

**MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE  
GENERAL TEACHING COUNCIL FOR NORTHERN IRELAND  
HELD ON MONDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2005,  
RADISSON ROE PARK HOTEL, LIMA VADY**

**Present:**

Dr Leslie Caul	Mr Dominic McElholm
Mrs Jeannette Chapman	Mr Ray McGuigan
Mr John Colgan	Mrs Sally McKee
Mr Malachy Doherty	Mr David Oldfield
Mr Richard Egan	Mr Alistair Orr
Mr Eddie Ferguson	Mrs Thea Patton
Ms Maria Graham	Dr Derek Poots
Mrs Teresa Graham	Mr Philip Sheerin
Mr Tony Lappin	Mr Gordon Topping
Mr Paddy McAllister	Father John Walsh

**In Attendance:**

Mr Eddie McArdle (Registrar)  
Mr Barney Ball (Policy & Registration Manager)  
Mr Gerard Devlin (Senior Education Officer)  
Mrs Yvonne McCool (Corporate Services Manager)  
Mr Ron Armstrong (DE)  
Mr Paul Sloan (DE)  
Ms Geraldine Garnett-Frizelle (Minute Secretary)

**Apologies:**

Mr Ivan Arbuthnot	Mr Peter Scott
Mrs Mary Elizabeth Devine	Dr Marie Murphy
Mrs Grace Trimble	Mrs Frances Donnelly
Mrs La'Verne Montgomery	Ms Monica Cummings
Mr Patrick Kinney	Ms Aedín ní Ghadhra
Mr Alan Longman	Dr Wilfred Mulryne

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were noted.

**2. Council Minutes (GTC/04/Min10)**

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the last meeting, (proposed by Mr Malachy Doherty and seconded by Mr Dominic McElholm).

**3. Matters Arising**

The Registrar informed members that following the last meeting of Council, the Department of Education had re-examined the budget allocated to the Council for the year 2004 - 2005, and

had subsequently increased this allocation. The Council was also informed that funding for three years had been secured in line with the estimates submitted last year. The Chair thanked Mr Armstrong and Mr Sloan (DE) for their efforts on behalf of the Council.

The Registrar also updated members on progress regarding the level of fee to be charged for registration. He indicated that there is still some uncertainty regarding the exact number of teachers employed in Northern Ireland, but a meeting has been scheduled for Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> January between representatives of the Department of Education and Officers of GTCNI and it is hoped that this will be resolved then. The Registrar undertook to update members in this regard at the next meeting of Council.

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

The Chair informed members that, at their last meeting, the Policy Committee had elected Mrs Sally McKee to the position of Chair and Mr Tony Lappin as the new Vice-Chair. The Chair expressed thanks, on behalf of the Council, to the outgoing Chair and Vice-Chair for their work over the previous two years.

#### **5. Officers' Business**

There was no officers' business.

#### **6. GTCNI Reviews of Teacher Competences and Continuing Professional Development – Draft Final Report (GTC11/04/P1)**

The Registrar presented this paper to members. He gave a PowerPoint presentation which set out the background to the reviews, and he took members through the review processes and the discussions which had taken place and which had led, ultimately, to the paper placed before them. He also informed members that an earlier version of the paper had been discussed by the Policy Committee at its meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> January 2005, where various amendments had been suggested. These amendments had been incorporated into the current document.

Members then examined and discussed the draft final report.

#### **Comments**

Members expressed some concern that the potential funding implications of the recommendations, and the Department of Education's current budget cuts, would lead to the recommendations not being followed through. The Registrar reassured them that the implementation of the new teacher competences statements would have minimal cost implications for GTCNI, so should not present a problem in that regard. The CPD recommendations would require funding but were following on from the proposals and recommendations already made by NITEC and, in addition, as all the major stakeholders had been involved in the Advisory Groups responsible for crafting the recommendations, this should give impetus to the necessity for adequate resourcing to be made available.

Members discussed the issue of PRSD and the possible tensions between professional reflection and dialogue and the proposed PRSD scheme. Also, they felt that there was a case for delegation of funding to school level and that the school should have some discretion as to how funding could be best used for CPD activity.

Members went on to discuss the establishment of a Professional Education Committee and the opportunities for professional learning post-EPD. It was felt that there was also a cost implication here which needed to be addressed. It was currently not clear where this money was to come from.

Members considered further the issue of EPD and Induction and the difficulties surrounding the management of these processes and in particular that of accreditation and certification. The Registrar indicated that the tracking of Induction and EPD could be undertaken by the Council, but the notion of “accreditation” for academic purposes would lie with the HEIs. He indicated that at present the successful completion of EPD was worth 30 “M” points towards a Masters degree. Any additional costs associated with taking over the tracking and completion of Induction and EPD role would have to be negotiated with the Department of Education. The Department’s representative informed the Council that it had always been intended that the recording of induction and EPD would become a function of GTCNI. The Registrar added that the registration database had been constructed with this in mind, in that appropriate fields had been created to allow for the recording of this information.

Members were concerned that there was not enough emphasis in the document on the need to provide guaranteed time for CPD activities, as well as financial resources. The Registrar undertook to include a reference to the provision of additional non-contact time in 6.7 of the CPD section. Members also felt that the document was perhaps not sensitive enough to the concerns and needs of small schools. The Registrar said that he would look again at that section to reinforce the arguments regarding small and rural schools.

At the end of the discussions, the Chair thanked members for their useful contributions and asked that the officers amend the report accordingly. He added that, in light of these discussions, he felt it would be both useful and necessary for himself, the Chair of the Policy Committee and any of the members of the Policy Committee who so wished, to attend an additional meeting, to be held within the next two weeks, to review the final amendments and sign-off on the report.

The Chair thanked the members of the Policy Committee, as well as the officers, for the work which had gone into the production of the final draft report.

**7. Any Other Business**

The Chair welcomed Dr Robert Rodgers, the former Chair of GTCNI, to the meeting and thanked him, on behalf of the Council, for his hard work and dedication during his tenure as the first Chairman of the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland. He presented Dr Rodgers with a gift on behalf of members and officers. Dr Rodgers expressed his thanks to the Council and his best wishes for their future endeavours.

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

The next scheduled meeting of the Council will take place on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2005.

Signature.....

Date.....