

BOSTON COLLEGE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2021

1. PRESENT

Daran Bland, Ruth Catlett, Claire Foster and Helen Rumbold.

Also in attendance: Janet Hemmant (Clerk to the Corporation), Vicki Locke (Deputy Principal) and Kelly Harris (Assistant Principal: Performance & Quality).

Attendance 100%

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Having been duly nominated and seconded, Daran Bland was appointed as Chair of the committee for 2021-22.

Daran Bland in the Chair

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

Having been duly nominated and seconded, Helen Rumbold was appointed as Vice-Chair of the committee for 2021-22.

4. ACTION LOG

Members reviewed the committee's action log and noted that all actions were complete.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 28 April 2021 were reviewed and approved.

6. A LEVEL AND GCSE RESULTS

Members received a report from the Deputy Principal.

Vicki Locke explained that the results presented a positive picture. She advised that she would be forwarding further information on progression rates to university once these were available.

Daran Bland asked when it was expected that a return to formal examinations would happen. Vicki explained that the college was confident that assessed grades were robust and learners now need to be acclimatised to taking examinations again. Ruth Catlett advised that a level 3 group she teaches have their first exams in January but have no experience of formal examinations. Claire Foster advised that there was still some question about what would happen in 2022. It was suggested that going forward the committee could look at preparations to support learners through these changes. Daran asked what would be the biggest challenge in returning to formal assessment. It was explained that development of examination skills would be needed. Most of the college staff have experience preparing students for examinations with just a small proportion having only known Covid circumstances.

Progression to university was discussed. Daran ask how many students progress to degree level within the college. Vicki explained that it depended upon their career aims. Level 4 vocational progression was particularly appropriate within the college.

Looking at the results, it was asked where the college's priority would lie. The committee was advised that GCSE English was a focus. There have been a number of staff changes but there is a robust team now. Helen Rumbold asked about the reason for a change of syllabus. Vicki explained that the college had moved to a syllabus tailored to the 16+ cohort. The college is putting on twilight remote sessions for November resits using the services of Yipiyap.

7. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2020-21

Members received a report from the Deputy Principal.

Vicki Locke advised the committee that the focus was on the year end outcomes. In looking at these the committee noted that the national averages quoted were now out of date. The issues noted within the report were reviewed and it was identified that higher education was a focus because the impact of Covid had been very significant there. There will be increased survey and focus group work with these learners. How the college has responded to Covid is a key theme for inspection.

Daran Bland asked if the KPIs were right and Vicki advised that KPIs for 2021-22 were currently being mapped out.

8 COMPLIMENTS AND COMPLAINTS

Members received a report from the Quality Improvement Manager which was presented by Kelly Harris.

Kelly advised that there had been 10 complaints and that these showed no real trends or patterns. One complaint had been substantiated. In response to a query from Daran Bland, Kelly explained the policy and procedure for complaints and what counted as a formal complaint. Daran asked if trends would be followed up and it was confirmed that they would. Claire Foster suggested that resolved concerns which had not become formal complaints could be reviewed to see if there was useful information there.

Only receiving 10 complaints, with just one substantiated, in a college with thousands of learners was considered by the committee as a strong endorsement of the College's work.

9. TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Members received a report from the Assistant Principal: Performance and Quality.

Kelly Harris advised the committee that face to face teaching had largely resumed but a blend of delivery had been retained where this had proven to be positive. Classrooms have returned to normal layouts and learners are appreciating the changed experience. Daran Bland asked if any learners were anxious about the return. Kelly advised thought some learners had been quite nervous but they were looking after each other. The majority of learners are very positive about the change. Claire Foster advised that social space was being reviewed to address some concerns. Giving staff ownership over the use of rooms has been important. Ruth Catlett advised that confidence is returning and learners are enjoying being back.

Daran Bland asked about arrangements for learners having to isolate. It was explained that Teams was still being used to access lessons. Ruth gave some examples of ways in which isolating learners could take part in lessons. Daran asked if there was an issue with access. Kelly advised that information on internet access and devices was being collected at enrolment so that appropriate support could be given.

Daran asked about the removal of Best Practise from the Continuous Observation Record. Kelly explained that it was still being identified and could be shared but it was not on this

record. Teaching and Learning coaches work with their link areas to support this sharing. The Teaching and Learning Hub is being relaunched and brings teams together in a relaxed environment to share good practice.

10. RISKS AND REPORTABLE EVENTS

It was noted that there were no reportable events.

The main risks identified by the Deputy Principal for monitoring were:

- Potential disruption resulting from Covid
- Wellbeing and mental health
- University partnerships where it was noted that further development with Derby was currently paused

Claire Foster advised that the college had a commitment in IoT to offer a range of higher education courses. The University of Lincoln is aware that the college cannot currently offer level 6 courses relating to the IoT. A meeting has been set up with Derby to understand their position regarding the pause on development. Daran asked about the number of HE learners and it was confirmed that there were approximately 220 over 50% of which were with Derby.

A question was raised about overseas learners. Claire Foster confirmed that Brexit had resulted in EU learners disappearing. The college needs to get the right offer for international learners and is taking a break at present. The loss of international learners is felt both culturally and financially.

11. COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Members received a report from the Clerk to the Corporation on the committee's performance against its 2020-21 targets.

it was agreed that targets to be proposed to the corporation for 2021-22 should be:

- At least 80% attendance
- Recruit additional members to increase the committee's membership to capacity
- Continue to enhance training for committee members including
 - training to be included at each meeting of the committee
 - each committee member to have the opportunity of three touch points with the college during the year to improve their understanding
- Monitoring the impact of Covid on KPIs

12. NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the committee would be held on 17 November 2021.