**SIR GEORGE MONOUX COLLEGE**

**Minutes of the Corporation Meeting held on 12 October 2021**

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| **Present** | Alan Wells (Chair of the Corporation), Alastair Owens (Senior Vice-Chair of the Corporation and Chair of the Quality & Performance Committee), Riddhi Bhalla (Vice-Chair of the Corporation and Chair of the Audit Committee), Jonathan Bush (Vice-Chair of the Corporation and Chair of the Resources Committee), Kwame Atta, Adenike Betiku, Talia Chirouf, Tom Foakes (Chair of the Governance and Nominations Committee), Nehendra Jonas (Student Member), Stephen Jones, Farhana Juhera (Support Staff Member), Jagdev Kenth, Maurine Lewin, Stewart Maclean (Chair of the External Relations Committee), Nazia Shah (Teaching Staff Member), David Vasse (Principal), Sara Whittaker. |
| **In Attendance** | Holly Bembridge (Vice-Principal: Curriculum and Quality), James Gould (Vice-Principal: Student Services and Recruitment), Robert Smith (Clerk to the Corporation). |

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| **1** | **Apologies for Absence and Quoracy**  The meeting was quorate. |
| **2** | **Declarations of Interest**  None. |
| **3** | **Draft Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Ordinary Business): 6 July 2021**  It was noted that the draft minutes had been approved for circulation by the Chair of the Corporation.  They were approved as a correct record of the business transacted and *prima facie* evidence of the proceedings to which they relate. |
| **4** | **Matters Arising from the Draft Minutes (Ordinary Business): 6 July 2021**  None. |
| **5** | **Appointment of Parent Member of the Corporation**  The following resolution was approved:  THAT, *on the advice of the Governance and Nominations Committee and subject to the appointee obtaining an enhanced DBS clearance showing no matters of concern, Usha Puri-Dewage be appointed as the parent member of the Corporation from 12 October 2021 to 31 July 2023, or to such earlier date as her child may cease to be a student of the College.*  It was agreed that, because DBS clearance had not been obtained at the date of the appointment, the Vice-Principal: Student Services and Recruitment will carry out a risk assessment in its regard. No difficulties are anticipated in respect of it. |
| **6** | The business was not taken. |
| **7** | **Admissions 2021**  A report prepared by the Principal was received and considered.  It was noted that:  *enrolments for the current academic year are significantly lower than the target figure of 1,820;*  *the College had been broadly on track with enrolments from the known pool of students (i.e. those progressing from Year 1, enrolments by students holding offers, and students who attended local schools), but that a significant and unexpected drop had occurred in the number of “walk in” enrolments in September;* and  *the financial forecast for 2022-23 will have to be adjusted to accommodate the impact of c.140 fewer learners than forecast.*  In response to a question from Stephen Jones, it was noted that the reduction in numbers from those enrolling to those actually taking up a place at the College reflects the practice among some students of completing multiple enrolments with a range of providers before making a final choice.  It was proposed, in response to a question from Jonathan Bush, that owing to the effects of “grade inflation”, a higher number of students had met the criteria permitting them to remain at their schools, though they might not complete the two-year programme thereby entailed. It was commented that many London colleges had experienced a reduction in the numbers of students enrolling at levels 1 and 2.  It having been noted that the business and health & social care pathways had been hardest hit in terms of student recruitment, it was proposed that these options, being of a more generic nature, are more attractive to “walk-in” students who, because of the consequences of “grade inflation” noted above, were present in smaller numbers within the cohort.  It was agreed that the detailed analysis underlying the enrolment outcome, the factors which may have contributed to it and the experience of other comparable providers, will be examined by the External Relations Committee on 9 November 2021, and the financial implications by the Resources Committee on 30 November, both of whom will report to the Corporation meeting on 14 December. |
| **8** | **Principal’s Report**  There was nothing to report except as provided elsewhere on the agenda. |
| **9** | **Report of the Quality and Performance Committee: Meeting held on 21 September 2021**  The draft minutes of the above meeting, approved by the Committee Chair for circulation, were received and noted.  The Committee Chair reported an overall positive outcome for students in the 2020-21 year. Though there had been across-the-board “grade inflation”, the College is not out of line with appropriate comparators, and internal measures show evidence of sustained improvement. The performance of disadvantaged students is especially gratifying.  Substantial progress had been noted with regard to the College Improvement Plan (in its final iteration prior to the anticipated Ofsted inspection visit). Timing issues resulting from the effects of the public health emergency had prevented sufficient evidence being adduced for some of the Plan’s dimensions, but none are giving cause for concern at this time.  It was agreed that, in common with all other providers, the College is anticipating lower student outcomes in 2022 as a function of the DfE’s “two-year glide path” by which it intends, by 2023, to return grade criteria to their 2019 levels.  It was noted that internal graduation continues to show a consistent rise (87% in 2022, by comparison with 77% at the time of the January 2018 Ofsted inspection). |
| **10** | **Report of the Governance and Nominations Committee: Meeting held on 7 September 2021**  The draft minutes of the above meeting, approved by the Committee Chair for circulation, were received and noted.  It was reported that a new Role Description and Person Specification for members of the Corporation had been agreed, and that a skills audit of existing members is in progress.  Induction procedures are also being updated.  It was proposed that the College might explore the development of a portal for information likely to be of interest to members of the Corporation, to include training and development opportunities.  It was noted that facilities are now in place for members to visit the College. They were asked by the Principal to provide his PA (Tracy Straker) with details of their availability.  The Self-Assessment of Governance Report approved by the Committee was also received and noted. |
| **11** | **Safeguarding Policy 2021**  It was reported that the above College policy had been approved (with no votes against) by circulated written resolution of the members. |
| **12** | **Dates and Times of Corporation Meetings 2021-22**  The following approved dates and times were noted:  ***Tuesday 14 December 2021 (6.30pm)***  ***Tuesday 18 January 2022 (6.30pm)***  ***Tuesday 5 April 2022 (6.30pm)***  ***Tuesday 10 May 2022 (6.30pm)***  ***Tuesday 5 July 2022 (6.30pm)***  In accordance with the decision of the Corporation at the meeting held on 11 May 2021, Corporation meetings will be held virtually, subject to the outcome of a review at the 10 May 2022 meeting.  It is also noted that a development session is being held in person at the College on **Saturday 13 November** (from 9.30am to 1.00pm). |
| **13** | **Any Other Competent Business**  Members noted that Nehendra Jonas and Anisa Khadija will complete their term of appointment as student members of the Corporation on 30 November 2021. They were warmly thanked for their services. |

**Action Arising from the Meeting**

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| ***Minute*** | ***Person(s) Responsible*** | ***Action*** |
| **5** | Vice-Principal: Student Services and Recruitment | Carry out a risk assessment with regard to the parent governor appointment pending DBS clearance. |