

BOSTON COLLEGE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2010

1. PRESENT

Ms S Daley, Mrs L Ladds, Mrs P Smith, Mrs B Ward and Mrs H Wright.

Also in attendance: Mrs J Hemmant (Clerk to the Corporation), Mr D McMillan (Head of Quality Improvement) and Mr J Rees (Deputy Principal).

Apologies for absence were received from Mr T Huggins.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Having been duly nominated Mrs Wright was elected to chair the committee for the 2010-11 academic year.

Mrs Wright in the chair.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15 June 2010 were reviewed and approved.

It was agreed that an example of how the College's reporting systems, and in particular course review arrangements, bring together data of different kinds to allow quality judgements to be made should be brought to the next meeting of the committee. The committee was advised that the commissioning framework had now changed and that the role which had been allocated to the County Council had now reverted to the Young People's Learning Agency. The performance management framework continues to be reviewed and the relationship between local authorities and the Young People's Learning Agency was still not clear in terms of the planning and funding responsibilities.

4. 2010 AS/A2 RESULTS

Members received a report from the Head of Quality Improvement on the 2010 results. The committee discussed issues relating to areas where an identified need for improvement was reported. Members were advised that quality arrangements were focussing in on and reducing areas of concern. It was agreed that the AS/A2 area should be congratulated on its performance particularly in Maths.

5. COMPLIMENTS AND COMPLAINTS 2009-10

Members received a report from the Head of Quality Improvement on compliments and complaints received by the College during 2009-10. The committee was advised that the College tracked both formal and informal feedback and an explanation of

how the processes worked was given. A discussion took place on how feedback should be provided to governors in the future.

6. LEARNER FEEDBACK 2009-10

Members received a report from the Head of Quality Improvement on the results of surveys of learner satisfaction and experience of learning. It was noted that it was the first year of implementation of on-line surveying and that some teething troubles had been experienced, in particular that it was more difficult to get high rates of return where students were completing the surveys off site.

The committee noted that the change of system meant that benchmarking had been lost but also noted that the new system, whilst taking more staff time than expected to administer, was almost 80% cheaper than the previous system. It was hoped that less staff time would be required in 2010-11 as the system became embedded.

7. COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE

The Clerk to the Corporation reported on the committee's performance against its targets for 2009-2010. The committee had not achieved its attendance target of 80% and had actually achieved 71%. The remaining targets of monitoring safeguarding and Equality and Diversity had been achieved with the committee taking a keen interest in these areas.

The committee considered targets to be set for 2010-11 and agreed to recommend to the Corporation that these should be:

- achieving 80% committee attendance
- reviewing the enterprise and employability curriculum
- reviewing user engagement.

8. NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on 15 November 2010 and it was agreed that Frank Hanson should be invited to attend that meeting.