

BOSTON COLLEGE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2012

1. PRESENT

Mrs H Wright (Chair), Mrs L Ladds, Mrs I Lebedowicz, Mr N Percy, Mrs A Mosek, Mr R Stanley and Mr B Wright..

Also in attendance: Mrs J Hemmant (Clerk to the Corporation), Mrs F Grady (Vice Principal: Curriculum and Quality) and Mrs V Locke (Head of Quality)

Apologies for absence were received from Miss C French.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 19 September 2012 were reviewed and approved.

4. 2011-12 QUALIFICATION SUCCESS RATES

Members received a report from the Vice Principal: Curriculum and Quality on Success Rates. It was noted that the Success Rates presented in the paper were provisional and that the achievement data was similar to that which was discussed at the full governing body development event on 7 November 2012. The key areas of concern were retention rates of adults at all levels, retention of learners aged 16-18 on level 3 courses and achievement rates on A level courses. The timely success rates for apprenticeships had declined and were also an area of concern. It was noted that actions to address poor performance in these areas are detailed in curriculum area quality improvement plans (QIPs) and will be included in the College QIP. On a positive note, there were good success rates for 16-18 year olds on level 1 and 2 courses and Work Based Learning success rates which have remained high at 88%. The committee noted that much of this information had recently been reviewed by the full governing body at the development event. Particular note was taken of the success rate trends as reported and it was noted that the planning of long 19+ courses was being reviewed taking into consideration the factors which affected success rates.

5. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2011-12

Members received a progress update from the Head of Quality. The report was reviewed in detail and note was taken of the targets which had been achieved and those which had been either not achieved or were partially achieved and the reasons for this.

6. PERFORMANCE AGAINST QUALITY STANDARDS AND KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Members received a report from the Vice Principal: Curriculum and Quality on performance against Key Performance Indicator targets for 2011-12. A discussion took place about performance against targets.

Members received a proposal for a revised format of presentation of Key Performance

Indicators for 2012-13 and suggested targets for the year. The changes to the targets being reported and their presentation were approved. A discussion took place about the proposed targets which were also approved. It was agreed that it would be helpful if one or more targets relating to applications were added. A discussion took place about how the targets, which were regarded as stretching but not unrealistic, were fed through the College system and how the impact on learners could be picked up in the short term.

The committee noted that there was a fine balance to be achieved between quality and efficiency and note was taken of ways in which the College addressed this issue. It was noted that the performance indicators did not yet include targets for Higher Education, which would be considered, and that there could also be targets for progression.

7. SPOC INDUCTION SURVEY

Members received a report from the Head of Quality on the outcomes of the SPOC Induction Survey where it was noted that there had been an improved response from the previous year. Whilst the response rate was improved the committee discussed ways in which the number of responses could be increased and whether the student representatives could be used to aid the understanding of other students of the importance of these surveys.

The committee considered the individual outcomes in the survey and a particular discussion took place about the comments on IT resources.

8. NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the committee would take place on 23 January 2013.