

# CORPORATION BOARD CURRICULUM, QUALITY & STUDENTS COMMITTEE



Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday, 24 November 2022 at 6pm

## Present

Jacqui Canton  
Vicky Field, Chair  
Kathryn Schutterlin  
Sam Wolfe

## In attendance

Jo Milsom, Deputy Principal  
Simon Kibble, Vice Principal  
Jack Price, Vice Principal

Governor questions are represented with bullet points, and management responses are italicized.

### 1. Opening comments, apologies for absence and new declarations of interest

Apologies had been received from Robert Weaver and David Walker. The meeting was quorate. The Clerk was unable to attend at short notice and therefore notes were taken by Jacqui Canton. There were no new declarations of interest and no new matters to be discussed under Any Other Business.

### 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 23 June, 2022

The minutes were approved for signature.

### 3. Matters Arising, Written Resolutions & Action Points

All matters arising had been completed. The report was noted.

### 4. Policies for approval

There were no policies for approval.

### 5. Curriculum

#### 5.1 Presentation from the Faculty of Technology

James Hills, Head of Faculty for Technology, presented an update on his Faculty. The range of provision available and number of students per course were highlighted. Future plans for development were discussed.

- Why would my granddaughter study Technology here? *The facilities and expertise of staff are our key strengths. We produce very good results for students, and students progress on to excellent next steps*
- What is the gender split? *Largely male, approximately 15 – 20% female. The number of female students has grown in Motor Vehicle and is also relatively high on the T Level in Engineering.*
- Are we correct to think that your biggest challenge is staffing? *Yes. We are trying to “grow our own” in Motor Vehicle, for example, by helping Technicians progress on to teaching, in order to mitigate some of the challenges.*

James Hills was thanked for his presentation and it was agreed that the Land-based Industries Faculty would present at the next Curriculum, Quality and Students committee.

Action	By Whom	Deadline
Invite Head of Faculty Land-Based Industries to present at the next meeting	Clerk	For next meeting

The Vice Principal presented his report outlining the recent change to the Education Inspection Framework and the addition of a judgement relating to how well the college meets the local, regional and national skills needs.

## 6.2 Ofsted Update

The committee noted the report.

The Principal outlined a more robust approach being adopted this year to ensure that we are being as inclusive as our strategy intends us to be. The Deputy Principal provided a number of examples of how the college is adapting course content and ensuring that students are provided with all the support they need to deliver the very best chance of success.

- *Other disadvantaged groups outperform their peers.*
- *Do you have higher withdrawals from Looked After Children? Yes, in comparison to their peers they do withdraw at a higher rate, but this difference in rate is reducing.*
- *Can you say a bit more about the college's approach to differentiation? We try to talk about "teaching to the top" and "scaffolding" those learners who need more support.*
- *What is meant by questioning? Socratic questioning, and planning for questioning; ensuring that questions asked supports assessment for learning.*
- *We are currently reviewing Construction.*
- *Where similar themes were identified, along with the need to focus on differentiation, insight into how the process operated. We have also reviewed land-based provision identified as areas for development. The Hair and Beauty team also provided useful We have reviewed Hair and Beauty, where theory teaching and questioning were*
- *Quality Health Checks look like a good process. Where have you reviewed so far?*
- *considerably this year.*
- *The number of students who have withdrawn in the first 42 days has reduced*
- *clear picture of when students were actually in the classroom.*
- *Why did you change the way in which registers were marked? We weren't getting a*

The Vice Principal explained that removing "independent study" marks from registers had reduced the recorded attendance figures. Quality and Curriculum strategies are in the process of being finalised. New English and maths national data showed that students make more progress with us than with most colleges.

## 6.1 Quality Report

### 6. Quality

- *Is there any insight in why the Higher Education land-based programmes had under recruited? This was a result of a change in the qualification available from Oxford Brookes University and declining numbers of international HE students.*
- *Is the national concern about student with mental health concerns something that we see in higher education too? Yes, and we are working hard to address.*

numbers targets was noted.

Education and Apprenticeships, although a slight under recruitment against the HE student the qualification. There were no significant items of note to report in relation to Higher transferred to an alternative qualification whilst the awarding body resolved problems with students and staff during what had been a very challenging period. Students had been had decided the national assessment was "invalid". The college had worked hard to support the College in relation to the T Level in Health over the summer, where the awarding body The Vice Principal presented his report and particularly highlighted the challenges faced by

## 5.2 Curriculum Report

- Will Ofsted want to speak to governors in relation to skills? *Yes, that is likely. The work that we carried out during the development of the strategic plan and the extent to which our provision meets local needs will be of definite interest to Ofsted.*

The committee noted the report.

### 6.3 Higher Education Self-Assessment Report and Quality Improvement Plan

The Vice Principal presented the Higher Education Self-Assessment Report and associated Quality Improvement Plan.

The committee recommended the SAR and QiP to the Board.

### 6.4 Annual report on quality-related complaints

The Deputy Principal highlighted that the number of formal complaints received by the college remains low. Twenty-five formal complaints had been received, with seven of these related to the quality of teaching, learning and assessment. There were no patterns of themes.

- What does the complaint pipeline look like? Does a manager decide if something is a complaint? *We typically consider where the complaint is received. All complaints received into the SMT offices are deemed to be formal complaints, as are any where the complainant makes it clear that they are making a "complaint".*
- Were there any themes in relation to customer service? *There weren't any complaints specifically about customer service, but we know that this is an area we need to work harder at.*

The report was noted.

## 7. Students Report

The Deputy Principal highlighted particular challenges in relation to student well-being, high levels of safeguarding referrals and a number of complex Special Educational Needs cases, all of which were increasing the workload of our busy Student Services team. The recent award of the Stonewall School and College Champions Gold Award was discussed.

- The very positive feedback from Stonewall was pleasing to read.

The report was noted.

## 8. Any Other Business

There was no additional business to discuss.

## 9. Future Business and Reflection

The committee business plan was reviewed and approved.

The next CQS meeting was scheduled for on Tuesday 14 March, 2023 at 6pm.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Approved for signature: .....

Signature ..... *V. Field* .....

Date .....

