

## **GRANTHAM COLLEGE**

Minutes of a meeting of the Standards Committee held on 22 June 2016 at 1630hrs.

Present	Stewart Boylan	Linda Houtby (Principal)	Sally Macpherson
	Des McHugh	Steve Parsons	Steve Welton (Chairman)
In Attendance	Paul Deane (DH)	Ralph Devereux (Clerk)	Mos Kalbassi (Corporation Chairman)
	Tracy Scarborough	Claire Temprell	
Apologies	Susan Dench	Fiona Twilley (Director of Quality)	

**In accordance with the recently introduced policy of widening governance participation in Standards Committee business the Chairman welcomed visitors in attendance.**

**After introductions, the meeting was preceded by an electronic presentation of Sport, Business and Travel (Attached to the file copy of these minutes) delivered by the Team Leader, Jane Naylor. The Chairman thanked Jane for her professionally delivered and comprehensive presentation. Before she left the meeting Jane passed around leaflets explaining the department participation in the Erasmus programme (European Work Experience)**

### **35/15 ELIGIBILITY, QUORUM, DECLARATION OF INTERESTS AND APOLOGIES**

The apologies were accepted. No notice had been received of any member becoming ineligible to hold office, the meeting was quorate and no interests had been declared.

### **36/15 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2016 were confirmed and signed.

### **37/15 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES/NOTIFICATION OF URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no matters arising from the minutes and no urgent business was requested.

### **38/15 POST INSPECTION ACTION PLAN (PIAP)**

The monthly update on progress against the PIAP, was considered, supplementary information would be covered in later items. Good progress continued to be made in all areas and key points had been identified to reassure members of this. The paper listed 11 of these key points, these were individually addressed and comfort was taken at the positive nature of all listed. Particularly welcomed was the appointment of an English specialist who had now taken up post and was planning for the coming year. In response to a challenge it was confirmed that if the liaison inspector should attend in September, as had been suggested, the situation would be considerably and positively different from that at the time of the inspection. The attachments were also discussed and welcomed.

**The information was received.**

### **39/15 KPI MONITORING**

The KPIs detailed in the supporting paper, supplementing the PIAP information, were predictions since the final information was not yet available and it was stressed that these represented the most prudent numbers. Achieved targets were shown in green; those not achieved but improved on the previous year were shown in yellow and red indicated a fall. However, there were no red indicators. The Retention rate had improved and attendance was on target, although the achievement numbers were not yet known the outlook for Achievement Rates was promising. Predicted total numbers were:

a. 16-18 - 79% (yellow);

- b. 19+ - 81% (yellow);
- c. all ages – 80% (yellow);
- d. apprentices.
  - (i) overall – target 75% prediction 70%;
  - (ii) timely – target 59% forecast 59%.

**The information was received.**

#### **40/15 LESSON OBSERVATION UPDATE**

A total of 80 graded observations had been completed since the start of the academic year; 12 grades 1, 57 grades 2, 10 grades 3 and one Grade 1 assessments had been completed. (These numbers represent outcomes prior to re-observation those grade 3 or 4 observations had been provided with support and 7 had now moved to Grade 2). The results represented 86% “Good or Better”, in 2014/15 the number had been 86%. The detail had been analysed by curriculum area and was tabulated for ease of reference against detail from the previous year. As suggested by the Committee, gradings had been mutually moderated and were thus confidently received. The observations proforma had been revised to reflect more closely the Ofsted primary focus on Student Progress, detail of training and initial results were contained in the paper. Themed Learning Walks also now focused on the student progress theme, all walkers, whether Curriculum Managers, SLT or Corporation Members were aware of this and the associated feedback was a useful source of “coalface feeling” as evidenced by the tabulated student responses in the paper. These processes continued to provide a robust challenge.

**The information was noted.**

#### **41/15 LEARNER SURVEY**

- a. Full Time. The Full Time (FT) Learner Survey, completed by 664 learners, an increase of 77 over the previous year, was considered and, disappointingly, showed decreased results over the previous year in the 9 main categories. However, changes to the collection and recording methodology made it difficult to make meaningful comparisons. Learner views by individual curriculum areas were discussed with reference to Table 2 and 3, which compared against external benchmarks and highlighted by curriculum areas respectively. Student views by age, gender, and ethnicity were all considered and discussed. The detail in the report would inform further consideration. Changes to the system of collecting valid information on satisfaction were being considered for the coming year to reflect the importance of Student Voice.
- b. Part Time. The Part Time (PT) Learner Survey, completed by 172 learners, a decrease of 104 over the previous year, was considered and showed that all main areas had higher ratings than the previous year; although most areas considered were also above the benchmarks for GFE Colleges. Learner views by individual curriculum areas were discussed with reference to the Tables, which were based on similar categories to those for F/T learners. The detail in the report would inform further considerations and particular attention had been given to the negative feedback from Anglian Water students, it was becoming increasingly difficult to recruit skilled electrical engineering teachers and this was felt to be the main source of disquiet.
- c. A Level Students. Since changes to survey methodology in the previous year it was possible to collect feedback from specifically AS & A2 Level students, the information had been collated into 4 categories under the generic grouping, all of which had fallen dramatically. Focus groups including students and the appropriate Curriculum Managers were currently investigating the results. EAM ratings had improved over the previous year; there was no apparent difference between those with a disability or learning difficulty and the main cohort.
- d. HE Students. The HE Survey had been realigned to compare with those in use in the associated Universities thus enabling direct comparisons. Seven of the 11 categories

examined disappointingly showed far lower ratings than the previous year and again focus groups would be held to investigate the numbers.

**The information was received and noted.**

**42/15 HE UPDATE**

The recently completed HE Review visit appeared to have been positive, an action plan had been determined from the recommendations and was noted by members.

**43/15 ACCOMMODATION ACTION PLAN**

An Ofsted social care inspection had been completed on the Halls of Residence over the period 17-19 March 2016; assessments were Grade 2 (Good) for both accommodation in all areas and overall. Five areas for improvement had been identified and these were detailed in the accompanying paper together with an update on progress. It was hoped to regain the former Grade 1 (Outstanding) assessment as soon as possible.

**The information was received**

**44/15 STUDENT IMPACT**

The effect on students of implementation of changes to procedures and decisions had been fully considered in determination of each item, particularly true for the learner satisfaction surveys, student accommodation and the positive moves implementing the Ofsted recommendations; it was agreed that there were no further specific issues for discussion.

**45/15 URGENT BUSINESS**

There had been no urgent business requested.

**46/15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of next meeting would be advised.