

## Board of Management

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Wednesday 2 October 2024</b>
<b>Paper No.</b>	<b>BoM1-I</b>
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>7.2</b>
<b>Subject of Paper</b>	<b>Chair's Report</b>
<b>FOISA Status</b>	<b>Disclosable</b>
<b>Primary Contact</b>	<b>Dave Anderson Chair of the Board of Management</b>
<b>Date of production</b>	<b>24 September 2024</b>
<b>Action</b>	<b>For Discussion</b>

### **1. Recommendations**

- 1.1.** To discuss the Chair's quarterly report to the Board of Management.

## **2. Purpose**

- 2.1.** To update the Board of Management on the Chair's activities since the last meeting of the Board.

## **3. Consultation**

- 3.1.** In progressing the matters outlined in the Chair's report, colleagues in the College and across the sector have been engaged.

## **4. Key Insights**

- 4.1.** The Chair is responsible for the leadership of the Board of Management as the College's governing body. The Chair works in partnership with the Board and the Principal to set the strategic direction of the College, monitor performance and ensure high-quality learning and outcomes are delivered for students. The Chair also has an ambassadorial role for the Board within the College, and also for the College with external stakeholders.

## **5. Impact and Implications**

- 5.1.** The Chair's report ensures that Board members remain informed of the Chair's recent activities and other key developments and activities of interest to members.

### **Appendices:**

**Appendix 1:** Chair's Report

## Chair's Report to the Board of Management: September 2024

1. Following the formal confirmation of my appointment to the role of Chair on 2nd August I have been active through several meetings and briefings of relevance to the College. I also drafted a note to all College staff introducing myself as Chair and welcoming the opportunity and privilege to work with them over the next few years to help the College build on its excellent reputation.
2. I held separate meetings with representatives of EIS-FELA and Unison to introduce myself to the College's TU representatives and, in the case of the EIS-FELA, to listen to issues of concern that they had raised. I explained that the role of Chair concerns the governance and future strategic direction of the College, and that the day-to-day operational management of the College rests with the Principal and his Executive Leadership Team but said that I would always be willing to listen should they have particular concerns about the College's relationships with its employees.
3. On the issue of lecturer pay negotiations which have been unresolved for a protracted period I very much welcome that, following Ministerial assurances of £4.5m in additional funding from 2025/26, college employers were able to table improved pay proposals to the EIS-FELA. Full details on the agreement can be found [here](#). It is good news for college staff and students that this long-standing dispute has been resolved.
4. I attended a meeting with our newly appointed non-executive and student Board members, and co-opted committee members, as part of their induction process. It is excellent news that we can refresh our Board of Management with new talent and that their appointment will ensure improved gender balance on the Board and a more representative age profile. I look forward to working with them and encouraging their ideas and contributions to Board discussions.
5. I have had two meetings with Janie McCusker, Chair of the Glasgow Colleges Regional Board during which we discussed the relationship in governance between GCRB, the Scottish Funding Council and the College. We also discussed the current Ministerial instigated review of Regional Boards. The meetings were cordial and constructive.
6. I also met Waiyin Hatton, Chair of Colleges Scotland. We had a positive exchange about the opportunity for collaboration across Scotland's Colleges and how we can work together to raise the profile of the sector and its contribution to Scotland's economy and to improve the life chances of the communities we serve. I am confident that City of Glasgow College will continue to play a leading role in shaping the future of Scotland's Colleges as we address the challenges and opportunities presented by economic, social, cultural and demographic change.
7. I have had several meetings with the Chairs of Clyde and Kelvin Colleges to formulate a combined response from Chairs to the Ministerial review of GCRB. In addition to the response being sent by each College Board it is seen as important that the Chairs are at one regarding future governance arrangements.
8. The draft response produced by the Chairs echoes and complements the individual College responses in concluding that GCRB has served its original purpose but is an extra layer of governance that should no longer be required. We have proposed that it should be replaced by a Glasgow Leadership Group composed of the Chairs and Principals of City of Glasgow, Clyde and Kelvin Colleges supported by a wider stakeholder group representative of the views of business, trade unions, civic society, third-sector organisations. In addition, the three Glasgow Chairs met their Lanarkshire counterparts to compare proposed responses to the review consultation exercise.

9. There was strong and consistent agreement on the key issues and a view that Regional Boards had served their purpose and the time was right to remove this layer of governance. Given the integral links between the economies of Glasgow and Lanarkshire we agreed the need to find a mechanism periodically to bring together local labour market intelligence and economic data across the west of Scotland so as to inform the development of College Curricula. It was suggested this might take the form of an annual conference.
10. On 9th September I attended a Colleges Scotland Event in Stirling on the topic of the college sector's contribution to the Scottish Government's Fair Access agenda. The sector makes an important contribution to the recruitment and progression of students from the most deprived postcodes typically achieving participation rates of 40% of students from the 20% most deprived postcodes compared with an average of 16% in the University sector. The event aimed to identify good practice and consider opportunities for further improvement on matters of recruitment, progression and articulation routes ensuring that students are supported throughout their learning experience and at key transition points.
11. I have had several helpful meetings with the Principal and the Associate Director of Governance as part of my induction to the role of Chair. I have also had a one-to-one briefing with Deborah Fagan, Associate Director of Procurement, about the College's procurement rules and processes, given my responsibilities for approving certain higher value procurement decisions. I plan to meet the Senior Management Team before the Board meeting on 2nd October, as well as attend an All Managers meeting and visit Riverside campus in October.