**(PRRC/Min/18/08)**

**Minutes of the 8th Policy, Registration and Regulation Committee**

**Monday 4 June 2018, Albany House, Great Victoria Street, Belfast**

**Present:** Chair: Gordon White, Paul O’Doherty, Martin Hagan, David Canning,

Mary-Lou Winchborne, Brendan Morgan, Catriona Mullan

**Apologies**: Joanne Burns, Maria Mullally, Carmel McCartan, Aine Andrews,

Malachy Crudden, Cliodhna Scott-Wills

**In Attendance:** Anne Dickson, Gerry Devlin (SEO), Ned Cohen (EO),

Lesley Dickson (PA)

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| 1. **Welcome, Introduction and Apologies**   The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.  Apologies were noted.  The Chair congratulated MH on achieving his Doctorate.     1. **Declarations of Interest**   MH declared an interest under Item 8, Paper No 4.   1. **Minutes (PRRC/Min/18/07)**   These were accepted as a true and correct record.  **Proposed by MLW, seconded by CM**.   1. **Matters Arising**   AD advised that with respect Item 10, there had been a useful discussion at F&GP regarding charging for the assessment of qualifications obtained outside NI for registration. Officers are now undertaking further work.  AD advised that at Item 11 regarding the 18/19 Business Plan that DE revised the budget allocation to GTCNI from that submitted resulting in insufficient funding being available to GTCNI to cover the entire proposed plan. Officers are therefore revising the Business Plan and will bring it back to Council in June for consideration.   1. **Draft Response to the EA re NIAO SEN Report (PRRC/18/08/01)**   The SEO took members through correspondence from EA regarding the teacher competences and Special Education Needs, in the context of a NIAO report. The EA has requested that the response is approved through Council. He emphasised that all the teacher competences apply to SEN settings and also added that the best quality teaching can often be seen in SEN contexts.  The SEO advised that DE and EA had been informed that the 27 Competences remained fit-for-purpose and that this Council has been robust in defending them. He added that international scrutiny has shown the competences had high standing within the educational community.  The Committee recommended the draft response to go to Council for approval.  **Proposed by BM, seconded by MH**     1. **Regulation: The Way Forward (PRRC/18/8/02)**   The ICO took members through a paper advising that it was an up-date on the current situation vis-à-vis regulation and the remaining legal issues to be addressed.  The EO took members through the revised Conduct Rules, based on the approach suggested by DE. The suggested approach had also been reviewed by the Council’s legal adviser. The additional stage of the regulatory process provided for the Council to make an order that an individual should be removed from the Register. This would ensure that as far as possible the regulatory process would now be complaint with the 2015 Regulations and the ILEX Court of Appeal Ruling.  Members recorded their position regarding the importance of GTCNI delivering its statutory regulation duties, but said it was equally important that Council ensured that the processes used to do this can withstand legal challenge.  MLW expressed serious concerns that the revised process may now pose a serious risk of legal challenge and reputational damage for the Council.BM recorded his concern and asked if the Council had been in touch with the Department regarding this.  Members discussed alternative means by which Council could secure the necessary assurances from DE to allay current concerns. The PRRC requested that the Chair of Council should write to the Principal Accounting Officer in DE to seek such assurances and asking for DE to attend Council on 18 June to discuss the matter further.  **Proposed by BM, seconded by MLW**   1. **Leadership Competences TORs and action plan (PRRC/18/08/03)**   The SEO took members through this paper advising that it is part of the 2018/19 Business Plan.  He advised that the success of this project lies in ensuring that all parts of the education sector are involved in the development of the said competences, thus ensuring support once published. The draft terms of reference propose the formation of a representative Advisory Group to develop the competences and make a recommendation to Council. The development process will include consultation phase with the final decision on the new competence framework reserved for Council.  The SEO added that the Advisory Group should be chaired by a member of GTCNI, and include a further 4-6 members of Council, comprising of practising or recently-retired teachers. The remainder of the group’s membership will be nominated by the stakeholder bodies listed in the paper.  The SEO informed members that subject to Council approval of these papers, it is proposed that the GTCNI members of the Advisory Group are identified by the end of June 2018, allowing officers to work with the stakeholder groups over the summer to identify their nominees and the first meeting scheduled for September 2018.  The PRRC considered and approved the ToRs for this project and recommended its approval by Council and a proposal to go to Council  **Proposed by MH, seconded by MLW**   1. **Accreditation of ITE Programmes TORs and Action Plan (PRRC/18/08/04)**   MH stepped out for this item (12.05).  The SEO took members through a paper highlighting the draft terms of reference and project plan to take forward the accreditation of initial teacher education programmes in Northern Ireland.  He advised that this project forms part of the Council’s remit for the accreditation of initial teacher education programmes as set out in the Department of Education Circular 2010/03 ‘Initial Teacher Education-Approval of Programmes’.  He said that the notion of ‘professional approval’ or accreditation of courses leading to qualifications that in turn lead to professional recognition and registration is not new. Indeed, is a core feature of many other professional bodies including: medicine, social work, accountancy and law.  Members discussed the paper.  PO’D advised that he had made some amendments to the draft TORs which he would pass to the SEO.  **Proposed by CM, seconded by PO’D**  DC added that he would like a reference to ‘ethos’ to be added to the final bullet point in the draft terms of reference which refers to R2.2 ‘Strategic Education Priorities’.  The Chair asked if the proposer and seconder were happy to include DCs proposals on ethos being added. Members agreed.  **9. Any Other Business**  None  **10. Date of next meeting**  AD advised that a schedule of meetings was being prepared and a draft would be brought to the June Council meeting.  PO’D expressed concerns regarding the workload on officers in servicing meetings of Council and on the demands on Council members. He said there would be a heavy workload, particularly next term and there may need to be reconsideration the number and scheduling of meetings.    Signed………………………….. Dated ……………………………. | Action  AD  AD  Action  GD  AD/DC  Action  GD  GD  Action  GD  GD |
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