

In confidence

BCB(19)1st meeting

Tuesday 12 February 2019

MINUTES

Present

Christopher Rodrigues Chair
Mark Beddy
Deborah Bronnert
James Cronin
Yasmin Diamond
Rohan Gunatillake
Kevin Havelock
Kirsty Lang
Rachel Lomax
Willy Roe
Tom Thomson
David Verey

In attendance

Ciarán Devane, Chief Executive
Adrian Greer, Chief Operating Officer
Richard Thomas, Chief Financial Officer
Kate Ewart-Biggs, Director Network
Kate Arthurs, Director Arts (items 1 to 8)
Andrew Horton, Director Digital, Partnerships and Innovation (items 1 to 8)
Mark Robson, Director English and Examinations (items 1 to 8)
Catherine Ward, Global People Director (items 1 to 8)

Rebecca Walton, Regional Director European Union (items 1 to 8)
Christopher Wade, Senior Policy Adviser (item)
John Yates, Head Strategy, Performance and Insight (items 1 to 8)
Mark Walker, Regional Director East Asia (items 1 to 8)
Maddalaine Ansell, Director Education (items 1 to 8)
Andy Williams, Regional Director Wider Europe (items 1 to 8)
Vicky Olby, Head of Planning and Reporting, Finance (items 1 to 8)
Dan Shah, Director Research (item 6)
David Smith, Head of Corporate Reporting (item 6)
Christopher Wade, Senior Policy Adviser (items 6 and 7)
Paul Fairclough, Head Corporate Planning (items 7 and 8)

Alison Coutts, Secretary

1. Apologies for absence & declarations of interest

Janet Beer had sent apologies for her absence. There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of the Board meeting of 11th December and matters arising

All matters arising from the meetings had been actioned or were scheduled for future meetings. The minutes were approved.

3. CEO report

The CEO referred to the Education World Forum which had taken place a couple of weeks previously. He noted that 110 education ministers had attended and the British Council had helped orchestrate approximately 50 bilateral meetings for delegations with UK counterparts. He also gave an updated on the Spending Review for which the timing is not yet certain but likely to start in the spring.

4. Organisational performance (financial)

The CFO shared the headlines on the financial results at the end of quarter 3. The Board noted the improved performance in commercial surpluses and that the organisation is currently on track to meet full year targets.

5. Review of organisational performance and plans

Having looked at the high-level planning framework for 2019/20 at the November Board, in this meeting Trustees reviewed the more detailed plans through the lens of specific regions and programmes to bring them to life. They agreed they were going in the right direction with some really interesting ideas and work planned. They asked for a bit more focus overall and to keep clearly in mind what we are not going to do as well as what we are going to do, in order to maximise impact and not be spread too thinly.

They also noted the assumptions behind the draft budget which will be tested before the final budget comes back for approval in March. They asked to see a revised list of investments and also those deprioritised for the moment due to funding available.

6. Strategic direction update

The Board reviewed progress on four of the strategic themes which they'd previously agreed were an important focus looking ahead to 2025. They were satisfied that it is going in the right direction. They also had initial sight of the draft overall strategic framework which will give clarity to the narrative on mission, strategic objectives, priority outcomes etc., so it is clear how they all fit together. This will come back to the Board in July.

7. Review draft Corporate Plan

The Trustees noted that they were content with the draft and looked forward to receiving the final version.

8. Annual Report approach

The Trustees endorsed the approach proposed to the 2018-19 annual report.

9. Echo 2 contract

The Board gave their approval to sign the new ECHO2 Connectivity Framework.

10. Chair's business

The Trustees approved the following:

- That Rachel join the Athena Committee

- the two recommended candidates for Trustee positions whose CVs had been circulated by email.

The Chair noted the Nominations Committee would review the Trustee succession plan again soon, and that the plan for the next recruitment exercise would be for a trustee with an education background with some safeguarding experience. He also noted that Rohan Gunatillake had kindly agreed to be the Board's lead on safeguarding for the next few months.

11. Any other business

There was no other business and the meeting ended at 13.00.

Summary of action points arising

Updated from previous meetings

17(07)7	Updated IELTS partnership to come to Board for approval	2019
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Current meeting

19(01)12	Share an updated list of investments, including those deprioritised until funding available	Mar 2019
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