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

**Minutes of the 9th Policy, Registration and Regulation Committee**

**Monday 1 October 2018, Albany House, Great Victoria Street, Belfast**

**Present:** Chair: Gordon White, Áine Andrews, Paul O’Doherty, Joanne Burns,

Martin Hagan, Carmel McCartan, Brendan Morgan, Mary-Lou Winchborne

**Apologies**: Malachy Crudden, Maria Mullally, Catriona Mullan, Cliodhna Scott-Wills

**In Attendance:** Sam Gallaher (CEO), Gerry Devlin (SEO), Lesley Dickson (PA)

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| 1. **Welcome, Introduction and Apologies**   The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.  Apologies were noted.     1. **Declarations of Interest**   There were no declarations of interest.   1. **Minutes (PRRC/Min/18/08)**   These were adopted as a true and correct record.  **Proposed by MLW and seconded by CMcC**.   1. **Matters Arising**   At Item 4 the CEO advised that a paper had been produced by the Registration Manager on fees for non-UK applicants and that this paper will be reviewed at SMT. The CEO said that the paper can be built upon and will feed into the Corporate and Business Plans and will be brought back to the Committee.  At Item 5 the SEO confirmed that a response had been sent to the EA.   1. **Regulation Update (PRRC/18/09/01)**   The SEO advised members that discussions had been held over the summer to try to resolve the legal difficulty impacting on the delivery of the regulatory function.  A further meeting will be held on w/c 1 October between the CEO and the DE Deputy Permanent Secretary and formal correspondence with assurances to address the concerns raised by Council is expected imminently.  The SEO outlined the current status of regulatory cases and the need for further legal advice on a numbers of issues.  MLW said she had expressed grave concerns at the 4 June meeting about the delay in regulation and reiterated the urgent need for these matters to be resolved in the near future. She emphasised that regulation is a statutory function of the Council and that we have significant public interest responsibilities in this area.  The SEO said that officers have the same concerns and are trying to get a resolution from DE and DSO and that the matter has been raised at Permanent Secretary level. Officers have emphasised the urgency of finding a resolution to the matters in discussions with DE and DSO.  BM advised that he is very concerned about delays in regulation and emphasised the welfare implications for any teacher subject to these delays.  The Chair noted that the PSNI and Social Services could be involved in some of these matters and the CEO acknowledged the likely stress for any teacher subject to an investigation or a regulatory process.  The CEO informed members that he had met with DSO in early August and had been told that the Department would be writing to the Council. He had also met with the Permanent Secretary and has asked T O’Reilly for an assurance letter. The CEO assured members that the whole area of regulation would be raised at the up-coming GAR meeting  The SEO provided the history of the ‘red files’ for members. They were precautionary files opened by officers before the Council had regulatory powers. The SEO emphasised that legal advice will be sought on whether any of these files fall within the Council’s current jurisdiction. Subject to this legal advice, these files will be closed and disposed of in accordance with the Council’s Record Retention and Disposal Schedule.  BM again emphasised the urgent need for these matters to be resolved given the significant reputational risk to the Council and the associated welfare implications for teachers.  MLW asked if the Permanent Secretary could attend Council to explain actions being taken to address these matters.  MLW said that she felt very strongly about this matter and would like it to be added to the Council Agenda.  POD said that the grave concerns expressed by member will be raised at the upcoming GAR meeting.   1. **Leadership competences: context and guiding principles (PRRC/18/9/02)**   This paper was presented to members to agree the principles that should underpin the Council’s development of the school leadership competences.  The SEO spoke to this paper advising that the paper includes an overview of the current school leadership training arrangements in Northern Ireland. He highlighted eight proposed principles advising that the competences should reflect the values and ethics associated with the teaching profession and should underpin school leadership in Northern Ireland and that the new leadership competences should align with the NI Teacher Competences in ‘*Teaching: The Reflective Practice’*.  He also said that they should emphasise the pre-eminent role of school leaders as ‘learning leaders’, should be developmental and progressive and framed within a constructivist view of teaching and learning. They should seek to promote leadership development and encourage school leadership as a career aspiration and promote leadership agency and professional capital.  The SEO highlighted various leadership models and drew members’ attention to the EWC and Scottish standards.  He asked for agreement on the 8 principles to give the Advisory Group some guidance.  Members put forward their suggestions and MH commended the SEO on an excellent paper.  The Chair asked members if they were happy to endorse the 8 principles.  MH asked for rephrasing at points 3 and 7 to mention distributed leadership.  CMcC suggested that the Council should provide a clear definition of teacher/ leadership competence  The SEO said that he would seek members’ advice and develop a definition of competence for consideration at Council.   1. **GTCNI Digest of the Teacher Competences (PRRC/18/09/03)**   The SEO spoke to this paper and asked members to approve the proposed GTCNI Digest of the Teacher Competences. He advised members that it was a ready reckoner which he hoped to publish as an eBook on the Council’s website.  