

# BOSTON COLLEGE

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2025

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### 1. PRESENT

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

Also in attendance: Janet Hemmant (Clerk to the Corporation), Matt Smith (Deputy Principal) and Tom Hughes (Assistant Principal: Quality, Performance & Standards). Neil Percy (DoL: Creative, Cultural and Business), Adam Phillips (DoL: IoT and Construction Industries) and Adam Wardell (DoL: Academic, Health & Care) attended for the presentation item only.

Apologies for absence were received from Sandra Williamson.

Attendance 88%

### 2. PRESENTATIONS – CURRICULUM BUSINESS PLANS

Members received presentations from Directors of Learning on their business plans. Matt Smith explained the process of creating the plans and the next steps to be taken.

#### i) Creative, Cultural and Business

In presenting the plan, Neil Percy told members that this area covered a large part of the town's regeneration plans. He explained where demand had been identified including a gap in local government for accountancy, and how this had contributed to the creation of the plan.

Daran Bland asked about the steps to be taken to move the plan forward and Neil advised that it was about strategic direction and reflecting local needs and aspirations. Claire Foster commented that it is about generating business as well as catering for existing business. The next step to be taken is for the executive and subject leaders to look at the detailed analysis. In response to a query from David Fannin, Neil provided information on the projected learner figures. Fiona Wrisberg advised that the figures are challenged in curriculum planning to ensure that they are robust.

Nick Worth commented on the high proportion of learners with SEND and asked how this impacted on the area's work. Neil explained that the curriculum is designed to be inclusive and the high SEND proportion does not affect achievement.

#### ii) Academic, Health & Care

Adam Wardell presented his area's business plan.

Nick commented that significant growth in Access to Higher Education was anticipated. Adam advised that this included distance learning through PEARL for learners wanting to progress in nursing and midwifery. Matt commented that this work is funded through advanced learner loans. David asked how distance learning worked for practical courses and Matt explained that there was potential for some

practical skills training if needed. Fiona told members that the loan learners took for the Access to HE course would be wiped out if they went on to university.

Daran asked about qualifications for school staff and Jurate Matulioniene asked if there were strategies to support workers who might already have qualifications but needed language skills. Claire advised that this was being considered and there might be a need for a community skills board as well as the industry skills boards which had already contributed to the planning process. ●

iii) IoT and Construction Industries

Adam Phillips gave a presentation on his directorate.

Particular note was taken of the development of a working factory floor which would provide practical experience for learners. Nick noted that as specialisation increased there was a change in perception of the low wage economy. Fiona commented that it was helpful to get employers on board in this way. David suggested that there was a connection between essential skills and a potential community board. He noted that the voluntary sector has provided experience which increased employability skills and could contribute to this discussion

The committee found the information presented in the plans to be very useful in increasing understanding of the college's curriculum strategy. Daran commented that the ability to be agile and the ambition shown was impressive.

Daran asked about the Implications of the removal of requirement for English and maths qualifications in apprenticeships. Matt Smith suggested that this could be tailored to need and care needs to be taken to ensure that this policy change does not have unintended consequences.

**3. ACTION LOG**

Members reviewed the committee's action log.

Tom Hughes advised that there is an event for ESOL learners which could be expanded to reflect the committee's discussions. Claire suggested that there was a need to bring together community leaders to look at these issues.

**4. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 20 November 2024 were reviewed and approved.

**5. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

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

The committee noted the key points of the report. Improvements in performance in construction were noted and also the need to focus on attendance in travel and tourism and small animal care. There were particular positives in survey feedback and work experience data.

Daran Bland commented that some learners with EHCPs could be unable to attend at times as a result of health issues and asked whether the impact of this could be stripped out of the data. Claire drew members' attention to survey feedback indicating fewer students were

feeling safe and suggested that external factors could be impacting on this. Jacob Cawthorne confirmed that he was unaware of safety concerns.

## **6. BALANCED SCORECARD**

Members reviewed the balanced scorecard information which will be presented to the next corporation meeting. It was suggested that a key to the ratings would be helpful. ●

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

Members received a report from the Assistant Principal: Quality, Performance & Standards on recent quality assurance activities.

Positive feedback on the work to support new teachers was noted. Nick worth suggested that, since a number of new terms were used in the report, a glossary would be helpful. ●

Daran Bland asked about the development of SEND teaching and learning following the Ofsted report and asked for the next committee report to expand on this. Tom Hughes advised that sessions on this were being provided and increased participation would be helpful. Matt Smith commented on some challenges around terminology in defining SEND learners and noted that many of these learners are tracking ahead of their cohort. Tom suggested that some barriers could be removed through technology making lesson resources more accessible to all learners. In response to a query from Daran, it was confirmed that the college's Inclusion Manager performed a role similar to that of a SENCO in schools. ●

Nick Worth noted that the Vital audits carried out by the quality team had been particularly useful.

## **8. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Matt Smith advised members that a direct link to the quality improvement plan had been provided so that they were able to access up-to-date information. The committee agreed that it was useful to have access to a live document

## **10. NEXT MEETINGS**

It was noted that the next meetings of the committee would take place on 23 April and 11 June 2025.