

BOSTON COLLEGE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2012

1. PRESENT

Mrs L Ladds, Mrs I Lebedowicz, Mr N Percy, Mrs A Mosek, Mr R Stanley and Mrs H 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)

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR 2012-13

Having been duly nominated and seconded Helen Wright was elected unopposed as Chair of the committee for academic year 2012-13.

Mrs Wright in the Chair

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 12 June 2012 were reviewed and approved.

4. COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Members received a report from the Clerk to the Corporation on the committee's performance against its 2011-12 targets. A discussion took place about performance which had been satisfactory. It was agreed that the committee's proposal for targets for 2012-13 to be made to the Corporation should be:

- 80% attendance
- A focus on teaching and learning
- Review of AS/A2 and GCSE performance
- A focus on adult success rates.

5. A LEVEL AND GCSE RESULTS 2011-12

Members received a report from the Vice Principal: Curriculum and Quality on the 2012 results. It was noted that whilst some results were improved there was still a concern that they were below national averages and also that the grade profile was lower than was desirable. It was noted that retention on courses had been improved in 2011-12. A discussion took place about the performance of this area of the College's work and particularly about the implication of the number of international students studying on these courses. It was agreed that a serious review of this provision would need to be carried out if the outcomes cannot be improved in 2012-13.

6. COMPLIMENTS AND COMPLAINTS 2011-12

Members received a report from the Head of Quality containing information provided by

the Quality Improvement Manager on praise and complaints received during 2011-12 including Equality and Diversity monitoring of these complaints. It was noted that the number of complaints had gone down as compared with 2010-11 and that there was no discernible pattern in the Equality and Diversity data other than a higher rate of complaints from female 19+ learners.

7. EMPLOYER SURVEY

Members reviewed the data on the employer survey responses and noted areas where improvements were required. It was noted that there was a low overall response rate to the surveys and a discussion took place about ways in which response rates could be improved in the future.

8. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Members received a report from the Vice Principal: Curriculum and Quality on Key Performance Indicators. Members reviewed the data in detail and noted areas where performance was below target for 2011-12.

9. LEARNING SUPPORT

Members received a report from the Vice Principal: Curriculum and Quality on the work of the Learning Support Officer which analysed the extent to which learners were accessing this support and the reasons for doing so. It was noted that there was a large improvement in the retention of learners receiving support and that this service was an essential part of the College's strategy for supporting learners with particular needs. A discussion took place about the challenges of finance for learners particularly in relation to transport costs.

10. NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the committee would take place on 14 November 2012.