

BOSTON COLLEGE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL 2010

1. PRESENT

Mrs H Wright (chair) Ms S Daley, Miss L Earthy, Mr T Huggins, Mrs L Ladds, Mrs P Smith, Mr R Stanley and Mrs B Ward.

Also in attendance: Mrs J Hemmant (Clerk to the Corporation), Mr D McMillan (Head of Quality Improvement) and Dr J Pedersen (Equality and Diversity Manager).

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27 January 2010 were reviewed and approved.

3. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2009-10

Members received a report from the Director of Curriculum and Standards, which was presented by the Head of Quality Improvement in his absence, identifying progress against the current Quality Improvement Plan. The presentation included updates on the information provided in the committee pack of papers and an explanation of the peer activity which the College was involved with and the Framework for Excellence. A discussion took place about the value of the Framework for Excellence initiative.

4. COLLEGE ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE MATRIX STANDARD

Members received a report from the Director of Curriculum and Standards on Matrix reaccreditation. It was reported that the College had achieved full Matrix accreditation for internal, external and embedded information and guidance and that many positive points had been identified in the review. It was noted that Boston was the only college in the country to hold this cross-college accreditation and it was agreed that a copy of the report should be provided to Corporation members. Committee members agreed to pass back their congratulations to staff on this achievement.

5. IN-YEAR RETENTION

Members received a report from the Head of Quality Improvement on in-year retention which identified performance for specific cohorts of students. Particular note was taken of the information presented on students leaving courses which was being analysed in depth. Members of the committee asked that at a future meeting they should be provided with a breakdown of which courses fell into the cohorts being reported.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

Members received a report on Equality and Diversity from the Principal and a presentation on the College's Equality and Diversity Action Plan by the Equality and Diversity Manager.

Members were advised that Equality and Diversity would be addressed at the next Corporation meeting and it was noted that a governor presence on the Equality and Diversity Committee would be desirable. The members noted that this was one of the committee's priority areas for review and this would feature again on the agenda for the next meeting.

7. PRAISE AND COMPLAINTS – IN-YEAR UPDATE 2009-10

Members received a report from the Head of Quality Improvement and a discussion took place on how the data, which was felt to be pleasing, could be best presented in the future. Members noted a reduction in complaints received to date from 24 in 2008-09 to 13 in 2009-10.

Mr T Huggins left the meeting at this point.

8. STUDENT PERCEPTION OF COURSE SURVEY

Members received a report from the Head of Quality Improvement on the on-programme learner survey which had taken place. Committee members reviewed the information presented in some detail and it was noted that the College was pleased with the format of the new survey.

9. NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on 15 June 2010.