

## BOSTON COLLEGE

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 20 JUNE 2023

---

#### 1. PRESENT

Daran Bland (Chair), David Fannin, Claire Foster, Kimberley Jones and Nick Worth.

Also in attendance: Janet Hemmant (Clerk to the Corporation), Heather Marks (Vice Principal: Curriculum & Quality), Kelly Harris (Assistant Principal: Quality, Performance & Standards) and Phil Peatling (Head of Digital Learning, attended for item 2 only).

Apologies for absence were received from Helen Rumbold and Paul Tomlinson

Attendance 71%

#### 2. PRESENTATIONS

##### a) Quality Improvement Planning Cycles and Themes

Members received a presentation from the Assistant Principal: Quality, Performance & Standards on quality improvement planning.

Kelly Harris identified the key aims of the quality processes and how everyone in the college takes ownership of the learner experience. The aims are aligned with the strategic plan and progress is monitored throughout the year. She explained which areas would be the focus of attention in 2023/24 and gave members information about the developing data dashboard.

Daran Bland asked whether the information contained in the presentation would be used within the college and was advised that it will be shared with college managers. Daran commented on the usefulness of a dashboard to make information simple, clear, understandable and focused. Kelly explained that year on year improvement is sought and the dashboard will bring information into one easily accessible place. The college will also be able to warehouse data for comparison purposes. Phil Peatling told members that looking at data across the college will help to identify issues and feed in to staff development for individuals. The identification of targets should be driven by staff. Heather Marks commented that this will allow the college to measure the impact of CPD.

##### b) Artificial Intelligence and Staff Development

Members received a presentation from the Head of Digital Learning.

Phil Peatling explained that ChatGPT's popularity has generated a lot of interest in Artificial Intelligence (AI). He explained how it provides information and will be moving on to data analytics. Using the Bard alternative he gave a demonstration of how information can be generated and explained that Microsoft software is expected to have these AI enhancements available soon.

Phil explained how staff and students will be able to use this to support their work. The college uses Turnitin to check that students are not misusing this support. New tools are being reviewed to see how the software could be used and the AI working group is overseeing this. The initial focus has been on its use by teaching staff but this is being moved on to business support.

Claire Foster asked about plans to support teaching teams to use these innovations in preparation for the new academic year. Phil explained that there would be sessions

run in staff development. Training will be distributed through staff rooms getting people to understand how AI will help.

Daran Bland commented that he had some concerns about course work and incorrect assessment data. Phil suggested that there needed to be ways of testing learners' knowledge and this could lead to more examinations. The working group is looking at potential issues. It is helpful that staff know their learners and can recognise their work. It is imperative that awarding bodies address this quickly as the systems are developing so fast.

Nick Worth asked whether AI was likely to stifle innovation. Phil suggested that creativity enhances what AI can produce. There is a lot of discussion about the ethics aspect of this. Daran asked whether AI will enhance the work of learners particularly in practical subjects. Claire suggested that there is a need for a move away from over reliance on essays as a means of assessment to a more individualised approach. Heather Marks commented that universities require academic disclaimers relating to AI.

### **3. ACTION LOG**

Members reviewed the committee's action log. It was noted that the latest monitoring document for Access and Participation Plan targets was available to members on Teams for review.

### **4. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 26 April 2023 were reviewed and approved.

### **5. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2022-23**

Members received a report from the Vice Principal: Curriculum & Quality.

Heather Marks went through the information provided within the report and identified significant improvements in outcomes which had been confirmed since the report had been written. The committee noted that this had resolved some of the concerns previously identified. It was noted that the Deputy FE Commissioner has been helpful working with teams to identify new targets.

Heather identified that were there were still areas of concern and these were discussed. Nick Worth noted the stronger attendance of Foundation learners and Heather suggested that this may have been positively affected by the provision of transport for these learners. Daran Bland asked if reduced attendance was impacting on anticipated achievement. Heather explained the approach being taken to improved student motivation. It was suggested to that the impact of Covid on attendance could be an issue and Heather explained that learners had become used to working in isolation and have to be encouraged to work together.

Daran asked about higher education retention and whether learners have a positive view of the college's offer. Heather explained the college's strategy for higher education.

Daran asked how concerned the college was about the KPI information. Heather explained that the data is still not where the college wants it to be but is on track to be better than last year. Claire Foster explained how the new management arrangements enhanced accountability with more capacity to balance innovation with ensuring quality.

### **6. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2022-23**

Members received a report from the Vice Principal: Curriculum & Quality.

Heather Marks went through the key elements of the plan and how it fitted in with the KPI dashboard. She outlined key developments which include the potential use of skills advisory boards to support work with industry. Members approved the plan presented and noted that it will be redone for September 2023.

## **7. LEARNER VIEWS**

Members received a report from the Assistant Principal: Performance, Quality & Standards on the outcomes of the year-end survey for full time learners and the part time Adult Learner survey.

Kelly Harris went through the detail of the survey outcomes. On the full-time survey, three areas of concern were noted where staffing challenges had impacted on the quality of teaching and learning. Some concerns about safety were being addressed directly with learners and the common theme is that learners do not get feedback on issues which have been reported. This is being addressed

Daran Bland commented on the impact of structure changes and the need to see continued improvements next year. Some issues relating to wi-fi quality were noted and these had been responded to.

For the part time Adult Learner survey, the low response rate was noted. A different approach is being taken to the collection of views throughout the year in future. The overall satisfaction reflected in this survey's outcomes is positive.

## **8. TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT**

Members received a report from the Assistant Principal: Performance, Quality & Standards.

Kelly Harris reported that the quality team are working with a lot of new teachers. The outcomes of developmental observations and support offered were noted as well as areas for development identified from deep dive activity. Kelly advised that more intelligent data will be available for review next year and Daran commented that it will be useful to see more detail on performance and the direction of travel.