

BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MINUTES

16 JUNE 2011

Minutes of the meeting held from 1330 to 1650 on 16 June 2011 at BFI, 21 Stephen Street, London W1T 1LN.

Present:

Greg Dyke (Chair)
Peter Foy (for matters recorded under Minutes 1-8)
Sir Christopher Frayling
Ashley Highfield
Tom Hooper OBE
Matthew Justice (for matters recorded under Minutes 6-13)
Beeban Kidron (for matters recorded under Minutes 6-13)
Sir Howard Newby (for matters recorded under Minutes 1-8)
Rt Hon James Purnell
Tessa Ross CBE
Libby Savill
David Thompson
Cy Young

In attendance:

Amanda Nevill, Director
Trevor Mawby, Director of Finance & Resources
Paul Crake, Board Secretary

In attendance for part of the meeting:

Carol Comley, Head of Strategic Development (for matters recorded under Minutes 1-8)
Neil Watson, independent consultant (for matters recorded under Minutes 1-8)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Josh Berger
Shami Chakrabarti CBE

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 These interests were declared: Peter Foy and Amanda Nevill as Trustees, and Paul Crake as Secretary, of BFI Trust; Amanda Nevill as a company director of British Film Institute (Big Screen) Limited in the matters discussed under Minute 10. Also noted were the interests of most Governors in different aspects of the film industry and various related parties.

2.2 It was agreed that the nature of these interests was such that none of the Governors or staff would be required to leave the room during this meeting.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 11 MAY 2011

The minutes of the meeting of 11 May 2011 were approved as an accurate record.

4 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

It was noted that the Appointments Panel had appointed Tim Cagney, currently Managing Director of the UK Film Council, to the post of Deputy Chief Executive, to start on 7 July. It was noted that Tim had waived his right to a redundancy payment from the UKFC and, instead, the BFI would, for the purposes of any future redundancy calculations, treat his term of continuous service as commencing on the date from which he was employed by the UKFC.

5 DCMS REVIEW

5.1 Several liaison meetings had been held with DCMS officials and the Minister, and with the Chair of the Review, Chris Smith; three BFI Governors were members of the Review Panel although they had been appointed in their own right as individuals, not as representatives of the BFI.

5.2 It was noted that the outline timetable for the DCMS Review was the production of a draft report in October 2011, delivery of the final report in November, and an announcement of any changes to Government policy in December.

6 VISION AND MISSION

6.1 The Board discussed the importance of developing the UK film industry, but doing so by producing brilliant films and nurturing talent – commercial objectives would be achieved as an indirect result of such a strategy, and they were also then more likely to be achieved than simply by striving to be “more commercial”. The Board was keen to ensure that film took its rightful place in the cultural landscape, which should also be a lifelong relationship; film should be at the heart of educational life.

6.2 It was agreed that:

- a) the Executive would take on board the comments of the Governors relating to the power of film to enrich lives, the need to ensure a clear and appropriate balance between the cultural and the commercial, and the importance of scholarship; a revised draft would then be discussed and developed with the informal group of Governors (Tessa Ross, Beeban Kidron, James Purnell);
- b) the final revised draft would be reviewed at the Governors Away Day in July.

7 TASK GROUPS

7.1 It was noted that the Task Groups would feed into the July Away Day but would continue to work until the Autumn. The issue of what the BFI could or could not do with Lottery funding needed to be considered by each Task Group (eg, the specific issue of the Archive being digitised).

7.2 It was noted that it had been previously agreed that a number of cross-cutting issues would be considered by all the Task Groups (namely: UK-wide reach, especially outwith the M25; the UK in an international context; digital technologies; competitiveness; and the BFI’s role as a funder rather than always seeking to undertake work ourselves).

8 “BIG IDEAS”

8.1 The paper by Amanda Nevill was noted. These further ideas were generated: BFI Classics was a step-change in publishing about film: what is the next step change? How could we incentivise a Film Club in every secondary school? How could we build bridges between film schools and industry? How can we maximise the returns on film-making (this was felt to be a potentially more productive route than simply focussing on negatives about film piracy)? How can we maximise accessibility to the archive, particularly for younger and potentially more IT-literate generations? Was there potential for the BFI to work in partnership with the BBC (eg, over the future of BBC4) or another broadcaster (eg, UKTV)? These ideas would all be referred to the Task Forces for consideration.

8.2 It was agreed that:

- 1) the “Big Ideas” would be allocated to the Task Forces for consideration;
- 2) a paper on the legal restrictions applying to Lottery funding would be prepared for the Governors;
- 3) a paper summarising the Hargreaves Report would be circulated to all Governors.

9 CHANGES TO THE BANK MANDATE

The paper was noted. It was agreed that bank accounts would continue to be held with Lloyds TSB Bank plc, in the form set out in the paper. The Board Secretary was authorised to make the arrangements for fresh bank mandates to be signed and formally lodged.

10 BFI IMAX

The report was noted. It was agreed that the cinema operation of the BFI Imax would be tendered on the terms set out in the report.

11 PENSION NEGOTIATIONS

A report was noted by Trevor Mawby on the proposals and implications for the BFI pension scheme following the transfer of activities from the UK Film Council.

12 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

12.1 A report on the KPIs to date was noted.

12.2 It was agreed that Amanda Nevill would send a note to the Governors giving more detail on the Digital KPIs.

13 DIRECTOR’S REPORT

13.1 A paper would be presented to the Away Day on the financing of Creative England.

13.2 A request that Governors help identify the final sponsors for the London Film Festival was noted.

13.3 Lottery funding for *Streetdance 2* was noted and a question was raised about the BFI’s policy on funding sequels (particularly in the light of the Board’s earlier discussion about commercial versus cultural priorities). Amanda Nevill would send a note to all Governors to give the background to this funding decision.

14 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board would be an away day on 20-21 July, and it was agreed to hold this at the Syon Park Hotel. The meeting would start with dinner on the 20th, and would continue all day on the 21st.

The meeting closed at 1650.

Paul Crake
Board Secretary