

**BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**MINUTES
18 MARCH 2009**

Minutes of the meeting held from 1030 to 1345 on 18 March 2009 at the BFI, 21 Stephen Street, London W1T 1LN

Present:

Greg Dyke (Chair)
Peter Foy
Matthew Freud
Ashley Highfield
Caroline Michel
David Thompson
Peter Watson

In attendance:

Amanda Nevill, Director
Eddie Berg, Artistic Director BFI Southbank
Gail Cohen, Director of Marketing
Sandra Hebron, Artistic Director Festivals
Trevor Mawby, Interim Director of Finance
Deborah Myers, Deputy Director of Development
Heather Stewart, Artistic Director UK Wide
Francesca Vinti, Director of Development
Paul Crake, Head of Policy & Corporate Affairs
Richard Brousson, Legal Counsel (Secretary)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Shami Chakrabarti CBE
Eric Fellner CBE
Sir Christopher Frayling
Leslie Hardcastle OBE
Sir Howard Newby
Sam Taylor Wood

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 DEPUTY CHAIR

Eric Fellner had agreed to be appointed Deputy Chair.

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 28 JANUARY 2009

The Minutes of the meeting of 28 January 2009 were approved as an accurate record, subject to the correction of a minor typographical error.

5 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

5.1 The report was noted.

5.2 There would be a meeting on 27 March 2009 with a Treasury Panel, when a final timescale for a Government decision on the proposed Film Centre should be agreed.

5.3 The Board requested a paper considering new higher education partnership options.

Action: Heather Stewart

6 JOINT MEETING OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE AND THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

6.1 The minutes of the joint meeting of 24 February 2009 were noted.

6.2 The BFI's performance over the last five years had been extremely good, particularly when taking into account flat grant-in-aid and increasing pension costs, and the Executive was congratulated.

6.3 The Board noted that the attendance record of some Governors had been infrequent, and it was agreed as an aid to attendance that future committee meetings should be limited to a maximum of 90 minutes.

7 BUSINESS PLAN

The Board agreed the recommendation of the joint meeting of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee and the Finance and General Purposes Committee that the draft Business Plan for 2009-10 be approved.

8 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS

The management accounts for February 2009 were noted.

9 FUNDRAISING

The report was noted.

10 DIGITAL BRITAIN

The Board requested that where possible draft submissions should be circulated to Governors. Submissions should be as direct and persuasive as possible, and needed to be part of a coherent communication strategy that reflects the outcomes the BFI wants.

11 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

It was agreed that:

- 1) the Board of Governors wished Sir Christopher Frayling, as an academic expert, to provide a commentary and booklet for a forthcoming BFI DVD (which would also involve a lecture at BFI Southbank) for the standard fee of £1,250 (plus reimbursement of any actual expenses at the standard rates for Governors), doing so being in the best interests of the BFI;
- 2) it would be in the best interests of the BFI that Sir Christopher remain a Governor;
- 3) Paul Crake would apply to the Charity Commission for an Order permitting the BFI to enter into a contract with Sir Christopher;
- 4) noting that Shami Chakrabarti was a Governor of the BFI and Chief Executive of Liberty, the Board of Governors nevertheless wished to organise an event jointly with Liberty to celebrate the 75th anniversary of their work. No payment would be made to Liberty by the BFI, but they would not be charged for the use of NFT 1 and the green room on the day and there might be a reputational benefit to them;
- 5) it would be in the best interests of the BFI that Shami Chakrabarti remain a Governor;
- 6) Paul Crake would apply to the Charity Commission for an Order permitting the BFI to work with Liberty.

The meeting closed at 1305.

Paul Crake
Head of Policy & Corporate Affairs