



## **GOVERNORS BRIEFING: SPRING TERM 2010**

The Corporation Board met on the 24 March 2010 on the Neath campus.

The Corporation of Neath Port Talbot College, the governing body, is currently required to have nineteen members or Governors. Due to two retirements at the end of the last year we had a couple of vacancies within the Board. Under direction from the Board a number of advertising opportunities were taken to gather applications from suitably qualified and experienced people.

The Appointment Procedure was then followed which resulted in two people being recommended to the Board by the Search & Governance Committee. They are Mrs P Vine and Mr S Walters who have a wealth of experience to bring to their roles as Governors. In addition, the Search & Governance Committee recommended that Mr J Hehir, a Governor for the past four years who had expressed his interest in standing for a second four year term, be approved by the Corporation Board. Therefore, the first business of the meeting was to agree and appoint the new members and reappoint Mr Hehir.

The Governors then dealt with the business of approving the Minutes of the previous Board meeting then inviting the individual Committee Chairs to present their Committee Minutes.

The first new business of the agenda was Learner Issues which included a full and frank report back from the "You've Got The Power" event which was held at both Afan and Neath campuses during the week commencing 4 December 2009 as part of the College's commitment to collecting and responding to the views of learners and promoting Learner Voice. Unfortunately, K Tustin our Student Governor was unable to attend the meeting and so Debra Bennett, Learner Services Manager, presented the report and asked Governors for their comments and questions.

A great deal of concern was expressed by Governors at the seemingly repetitive instances of teaching and lecturing staff not turning up for tutorials and lessons. The Governors were assured that areas where concern has been raised have been identified; the extent of issues highlighted is being investigated; and action being taken as required.

Nevertheless, the Governors wished to record their unease that one individual member of staff is able to spoil the reputation of a whole study area and the importance of all staff, teaching and functional, recognising that it is the learner that pays the staff salaries.

The Management Accounts to 31 January 2010 was the next item on the agenda and K Holley, Vice Principal: Finance & Information Systems, presented the report to the Governors. Overall, the accounts remain very close to budget with the main differences between budget and actual figures being accounted for by timing and should resolve themselves over the forthcoming months. Areas being closely monitored due to significantly over budget figures include Part Time Lecturing Costs, Exam Fees and Registration Fees. The Board was happy to approve the Management Accounts.

K Holley, Vice Principal: Finance & Information Systems, also presented the next item on the agenda, Fees Policy 2010-2011. Two main changes were to be seen in the Fees Policy this year with the one being the inclusion of a new section dealing with international students. The other amendment was to increase the fee payable for bus passes for full time learners under 19 years and living outside of a three mile radius of the College. Though the fee payable is increasing from last year it remains considerably lower than that charged by either Swansea or Gorseinon Colleges and equates to Neath Port Talbot College giving a seventy five per cent (75%) subsidy on the cost of bus passes.

The Governors approved the new Fees Policy 2010-2011 with the proviso that the impact of the increased bus pass fee is monitored.

The Vice Principal: Finance & Information, K Holley, was busy on the agenda tonight as she was responsible for presenting the final report in the public session which was a newly drafted policy on the Release of Part II Confidential [Business] Minutes. This policy had been drawn up following a recommendation from our internal auditors that the governing body develop a system for identifying, evaluating and where relevant releasing the content of previously unpublished Minutes. The Governors had a number of questions amongst which was requiring absolute confirmation that Part II Confidential [Staff] matters would not be considered under this policy.

Once satisfied with the responses, the Corporation approved the Policy for implementation.

The meeting then went into closed session to consider the Part II - Confidential Agenda items that discuss both Business and Staff matters.