**(PRRC/Min/18/10)**

**Minutes of the 10th Policy, Registration and Regulation Committee**

**Wednesday 14 November 2018, Albany House, Great Victoria Street, Belfast**

**Present:** Brendan Morgan (BM) (Chair), Mary-Lou Winchborne (MLW), Carmel McCartan (CMcC), Áine Andrews (AA), Maria Mullally (MM), Cliodhna Scott-Wills (CSW), Paul O’Doherty (POD), Joanne Burns (JB).

**Apologies**: Gordon White, Malachy Crudden, Catriona Mullan, Martin Hagan

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

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| 1. **Welcome, Introduction and Apologies**   BM took the Chair in the absence of Gordon White and welcomed members to the meeting.  Apologies were noted.     1. **Declarations of Interest**   There were no declarations of interest.   1. **Minutes (PRRC/Min/18/09)**   These were adopted as a true and correct record.  **Proposed by CMcC and seconded by JB**.   1. **Matters Arising**   Item 4. The CEO briefed members on the assessment of qualifications fee issue for non-UK applicants applying for registration. He advised that this had been discussed at SMT and work was ongoing to determine the true cost of processing such applications and if a change in fee is warranted. A paper on this matter will follow for the next meeting.   1. **Regulation Update**   The CEO advised that Council was still awaiting a letter from DE. He had met with Alison Chambers (DE) and discussed the matter and Council’s concern. DE is intending to issue a letter to GTCNI within two weeks and had stated that the delay was down to delays in receiving legal advice.  In addition the CEO stated that a meeting had taken place with a senior partner in DSO to discuss aspects of the service received to date by GTCNI under the SLA and GTCNI legal requirements to support regulation moving forward. DSO stated that they should be in a position to provide all the necessary legal services/expertise to support regulation moving forwards. They recognised that the service provided to date fell short of what is expected and offered assurance that things would improve. It was agreed that a consultation meeting to consider more fully future requirements in respect of regulation would take place once agreement on progressing to full regulation was reached between the Council and DE.  MM enquired if the delay could be due to the fact that there is no Minister to approve any change. CEO said this was unlikely and that he was led to believe the delay was due to changes in the legal adviser to DE and DSO’s commitments in respect of the RHI inquiry.  Members were also informed that, as agreed at the last Council meeting, a letter from the Chair to the Permanent Secretary DE, expressing Council’s concerns at the ongoing delay over regulation and the seriousness of the situation, had been drafted and would be issued within the week.  Members expressed complete dissatisfaction with the continuing situation and their frustration that no letter had, as yet, been received from the Department. The Chair asked for urgency in sending the letter to the Permanent Secretary and would wish to record the fact that as yet a letter had not been sent.  MLW added that the Committee’s concerns were not being addressed and that the letter was important to demonstrate the seriousness of the matter. It was also important to collate evidence to show that the Committee was acting with due diligence in this matter along with Council in holding DE to account. The Chair concurred, requesting that a paper summarising GTCNI activity over the past year in trying to address regulation be considered for the next meeting.  The CEO advised that (as reported at the last Council meeting) the serious of the present situation and the associated risks had been pressed upon the Permanent Secretary at the GAR meeting in October. The Permanent Secretary had agreed to raise the current legislative weakness and the need for alignment with the rest of UK, with the Secretary of State as a matter of priority.  The Chair enquired if there would be a conflict of interest if both the Council and DE used the DSO solicitors. The CEO advised that it was not the same individuals within the DSO and that DSO had given assurance that arrangements are in place to avoid such conflicts or perceptions of such.   1. **Proposed working definition of professional competence (PRRC/18/10/01)**   The SEO took Committee through this paper and members were asked to consider the proposed working definition of competence. He reminded PRRC that it had agreed 8 principles to guide the work of the Leadership Competence Advisory Group. The PRRC was asked to discuss and approve the working definition of competence tabled.  CMcC asked for the definition to be as generic as possible and encompass all competence development including the current 27 competences and future development. Following discussion it was agreed that a redraft the definition would be ciruclated to members.   1. **Professional values and ethics in the context of teaching**   **and leadership (PRRC/18/10/02)**  Members were asked to consider a paper on professional values and ethics in the context of teaching and leadership. The SEO intended to circulate this paper to the Competence Advisory Group for discussion.He advised that the aim of the paper is to stimulate discussion on professional values and ethics, not only as a foundational basis for leadership competence, but for the profession in Northern Ireland as a whole.  PO’D reminded members that the Council’s ‘Code of Values and Porfessional Practice’ applies to school leaders as well and classroom teachers.  Members were content with the paper.     1. **Royal Academy and British Academy Report:**   **‘Harnessing educational research’ (PRRC/18/10/03)**  Members were presented with the R.S., B.A. Report for information and asked to consider the implications of this report. PRRC were asked to consider a number of recommendations notably 1, 5, 6, and 7.  Members discussed this paper, with the Chair enquiring if DE or Government was giving consideration to creating a research hub/repository for access by the profession. CMcC highlighting the need for “quality” time to enable teachers to review research to be provided for in school timetabling.  **9. Election Update** **(PRRC/18/10/04)**  Members reviewed a paper setting out the proposed timeline for the election process for a new council in 2019. The SEO stated that this workstream had now been formally approved by SMT and a business case for the procurement of election support had been submitted to DE for approval. At present this workstream was being managed by N Cohen.  The SEO advised that once the independent electoral agency was appointed (to oversee and take forward the election), he will confirm the proposed timeline with them.  The Chair emphasised the importance of ensuring all sections of the profession are represented and of securing enough candidates to ensure a successful election process. He would encourage early engagement with the teaching unions to harness their support with communication. The SEO stated that a communications plan was an important component of this work-stream and a draft plan will be discussed/reviewed at the next meeting.  PRRC will be updated on progress at each future meeting.   1. **Leadership Competences Advisory Group**   **Membership Update (PRRC/18/10/05)**  An updated list of members was provided to the Committee for information.  **11. Any other Business**  Members reviewed the Committee’s Terms of Reference. With one correction to a name, the Committee agreed the Terms of Reference.  **12. Date of Next Meeting**  26 February 2019    Signed………………………….. Dated ……………………………. | Action  CEO  CEO/DC  Action  CEO/MM/SEO  CEO  CEO/DC  SEO  SEO  SEO  SEO |
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