

BOSTON COLLEGE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2024

1. **PRESENT**

Daran Bland (Chair), Jurate Matulioniene and Nick Worth.

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

Apologies for absence were received from David Fannin, Claire Foster, Sandra Williamson and Fiona Wrisberg.

Attendance 43%

2. **PRESENTATION – REVIEW OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IN 2023-24 AND SAR/QIP UPDATE**

Members received a presentation from Tom Hughes.

The committee reviewed data on college performance over three years across different funding streams and levels. A discussion took place about the definitions applying to the data.

It was noted that there was an issue regarding a change in English and maths provision which had not proved successful and had affected performance of High Needs learners. The committee was told about steps being taken to address the achievement gap identified. Daran Bland queried the difference between forecasts of 100% progress for High Needs learners and actual achievement. In response to a query from Jurate Matulioniene, members were advised that SEND learners could self assess as having special needs. A discussion took place about the performance of this group of learners and it was agreed that the achievement rate was disappointing but it was helpful to pinpoint where the problem was.

The SAR process was explained and assessments of the quality of provision across different strands were shared. Areas identified as requiring improvement will be supported. One issue which was identified was insufficient external work experience and competition work. Daran Bland commented on the usefulness of the information which gave members a clear view on performance. Nick Worth asked whether the features of outstanding areas could be shared with others and the committee was advised that arrangements were in hand for this to happen.

3. **ACTION LOG**

Members reviewed the committee's action log.

It was noted that VITAL is to be replaced with ProMonitor. Matt Smith gave the committee an explanation of the use of Smart Assessor.

4. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 25 September 2024 were reviewed and approved.

5. **KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2024-25**

Members received a report from the Deputy Principal.

The committee reviewed information on the latest performance indicators and noted that these will be updated over the course of the year. Destination data will relate to the previous year when available. It was noted that the Corporation had asked for national benchmarks to be included as comparators where possible.

6. **BALANCED SCORECARD**

Members received a report from the Deputy Principal.

The committee reviewed performance against the Strategic Priorities and noted that this would be passed on to the Corporation. It was agreed that data on attendance, in year retention and lesson observations should be added to the scorecard's quarterly monitoring.

7. **LEARNER VIEWS**

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

The committee noted and discussed the feedback received from learners. Tom Hughes told members that a bespoke survey was being created for ESOL induction as some of the questions had been misinterpreted. Jurate Matulioniene asked about the possibility of open events for adult ESOL learners which could include employers and Tom agreed to discuss this with her further.

8. **TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT**

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

Daran Bland commented that it was good to see the action which had been taken following discussions about new teacher induction. Potential dates for learning walks are to be circulated to the committee before the next meeting.

9. **HE ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT**

Members received the Annual Monitoring Reports on Higher Education performance for 2023-24 which had been prepared by the HE Quality Manager.

Members noted the key strengths and areas for improvement of the HE programmes. It was noted that achievement rates were up and achievement gaps closing. High grades are comparable with universities. Decline in recruitment to these courses is a concern and the possible causes of this were discussed.

10. **NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting of the committee would take place on 12 February 2025 and would include a review of the curriculum plan.