

BOSTON COLLEGE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 23 APRIL 2025

1. **PRESENT**

Daran Bland (Chair), Jacob Cawthorne, David Fannin, Claire Foster (from item 9), 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).

Apologies for absence were received from Sandra Williamson.

Attendance 88%

2. **PRESENTATION – NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT RATE TABLES**

Members received a presentation from the Assistant Principal: Quality, Performance & Standards on the content and use of the National Achievement Rate Tables (NARTs)

Tom Hughes advised that the tables were published annually by the Department for Education. Tom explained the terms used and the relevance of the tables for governors. It was noted that the 2023/24 data had only just been published.

Nick Worth asked about the difference between the performance of Boston College and the Tec Partnership. Tom explained that the performance of the Tec Partnership was enhanced by its achievement rate for adult learners. Daran Bland asked if the Department for Education held progress data and members were advised that this would be on the new dashboard.

Members agreed that the presentation had been very useful in demonstrating the relevance of the information contained in the NARTs.

3. **ACTION LOG**

Members reviewed the committee's action log and agreed items to be marked as complete.

4. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 12 February 2025 were reviewed and approved.

5. **KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Members received a report from the Deputy Principal.

The committee noted the key points of the report and that none of the targets had a red RAG rating. The work experience targets are on track to achieve and the proportion of external work experience has increased significantly this year. Members were advised that the hours of work experience needed depended on the qualifications. Jacob Cawthorne commented on the work experience he was undertaking. Jurate Matulioniene asked about the percentage of students feeling prepared for their next steps and Matt Smith told members that there was a lot of career guidance in the latter part of the academic year.

6. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Members received a report from the Deputy Principal.

Members discussed the challenges in increasing student attendance. Fiona Wrisberg suggested that comparing attendance at vocational maths and other maths classes will be interesting. Matt Smith suggested that ideally vocational staff would teach all of the English and maths. Jacob Cawthorne commented that in his experience vocational maths was more relevant.

7. BALANCED SCORECARD

Members reviewed the balanced scorecard information which will be presented to the next Corporation meeting. David Fannin suggested that it would be useful if a young person from the college joined the Town Board. A discussion took place about development of the Student Union.

8. TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

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

Tom Hughes advised that SEND training was on track. In response to a query from Nick Worth, it was confirmed that where lower learner satisfaction was reported that were a range of contributory factors and performance was being looked at as part of the review process.

Daran Bland asked if there were areas with higher proportions of 'working towards' performance. Tom advised that this related more to individuals rather than teams and that staff were allocated quality leads to work with them. In response to a further query from Daran it was confirmed that the frequency of lesson visits can be varied. Members were advised that the only visits taking place in the next reporting period would be re-observations. It will be possible to identify movement towards the 'meeting expectations' standard in the next report and feedback will be given on the impact of support provided for staff. ●

Claire Foster joined the meeting at this point.

9. LEARNING WALKS

Darren Bland and David Fannin advised that they had found the learning walks they had completed very interesting and useful.

10. NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the committee would take place on 11 June 2025.