



MINUTES OF THE TRC QUALITY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2014

PRESENT

Dr R J G Bloomer; Mr P Jagger MBE; Mrs A Todd; Mr C Richardson; Ms C Taylor; Mr D Fitzgerald; Mrs M Allen; Dr R Williams

In Attendance:

Mrs E Pickering, Acting Clerk to the Corporation
Mr T Dowling, Vice Principal Teaching and Learning.

APOLOGIES

14.28 Apologies had been received from Mr J Ellis.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

14.29 Members were reminded of the need to declare any interests. No interests were declared in respect of agenda items however, members reserved the right to declare an interest at any stage of the meeting.

MINUTES

14.30 The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2014 were agreed as a true and accurate record subject with no amendments. The Minutes were signed by P Jagger who had chaired the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

14.31 A list of actions arising was presented and it was noted that all were covered by agenda items.

EXAM RESULTS INCLUDING VALUE ADDED

- 14.32 The Committee received a report from the Principal showing the outcomes for 2013/14. Attached to the report was the ALIS report providing a graphical presentation of value added at A/AS and BTEC. A further, '6 Dimensions of performance' report and explanatory document had been circulated to Governors to provide further detail on every AS/A level subject.
- 14.33 The Principal reported that success rates at AS and A2 had increased from 85% in 2013 to 87% (above cohort expectations at AS and in line at A2) and high grades at AS were well above cohort expectations. Unfortunately high grades at A2 were below cohort expectations and had resulted in a negative value added score at A level. Value added scores were significantly positive for AS, BTEC and CACHE, and BTEC high grades had improved from an already strong position. The Principal's report gave more details on the subjects where high grades were either significantly above or below expectation.
- 14.34 The Principal noted that English Language and Chemistry high grade scores were of concern and these were the A level subjects where value-added was significantly negative. All the English Language entries are currently being re-marked after changes in a sample sent to the Board, so the outcome of that may change the overall picture. The Chemistry high grades

partly reflect disappointing outcomes the previous year at AS; issues in the department last year have discussed previously. This year's AS results were better.

- 14.35 There was considerable discussion about the report. It was felt the reduction in high grades at A2 was an important issue for the college but questioned whether there was a similar pattern in other institutions. TRC's policy of allowing students with a basic E grade pass rather than a D or C at AS to continue to A2 is not universally followed by other institutions and does make it more difficult for us to reproduce the significantly positive value-added we get at AS at A level, as final grades are measured against GCSE results and some institutions, which select based on AS results will not have a fully representative group of students with weaker GCSE results taking A2. It was however noted that although the college is very adept at supporting students in their transition from GCSE to AS perhaps more needs to be done on the transition from AS to A2 level. The members asked for further details to be presented to the next meeting on actions to deal supporting students in the move from AS to A2 study.
- 14.36 In response to a question on comparative performance at other institutions, The Principal stated that official value-added data would be available to individual institutions on 1 November 2014 and the subsequent national publication of performance tables would allow for these comparisons to be made. (It was subsequently established that these tables will be published in January)

The Report was noted and received.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014/15

- 14.37 The Committee received a report updating progress on the TRC Overall College Development Plan 2013 – 2015. The committee discussed the amendments and noted the amended exam outcomes. The following points were also noted –
- There were no teaching staff with 'red data' for 2013/14
 - Enrolment in September 2014 was 100 students higher than expected.
 - Law results have dramatically improved
 - Science results have improved on last year although not yet consistently good or better across all subjects.
 - A collaboration has begun with Longley Park to see how the two similar sixth form colleges can offer mutual support.

The meeting noted that there is also ongoing collaborative work taking place with Newman School and this will be added to the Development Plan.

The Report was noted and received.

TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT STRATEGY 2014/16

- 14.38 The Committee received the TLAS for consideration. The VP T&L reminded the Committee that, as previously, this is a two year strategy. The strategy has 5 key priorities with a main aim of improving TLA at TRC.
- 14.39 The VP T&L outlined the plan for training for the current academic year, which had started with a presentation from Geoff Petty to all teaching staff. The teaching staff will use this training as a basis for the after-work sessions for the rest of the year.
- 14.40 The College Gradebook system is becoming embedded and provides data for intervention with under-achieving students. It was felt that although work is being done to help students at risk of failure more could be done in a systematic way to help students move from 'C' to 'B'.

- 14.41 The College has moved to employing dedicated Progress Tutors this year and the meeting discussed the impact that this could have on student achievement. Each tutor has 11 tutor groups each of 18 students. They will work with them on a group and individual basis. The meeting noted that the tutors have undergone training and will be monitored against a variety of targets. The rescheduled Q&S meeting in February will provide a suitable time for a report to the committee on the initial working of the new system.

The report was noted and received.

LEARNER SURVEY 2013/14

- 14.42 The report is a combination of a variety of surveys and focus groups carried out in the 2013/14 academic year. The outcomes were very positive and the committee were pleased to note that over 97% of the responders said that they felt safe at TRC. Issues were raised in relation to tutorials and Moodle, both of which are being addressed.

- 14.43 The committee suggested that a focus group should be set up to consider the new tutorial system.

ANNUAL REPORT ON COMPLAINTS 2013/14

- 14.44 The VP T&L reported that very few complaints had been received last year and all had been resolved.

The report was noted and received.

RECRUITMENT 2014/15

- 14.45 The Principal reported that 1577 students had been enrolled this year, 97 above target. Using historic trends on pre-census drop-out, it is hoped that by the census date in the week before October half-term there will be at least 1540 students, 100 above expectation by that point. This will result in higher funding next year and, given another good enrolment next September, in 2016-17 too.

LINK GOVERNOR VISIT UPDATE

- 14.46 It was reported that several link governor visits had taken place in the last academic year. The governors who took part felt that it was a positive experience.

- 14.47 There was considerable discussion on how the programme could be carried out this year. It was agreed to involve certain governors in the Learning Walk schedule. Those governors who have not visited a college department would do this first to complete last year's process and members of the Q&S would do the first Learning Walks. The VP T&L was asked to discuss the schedule with D Fitzgerald.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

- 14.27 The next meeting would be held on Monday 17 November 2014 at 5.30 pm

Signed _____ Chair

Date _____