

BOSTON COLLEGE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY 2007

1. PRESENT

Mrs P Smith (Chair), Mr C Bradford, Ms S Daley, Mrs L Ladds, Mrs B Ward and Mrs H Wright.

Also in attendance Mrs J Hemmant (Clerk to the Corporation) and Mr J Rees (Director of Performance and Standards).

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Gallagher.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING 20 NOVEMBER 2006

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2006 were reviewed and approved subject to amendment of the note on the minute 3 on committee membership which should refer to 3 other governors as well as 2 staff governors, the Principal and Deputy Principal being members of the committee.

Members were advised that the Performance Monitoring Summary referred to in the minutes was still being worked on to produce a format which would reduce the amount of data presented whilst still making it meaningful. The committee was also advised that the College did achieve the Emskills award and were the first college in the region to do so.

3. STUDENT PERCEPTION OF COURSE INDUCTION SURVEY (SPOC A)

Members received a report from the Director of Performance and Standards on the outcomes of the SPOC A survey which were generally positive. The overall score for guidance and support was noted to be 3 rated points higher than the general FE college average and there were no areas of great concern. It was noted that there was a positive 4-year trend in performance in this survey from below average to the current position of above average.

4. IN-YEAR RETENTION

Members received a report from the Director of Performance and Standards analysing retention to date in 2006-07. It was noted that early indicators on retention were looking quite positive. Charts were provided showing the performance up to December 2006 and additional information was provided on performance up to January. Members of the committee requested that in future the numbers of students involved as well as the percentages should be provided to aid understanding of the data presented. It was noted that it had not yet been possible to provide information on all qualifications up to January since the information for short courses was not available but it was likely that this would be lower overall than the previous year since there were less short qualifications being offered.

5. RETENTION ACHIEVEMENT AND SUCCESS OUTCOMES 2005-06

Members received a report from the Director of Performance and Standards on data for retention, achievement and success in 2005-06 and considered the targets to be set for 2006-07 and 2007-08. The targets for 2006-07 were considered individually and the committee agreed what it felt to be reasonable levels of improvement across the College. It was not possible to set a target for the all qualifications outcomes because these had to be calculated from the more detailed targets set for other component parts. It was agreed that these should be aggregated up and the Director of Performance and Standards should share the outcomes with members of the Standards Committee prior to submission to the Corporation.

The committee agreed to defer setting the 2007-08 targets to its next meeting because of the impact of changed volumes of activities.

6. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Members received a report from the Director of Performance and Standards on progress in implementing the 2006-07 quality improvement plan. The contents of the report were considered in some detail by the committee and one area of concern noted which was felt to have an impact on the College's work was the limited extent of employer engagement with sector skills councils.

7. LSC ANNUAL REVIEW AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Members were advised that the current year's annual review process was an improvement on that undertaken last year and had generally had very positive outcomes for the College. One area of concern which had been identified by the LSC concerned minimum levels of performance for areas where the College had very low levels of activity in apprenticeships. Consideration was given to how this might affect the College working in new areas because the relatively low numbers had a potentially damaging statistical impact on performance.

8. INSPECTIONS

Members of the committee were advised that the other 3 local colleges had now all been inspected within the current academic year and that in the previous inspection cycle Boston College had had its inspection at around the same time.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the committee would take place on Wednesday 25 April 2007. Mrs Ward asked that her apologies be noted in advance of this meeting.