

HARLOW COLLEGE FURTHER EDUCATION CORPORATION

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 12 June 2012

Membership: Riccardo Abela
* Chris Christofides (Chair)
* Colin Hindmarch
* Mike Thorne

**denotes present*

In attendance: S Young, Deputy Principal
N Spenceley, Deputy Principal
R Lucas, Deputy Clerk to the Corporation

387 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Riccardo Abela and Deborah Sheridan

388 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

389 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2012 were approved as a correct record.

N Spenceley tabled the draft IQER report, which looks at a provider's ability to deliver HE. Governors' attention was brought to the summary on page 6. The report confirms that it has confidence in the College's management of responsibilities, quality of learning opportunities and the accuracy and completeness of the information. 3 recommendations were made, of one which is advisable and 2 desirable. No essential recommendations were made and 3 areas of good practice were highlighted in the report. The review is a public document and the final version is likely to be published after the next Corporation meeting.

Governors confirmed that this is a good review, which carries weight and that all the recommendations are achievable. The Principal thanked N Spenceley and the team involved in the review for their hard work and from the support received from ARU.

390 Matters arising from the minutes

390.1 Havering SFC

The Principal gave a verbal update of the Peer Review scheme with Havering SFC.

390.2 Framework for Excellence Learner Views Survey 2010/11

The national averages for learner views have been reduced, thereby improving the College's position in relation to the averages.

The Data Service has temporarily removed the FE national league table from its website, as a number of “unknown” levels had been included in the calculations. From internal research undertaken, the Principal is confident that when the results are reviewed it will not affect Harlow College’s number 1 ranking.

391 Comparative Data on FE / Tertiary College Performance

The Standards Committee received the report of the Principal on FE / Tertiary College performance.

Harlow College is ranked number 1 nationally for FE long course success, which is a key success factor Ofsted looks for. In total, Harlow College is ranked number 1 in 15 categories. There is still work that needs to be done and improvements to be made in some areas.

The Principal confirmed that not all data is released at the same time, therefore some areas have 09/10 data and some have 10/11 data.

A discussion was held around the size of colleges and how inclusive they are, however the Principal considered that there appears to be no correlation between the national position and the size and inclusivity of any college.

The question was raised about whether the Corporation was looking to appoint another local headteacher to the current vacancy on the governing body. This is an on-going matter being dealt with by the Search and Governance Committee who is looking at who would be best placed to fill the vacancy.

A discussion was held around probity and the Principal confirmed that BTEC has, as part of their national examination of outstanding providers, examined 10 curriculum areas in Harlow College and found no malpractice. The College is undertaking a similar exercise for the other curriculum areas.

The Committee noted the paper.

392 Predicted Student Success Rates and Value Added 2011/12, including partner performance

The Committee received the report of the Principal on the predicted student success rates and value added.

Retention is currently approximately 1.6% above last year’s figure at 98.2%. The College’s all course success rate is predicted to be 95%. The Principal confirmed that regular meetings are held with staff to discuss students who are at risk of not succeeding and that staff go to extraordinary lengths to ensure that students are not lost. Very few students who apply to the College are turned away.

There is more uncertainty with added value. A big improvement is expected with A2s, however it is harder to predict with national diplomas. This is the 1st year for the new distinction and only a pilot sample was available nationally on which to predict the value added, therefore cautious predictions have been made.

At this point, overall added value and high grades are better this year than last year.

A discussion was held around the 3 red areas on the AS report, 2 of which is for delivery undertaken by partner schools. The environmental science figure should actually read 0.4 positive.

The Principal confirmed that the ALIS data is due to be published in October 2012 and that for the College in general it is looking promising for success, retention and value added.

The Committee noted the paper.

393 Harlow College Dashboard

The Committee received and considered the report of Nick Spenceley, Deputy Principal concerning the Harlow College Dashboard. This highlights a number of key indicators at individual team level and enables easy identification and close scrutiny of areas causing concerns, so early action can be taken. The report only includes learner responsive teams and a separate dashboard is being developed for the work-based learning and apprenticeships teams.

A discussion was held around the number of observations graded as outstanding or good as this is a key indicator from Ofsted. Ofsted has not stated a target figure that needs to be achieved in order for teaching and learning to be graded as outstanding. The College is aiming for a figure well in excess of 80% and to help facilitate this, 3 staff are to be appointed to work with staff to help them reach outstanding.

The Committee noted the report.

394 Quality Improvement Plan

The Committee received and considered the report of Nick Spenceley, Deputy Principal on the Quality Improvement Plan.

The plan has been developed based on the outcomes of Ofsted and the self-assessment and concentrates heavily on teaching and learning, in line with Ofsted. N Spenceley confirmed that the plan is reviewed at least termly and the wording "Post-Inspection Plan" will remain until the next Ofsted Inspection.

The Committee noted the paper.

395 Student Recruitment 2012/13

The Committee received the report of Sue Young, Deputy Principal on student recruitment for 2012/13.

Applications are still being received and offers are still being made. The critical factor is the conversion rate of offers made to places accepted.

Further publicity for higher education is continuing, with a targeted marketing campaign which started this week. 4 further degree courses were validated last week and a bioscience degree is being developed. M Thorne asked to be kept updated if any issues or concerns arise.

The Committee noted the paper.

396 Complaints and Compliments 2011/12

The Committee received the latest analysis of complaints and compliments, presented by Sue Young, Deputy Principal.

It was agreed that in future this will be an annual report to the Standards Committee.

The Committee noted the paper.

397 Any other business

There were no items of any other business.

398 Dates of future meetings

The calendar of meetings and calendar of business was circulated and the calendar of meeting will also be sent electronically by the Deputy Clerk.

Dates for next academic year

Autumn Term	Tuesday 25 September 2012	08.30am
Autumn Term	Tuesday 20 November 2012	08.30am
Spring Term	Tuesday 12 February 2013	08.30am
Summer Term	Tuesday 11 June 2013	08.30am