

HARLOW COLLEGE FURTHER EDUCATION CORPORATION

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 25 September 2012

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

**denotes present*

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

399 Apologies for absence

There were no absences.

400 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

401 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2012 were agreed as a correct and accurate record.

The Committee noted that the date of the next meeting had changed to Tuesday 13 November 2012, 08.30am.

402 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

403 Draft Success Rates 2011/12

The Committee received the report of the Principal on draft success rates for 2011/12.

The Principal informed the Committee that the College has been one of the first colleges in the country to gain Matrix Accreditation. The College has also been shortlisted for 2 TES awards – Provider of the Year and Innovation in Teaching and Learning. The College has also been shortlisted for the AoC Leadership and Governance award, which if successful would lead to Beacon Status. The assessors came in to College yesterday (24 September) and the visit went well.

The Principal circulated the data tables which were produced for the AoC assessors' visit and the Committee considered the very positive and improving data on success rates, value added and average grades for

2011/12 (that is higher in all areas than 2010/11).

M Thorne offered to broker a visit to the College by Essex County Council to help to promote the College's number 1 status. The Committee agreed that this would be beneficial.

The Committee noted the papers that were circulated.

404 Draft Value Added 2011/12

This agenda item was discussed as part of agenda item 403.

405 Learning Observation Grades 2011/12

The Committee received and considered the report of N Spenceley on the learning observation grades.

N Spenceley explained how due to the change to the Ofsted inspection framework, learning observation grades are more important now than ever. College observation grades show an improving picture, however they need to be significantly better in order to be judged outstanding by Ofsted.

The Committee noted the paper.

407 Student Satisfaction Results

The Committee received and considered the report of the Principal on the student satisfaction results.

The Principal highlighted Annex 1 and explained the benefits of undertaking such surveys. A number of student responses were discussed. The Principal explained how staff skills are matched and how staff are redeployed to areas of need.

The Committee noted the paper.

408 Complaints Analysis 2011/12

The Committee received and considered the report of N Spenceley on complaints and compliments for 2011/12.

N Spenceley confirmed that the low number of complaints received were similar to those received in 2010/11.

The Committee noted the paper and agreed that the report could be tabled either annually or every six months.

409 Recruitment of Students to Mainstream Funded Programmes 2012/13

The Committee received a verbal update from N Spenceley on the recruitment of students.

There are currently 2,275 16-18 enrolments for this academic year,

compared to 2,330 at this time last year. The target is 2,800 – 2,900, however partners are responsible for a certain amount of these numbers. There are no concerns regarding 16-18 enrolments at this stage.

Adult enrolment takes place throughout the year. At this stage, there is a slight increase in the enrolment numbers from last year.

110 first year higher education students have been recruited out of a target of 150. In total 215 higher education students.

Governors asked if there would be any impact on the College's budget. N Spenceley confirmed that the 16 – 18 funding is set, irrespective of the number of students recruited, but could have an impact in later years. The budgeted higher education income was approximately £1,390k and the actual income is likely to be approximately £1,150k. This shortfall in income is offset by not having to recruit additional external staff to deliver the programmes.

The Committee thanked N Spenceley for his verbal update.

411 Quality Improvement Plan

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

Governors were updated on progress made and specific attention was brought to actions with green and red "RAG" statuses.

The Committee noted and approved the Quality Improvement Plan.

412 Harlow College Dashboard

The Committee received and noted the report of Nick Spenceley on the Harlow College dashboard. A number of clarifications to the report were made.

413 Partner Performance

The Committee received a verbal update from S Young on partner performance. Governors had the opportunity to ask questions and S Young was thanked for her update.

414 Any other business

There were no items of any other business.

415 Dates of future meetings

Autumn Term	Tuesday 13 November 2012 <i>(please note change of date)</i>	08.30am
Spring Term	Tuesday 12 February 2013	08.30am
Summer Term	Tuesday 11 June 2013	08.30am