

Agenda Item Reference: BM.20.03.12(iii)

Title of Paper:	Board and Committee Evaluation Report 2019-20			
To Committee:	Board of Management			
Subject:	Annual Board Self-Evaluation			
Version number and date:	V1 - 26 August 2020			
Brief summary of the paper:	<p>In accordance with Code of Good Governance for Scotland's Colleges – August 2016 the Board has to undertake an annual review of the Functionality of the Board and its Committees which includes an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Chair of each Committee and the Clerk to the Board.</p> <p>The full analyses was circulated to the Board on 23 June 2020 including an overview of the statistics and all additional statements.</p> <p>A one page summary follows highlighting some of the most significant points emerging from this analysis.</p>			
Recommendations:	To note any areas for improvement.			
Action requested/decision required:	Discussion and Noting.			
Status: (please tick ✓)	Reserved:		Non-reserved:	✓
Date paper prepared:	26 August 2020			
Date of committee meeting:	1 September 2020			
Author:	Cathie Fair			
Link with strategy: Please highlight how the paper links to, or assists with: Strategic Plan including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum • Learning and Teaching • Organisational culture • Partnership • Sustainability 	Assists in determining whether Board is meeting its objectiveness in all areas of the Strategic Plan.			

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Equality and diversity implications:	All Board members and members of the SLT have the opportunity to comment on the Board's Effectiveness.
Resource implications: <i>(If yes, please provide detail)</i>	
Risk implications: <i>(If yes, please provide detail)</i>	Risk of non-compliance with the Code of Good Governance.
Appendices:	
References:	

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Conclusions

This was the first occasion when the Board evaluation took place using an online survey. This had the advantage of eliminating a considerable amount of manual work in conducting an analysis of the responses and allowing all comments to be truly anonymous. However, it meant that the return rate was considerably lower than in previous years.

In relation to section one of the Questionnaire for all Committees, by far the majority of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed that members have a sound understanding of terms of reference and have a sufficient level of knowledge and understanding of their role. However, there was one respondent from Audit Committee that disagreed. Whilst the majority strongly agreed or agreed that individual members contribute well to the work of the Committee, one respondent from Audit Committee disagreed with this statement and 2 disagreed from the Board.

This was the first evaluation of the Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee since it became a Board Committee and there was a very low level of dissatisfaction evident throughout sections 1 and 2. Comments about the size of the Committee, reluctance of members to challenge, discussion not robust enough and the fact that the Chair is a member of the executive were all comments that were made. This has since been addressed however.

Apart from LTQC, responses from all other Committees were very positive and favourable in relation to the effectiveness of the Chairs of all Committees indicating a high level of confidence and trust.

The questions on resources including the Clerk, Minute Secretary providing effective support, and on receiving quality support and reports from the executive returned very favourable results in all areas.

Strategic planning was an area which returned favourable results with the majority either strongly agreeing or agreeing that the Board has a strategic vision, has developed a shared vision, values, aims and plans for continuous improvement and has identified key indicators for tracking progress. There was only one respondent who disagreed with this statement. Accompanying comments were mainly very constructive although there were a few areas highlighted which may merit further consideration.

The statement over how well the Board engages with staff, students and stakeholders returned results of mainly strongly agree or agree although there was one respondent who disagreed.

Unsurprisingly, under general assessment, there appears to be a view that current matters of focus for the Board should be Covid-19, Finance and Moray Growth Deal.

The overall conclusion would indicate that the Board are confident that the College seems to have responded and recovered well to the considerable uncertainty and disruption caused by Covid-19. Funding and financial recovery and sustainability should remain the focus for the year ahead.