

BOSTON COLLEGE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 19 JUNE 2024

1. **PRESENT**

Daran Bland (Chair), David Fannin, Claire Foster, Jurate Matulioniene, Nick Worth and Fiona Wrisberg.

Also in attendance: Janet Hemmant (Clerk to the Corporation and Tom Hughes (Assistant Principal: Quality, Performance & Standards).

Apologies for absence were received from Kimberley Jones and Sandra Williamson.

Attendance 75%

2. **PRESENTATION – IMPACT OF STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

Tom Hughes gave a presentation on the impact of staff development as part of the college's TLA strategy

The committee was told that there had been increased investment in staff development. Staff development days have been held across the year with themes covering digital, the craft of teaching and wellbeing. A conference is planned at the end of term to share best practice. There has been a notable improvement in the overall quality of teaching and learning seen in observations and a range of resources for teachers is being developed which will include a revised induction process for new teachers.

Daran Bland asked how typical it would be for a new teacher to go into the classroom without any formal teacher training. Tom explained that new teachers did not go in completely unprepared, but a minority will be learning on the job. Mechanisms are in place to support them and their first few days are spent preparing to go into teaching. Fiona Wrisberg commented that some staff progress from technician posts into teaching, initially in practical delivery. Student feedback is positive on the quality of teaching and the Ofsted inspection gave assurance that teaching and learning is good. Fiona asked if the industry skills of new recruits are used to support other staff and Tom advised that all vocational staff are in touch with industry updating.

3. **ACTION LOG**

Members reviewed the committee's action log.

Claire Foster advised the committee that the college would be going out to tender for a new data system to replace VITAL and EBS. It is hoped that this will be in place by next summer. We will be giving notice on the current software and will then commence the procurement process. The committee was told that a recent audit had identified continuing concerns about apprenticeships and the Audit committee had asked the Standards committee to take oversight of this. Claire suggested that the committee asked for feedback on the actions agreed following the audit. ●

4. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 24 April 2024 were reviewed and approved.

5. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2023-24

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

Tom Hughes advised that attendance was still not where it needed to be. In response to a query from David Fannin about attendance at skills boot camps, Claire Foster advised that these were externally funded and involved a small number of adult students. Tom told the committee that redesigned delivery is intended to improve English and maths attendance and it should align more to main course attendance. A particular challenge in English and maths is the student mindset and shorter sessions had a negative impact on attendance. Daran Bland asked if there was a correlation between the quality of teaching and learning, learner feedback and attendance.

Nick Worth suggested that there has to be a move away from the post-COVID mentality about coming in to college. Jurate Matulioniene suggested that parents needed to teach young people to be responsible and asked if parents were advised about attendance. Fiona Wrisberg commented that the reporting system for parents is quite dated and that a new system being reviewed has a dedicated parent portal. Claire suggested that on the whole parents do care about attendance.

Tom pointed out that average attendance is still above the sector average. Retention and higher education are improving and an achievement rate of at least 85% is expected. Daran commented on the importance of measuring the things that matter for EHCP learners.

6. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2023-24

Members reviewed the Quality Improvement Plan.

Daran Bland asked if there was anything of particular concern in it. Claire Foster said that work experience was disappointing and external work experience needs to be a priority next year. David Fannin suggested that something more nuanced could be offered by the voluntary and community sectors for some learners. Claire commented that learners will have to demonstrate motivation for their UCAS applications and voluntary work of this kind would be ideal. Tom suggested that there is a need to look beyond the pure vocational elements of students' programmes to widen views of what may be relevant. Next year's reporting will reflect a revamped approach to this.

7. LEARNER VIEWS

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

The committee discussed the contents of the report, particularly the responses on recommending the college to others. A discussion took place about areas with low response rates and the committee was advised that options on data collection were being considered

8. TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

Members received a report from the Head of Quality which was presented by the Assistant Principal: Quality, Performance & Standards.

Nick Worth asked how the number of lesson observations compared with previous years. Tom Hughes advised that the number was lower than last year but that the view of teaching and learning was now formed more holistically.

9. RECRUITMENT TO KEY POSTS

Daran Bland asked about the position on staff recruitment. Claire Foster advised that there were a few vacancies coming through but she was not overly concerned about these. She told the committee that an appointment had been made to the Deputy Principal post and recruitment generally was going well. All IT posts are now filled.

10. NEXT MEETING

The committee noted that the Corporation would fix the dates of meetings for the forthcoming year at its July meeting.