

THE CORPORATION

CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING COMMITTEE HELD ON 25 NOVEMBER 2009

Present:

Ms K Clifford	Principal		Present
Ms A Dixon	Teaching member		Present
Ms B Graham		Co-opted member	Present
Mr T Grainger	Independent member		Present
Mr D Johnston	Independent member		Present
Mr P L Leighton		Business member	Present

Clerk to the Corporation:

Mr C Bond

Also Present:

Mr J Hedges	Vice-Chair of Corporation	Co-opted member	Present
Mr P Ramella	VP Curriculum & 14-19 Provision		Present (from 7.42pm until 8.21pm)
Mr J Hedges	Vice Chair of the Corporation		Present

Minute MQ/33/09(6.34 pm)

Declarations of Interest

There were none.

Minute MQ/34/09(6.35 pm)

Apologies for Absence

There were none

Minute MQ/35/09 (6.36 pm)

Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Quality and Performance Monitoring Committee to serve until the first meeting of the Autumn Term 2010

Beverly Graham was elected to serve as Chair of the Committee for the academic year 2009-10

David Johnston was elected to serve as Vice Chair of the Committee academic year 2009-10

Minute MQ/36/09 (6.40 pm)

Meeting with Stephen Bennion

The Chair of the committee introduced Stephen Bennion who acts as a consultant to the college on strategic issues. Some of the members of the committee had met Mr Bennion at a previous meeting on 29 September 2009. Mr Bennion addressed the committee on issues of strategic governance and the ways in which this may be explored and assessed during inspection. Mr Bennion put questions to the members and they in turn questioned him. The areas covered were:

- The responsibilities of the Corporation
- Monitoring the performance of the college management
- Setting criteria for monitoring the Quality Strategy
- Induction for Corporation Members
- Peer Review and Self Assessment
- Improving Success Rates

Minute MQ/37/09 (7.40 pm)

Unconfirmed Minutes of the Quality and Performance Monitoring Committee held on 10 June 2009

Document DQ/29/09

The minutes were approved unanimously by the Committee and signed by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.

Minute MQ/38/09 (7.41 pm)

Matters arising from the confirmed minutes of the meeting of the Quality and Performance Monitoring Committee held on 10 June 2009 which are not the subject of separate item on this agenda

There were none

Minute MQ/39/09 (7.42 pm)

College Self-Assessment Report 2008-09

Document DQ/31/09

The Principal presented the report. She highlighted the following areas for consideration by members

Student Prior Attainment

The number of learners who enrolled with an average GCSE score of 6.4 and above had fallen significantly. In 2008 22% of learners had an average GCSE score of 6.4 or above compared to 15 % in 2009. It was also noted that the literacy assessments that had been undertaken at enrolment indicated that 75% of learners demonstrated a level of literacy two levels below that considered a requirement for the course on which they were enrolled.

Capacity to Improve

The Principal indicated that the college management had given considerable thought to this grade. In many areas the college had made progress of a sufficient quality to justify a grade 2. However the failure to significantly improve the success rates in 2009 and the significant underperformance against national benchmarks at AS level meant that the college did not feel that it could justify a grade higher than a 3.

After considerable debate the committee decided to recommend that the Corporation receive the Self assessment report and approve the grades

Governance Self Assessment Report 2008-9

Document DQ/31^A/09

The Clerk to the Corporation presented the report. The document used the format of previous Governance Self Assessment reports but measured the Corporation performance against its statutory duties as defined in Article 3 of the Articles of Government. Members considered the document and asked the Clerk to include a further section addressing the peer review work undertaken by the Corporation. The committee decided to recommend that the Corporation receive the Self assessment report and approve the grades

Minute MQ/40/09 (8.21pm)

Notes from Curriculum, Quality and Resources Review Meetings 5 November 2009

Document DQ/32/09

Members considered the meeting notes. It was noted with that no CQRR days had taken place with the Head of the Creative and Performing Arts department as the current head was on maternity leave and an acting head had only been appointed very recently. On the day of the CQRR meetings the Head of Social Studies had been ill. It was also noted that the Head of Business and IT was on long term sick leave.

Members considered the identified 'Courses for Concern' It was noted that there was that in Science that while the Psychology results were good, there was a significant three year trend of poor results in the core Science subjects. There were also disappointing trends in Business Studies. English had chosen to highlight a concern with the English Language and Literature course but this did not in the view of management represent significant underperformance

Minute MQ/41/09 (8.35 pm)

Future items for the Agenda

It was requested that the committee receives a report on Equality and Diversity issues and in particular examines what appears to be the underperformance of male students who identify themselves as being of African Caribbean heritage.

Minute MQ/43/09 (8.36 pm)

Any Other Business

There was none.

Minute MQ/44/09 (8.36 pm)

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that its next meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, 3 March 2010 at 6.30pm.

The meeting concluded at 8.37 pm. No items were to be the subject of separate confidential minutes.