

BOSTON COLLEGE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 23 JANUARY 2013

1. PRESENT

Mrs H Wright (Chair), Mrs L Ladds, Mr N Percy, Mrs A Mosek, Mr R Stanley and Miss C French.

Also in attendance: Mrs J Hemmant (Clerk to the Corporation) and Mrs F Grady (Vice Principal: Curriculum and Quality).

Apologies for absence were received from Ms I Lebedowicz and Mr B Wright.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 14 November 2012 were reviewed and approved.

3. SELF ASSESSMENT REPORT 2011-12

Members received a report from the Vice Principal: Curriculum and Quality on the 'Mini Self Assessment Report' which had been produced for all College staff. One correction to the text was noted.

Members discussed the key quality improvement targets for 2012-13 and noted that there was a particular focus on level 3 and higher level attainment. Focussing on added value and getting learners to commit to stretching targets was critical to this. Assessment feedback to learners needs to be effective and developing this is a key objective. It was noted that this can be difficult for larger groups.

Members discussed the performance of one partner which was causing concern.

4. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2012-13

Members received a report from the Vice Principal: Curriculum and Quality on the quality improvement plan. The next meeting of the committee will receive a progress report on this.

A discussion took place about some key issues:

- Some ESOL learners do not want to take examinations, their objective is just to improve their English
- 16-18 apprenticeships remain challenging. There is a particular need to manage risk in partnership delivery of apprenticeships.
- Access to HE retention is currently better than in previous years.
- Work was still going on to identify a candidate to add strength to the membership of the Standards Committee.

5. PERFORMANCE AGAINST QUALITY STANDARDS AND KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Members received a report from the Vice Principal: Curriculum and Quality. Members attention was drawn to areas which were identified as below target. The number of Grade 1 lessons was lower than previously which probably reflected a shift of focus in observations towards the quality of assessment and learning. The college was working

on improvements to the quality of feedback from observers to tutors. Members were advised that the next Corporation meeting would include a session on what makes an outstanding lesson.

6. SURVEYS

Members received a report from the Vice Principal: Curriculum and Quality on a number of surveys which had been carried out. It was noted that the level of responses to the part-time learner induction survey was considered to be quite good since this cohort includes quite a lot of short courses. A discussion took place about the reasons for complaints about computers and what could be done to address them. It was noted that the learners based at the Peter Paine Centre were pleased with the wifi connectivity which had recently been made available. The committee noted that the response rate for the parents' survey had improved but that the College remained keen to improve the transmission of information to parents.

7. A LEVELS

A discussion took place about the proposed changes to A levels and their potential impact on the College.

8. NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the committee would take place on 24 April 2013.