in the main, covered within the two papers brought to Council.

**15. Any Other Business**

The Chair asked members to try to attend one of the information seminars if at all possible. The Chair also informed members that the International Conference, hosted by GTC Scotland in Edinburgh in June, which he and the Registrar had attended, had proved very successful. Preliminary discussions had taken place about the possibility of having the next conference in Australia next year, however no decision had yet been reached on that. He undertook to update members on developments in this regard.

**16. Venue, Date and Time for Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting of the Council will take place on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2005. The venue has not yet been arranged.

Signature.....

Date.....