BM commended this publication.  MH asked if it would be available in hard copy and the CEO advised it could be downloaded.   1. **Proposals for the membership of the accreditation sub-committee (PRRC/18/09/04)**   The SEO took members through this paper and members were asked to consider and approve the criteria for membership of the Accreditation Sub-committee.  Members were informed that during July and August, the Chair of Council and officers met with the HEIs to brief them on the planned accreditation process. One of the most significant aspects of the accreditation process is the establishment of an Accreditation Subcommittee. The role of this committee is to scrutinize the accreditation portfolios submitted by the HEIs and to meet with representatives of the HEIs to discuss any issues/concerns that have been identified for clarification and/or elaboration. The Accreditation Portfolios are expected to provide documentary evidence to meet the stipulations set down in the Council’s guidance document: ‘The Accreditation of Initial Teacher Education Programmes in Northern Ireland’.  The SEO informed members that during the academic year 2018/19, the PGCE programmes offered by the local HEIs will be reviewed and accredited process. There are 5 programmes two of which are general i.e. those offered by QUB and UU and two of which are specialist, the Stranmillis Early Years’ PGCE and St Mary’s Irish Medium PGCE.  He added that the Council’s accreditation process must also have integrity and credibility in the eyes of the HEIs and all other stakeholders.  The SEO outlined the criteria for selecting members of the Accreditation Subcommittee.  Members were asked to approve the above criteria to establish the Council’s Accreditation Subcommittee. Officers will then liaise with the relevant members of Council who meet the criteria to ascertain their availability.  POD asked if the wording could be amended to make the requirements clearer. The SEO undertook to do this.  MH suggested that it would be helpful if members of the Accreditation Subcommittee had experience in working with student teachers and that they need to be should be familiar with the teacher competences.  The SEO said he would write to the HEIs once the membership of the accreditation Subcommittee had been agreed.  POD asked GW if he would consider Chairing the Subcommittee and the SEO informed members that the Chair of the Policy Committee had Chaired this previously.  Members discussed this issue and MLW recommended that GW should be the Chair of the Accreditation Subcommittee.  **9. 2018 Digest of Statistics (PRRC/18/09/05)**  Members were directed to the copy of the final GTCNI Digest of Statistic 2018 for publication which was attached for their information.  The SEO thanked those involved in completing the work on the Digest and advised that this paper is to provide members with a statistical overview of the teaching profession in NI as of 31 March 2018.  He said that at the end of each registration year (31March), the Council takes a data snapshot of the demographic profile of the teaching profession in Northern Ireland.  This data is used to compile an annual publication which is accessible via our website and distributed to key stakeholders. GTCNI is the only organization with access to such comprehensive data on teachers in Northern Ireland and our current format allows the year on year comparison of teacher data. Consequently, the information supplied within is of interest to partner bodies for example, DE, employers and the teaching unions.  The SEO gave members details of the statistics which had been captured in the snapshot.  Members discussed the statistics.  **10. Registration Team Activity Report (PRRC/18/09/06)**  The SEO spoke to this paper highlighting that it provides members with a breakdown of the key Registration Team Activity for the period January to September 2018. He acknowledged the work of the Registration Manager and Senior Registration Officers in the preparation of the report.  Members were advised of the figures of graduates admitted to the register, the details of student presentations which had taken place and how the register of teachers is maintained, giving details of fee collection process and the different methods of payment available.  The work of the Registration Team on school lists was highlighted and this work enabled them to maintain the Register of Teachers, run annual Graduate Employment Analysis and forms the back bone of the Digest of Statistics data.  Members were updated on the progress of the Registration Database procurement and the digest and statistical analysis.  Members were asked to note the activity undertaken throughout the reporting period January to September 2018.  **11. Business Plan Update (PRRC/18/09/07)**  The CEO took members through this paper which was provided to members to give them an update at Quarter 2 of progress on the 2018-19 Business Plan. He informed them that a summary would go to the Department.  Members discussed the Brexit issue and how qualifications would be affected.  The CEO advised that a Four Nations meeting on Brexit would be held in November and the SEO said that he had been involved in a telephone conference on Brexit.  POD emphasised the importance of the Registration Database and the CEO updated members on the present position, advising that the specification needs to be finalised.  **12. Pramerica Spirit of Community Awards 2018/19**  **(Tabled for information)**  The SEO informed members that this documentation had been sent out by Pramerica to all post-primary schools in Ireland.  **13. Any other Business**  None.  **14. Date of Next Meeting**  14 November 2018    Signed………………………….. Dated ……………………………. | Action  CEO  Action  CEO  CEO  Action  SEO  SEO  Action  SEO  SEO  Action |
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