

THE COLLEGE OF RICHARD COLLYER
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
QUALITY & CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
HELD ON Monday 21 November 2022 at 16.30

Present: Mr Steve Allen, Mr Joe Bensusan, Miss Rach Hughes, Mr Dan Lodge, Dr Grant Powell, Mrs Clare Ruaux, Mrs Helen Smith, Mrs Beverley Valley

In attendance: Members of SMT – Mr Rob Hussey (VP Curriculum), Ms Andrea John (VP Pastoral)

Mrs Russha Sellings (Clerk)

Chair: Dr Grant Powell

1. Chair's Introductions and Apologies for Absence

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting which opened as scheduled and confirmed there were no consent items on the agenda, with the reports to be received or endorsed. It was noted the SAR and QIP were easier to digest since they had been streamlined.

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared with respect of the items on the agenda.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2022

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without amendment.

4. Matters Arising

Item 8: – QIP structure / reporting review (on Noms agenda) - the VP (Curriculum) advised that the process of streamlining would continue following feedback. This would become easier as the College emerged from the pandemic and data normalised.

5. Strategy Developments

Papers: Education KPIs, College SAR 21-22 and QIP 22-23, Gatsby report (careers)

a) KPIs (Education)

The VP (Curriculum) circulated an additional page relating to subjects identified for improvement.

Members were provided with an update on key headlines including a cautionary note on value added due to CAGs and TAGs. A recalibration of grade boundaries would also be required. However, in-year results overall were very pleasing for both A-level at 68.5% and BTEC despite the new specification. T-levels also performed well against national. Transition was now reported at merit level since a distinction was not required for progression and these results were strong.

The VP (Curriculum) also advised PR1 grades are released to GCSE students prior to and in the same month they sit the first re-sits, therefore the benefit of reporting a fail at PR1 for these students was debatable and led to an apparent inflation of PR1 attainment grades for GCSE students.

The Chair invited questions from the Committee. Members scrutinised the subject data and queried the vocational Criminology outcomes. The VP responded that Criminology PR1 grades were in line with summer 2022 outcomes, and equal to national averages. Following the subject's first set of results the College were keen to build on these and aimed to achieve above national average results in 2023. Observations revealed a well-planned and assessed subject with effective teaching. An EQR was imminent, and it was hoped that this would produce some further insights. Stuck subjects were discussed. Members were reassured that there was a focus at directorate level as well as targets included in the QIP.

For some subjects there may be an inconsistent application of grading at exam board level which could result in grades being more difficult to predict. Views were also sought from the Student Governors who thought there was a perception around the standards required from the outset for some subjects e.g. Law. There was also thought to be a challenge with predicting PR grades in certain areas, therefore dialogue was an important part of this process. A discussion took place around predicted versus PR grades. While they were inextricably linked, there were differences, with the predicted grade being the optimum outcome.

The VP (Pastoral) spoke to the related KPIs. The impact of compulsory Enrichment and Pro-Study on attendance was noted. Retention had improved on the previous year. Members queried the impact including financial of the 10% drop out rate. The VP (Pastoral) explained that this was in line with sector averages. In some cases, students were repeating the year and there were approximately 30 students on a 1A transfer. Funding allocations were made in the Spring and not at transition stage. Mental health and wellbeing had a huge bearing on students' ability to continue, especially as current cohorts had been impacted by the pandemic. Transfer re-sits and bespoke career and progression were starting to show improvements. In reference to the SAR, it was noted that subject entry requirements would need to be benchmarked comparatively, ultimately, an increase in entry level would likely improve retention but potentially at a cost to the inclusive ethos of the College.

b) College SAR-QIP

i) Self-Assessment Report 21-22

Includes examinations review under curriculum section of the SAR

The Chair reiterated the focus was on the Curriculum and Pastoral sections of the SAR.

The VP (Curriculum) had presented results analysis at Planning Day and the cross-College focus was evident. Alps methodology was explained since the reintroduction this academic year and despite the known uplift of CAGs and TAGs, the results were improved on 2019 with an Alps grade 2 for A-level (top 10% nationally) and 3 for BTEC (top 25%). The Alps Quality Indicator grade 5 for Level 3 BTEC demonstrated that students leave Collyer's with points scores equal to the national average. The examined components of Level 3 BTEC qualifications are a focus for this academic year, aiming above national averages.

Members queried the challenges in attracting T-level students and the results. The results were still double the national average however, it represented a small aspect of the College offering overall and currently created a deficit. SMT were cognisant of the Skills Agenda and the future of technical provision. Members agreed it was best monitored via the QIP.

The VP (Pastoral) also provided some commentary on the pastoral aspects of the SAR. Members asked about the success of work experience, and it was confirmed almost 60% of activities had taken place in person. Some development points had fed into the QIP.

Members' attention was drawn to the summary grades on page 37 which currently reflected the Ofsted judgements and there was a debate on the way forward given all actions were being addressed. It was concluded the evidence base would be strong by the following year and the gradings would be revised at this point.

ii) Quality Improvement Plan 22-23

The VPs provided updates on their respective 5 key targets documented in the QIP (Strategic Aims 1 & 2).

Members queried the outcome of the Government's defunding of certain BTEC courses, in particular health and social care which had historically been high performing and achieved good success rates. The VP (Curriculum) said the DfE announcement was expected by the end of the year.

Members debated the HE progression that favoured universities in the southeast. It was hoped UNIFROG would continue to sign-post courses available on a wider geographical spread.

Members challenged the evidence of EDI within the Pastoral QIP referring to updates from a racial diversity governance training course and the recommendation of embedding practice at the highest level. The VP (Pastoral) responded that there was an EDI QIP with 8 related targets sitting under the College QIP which was a broader high level summary. EDI therefore ran through all aspects of the operations of the College from students to staff (HR). Members requested target 2.1 be more explicitly expressed in other areas such as actions within 2.3. **(Action: VP Pastoral)**

The Student Governors remarked on the attendance and engagement of enrichment especially for some societies. The VP (Pastoral) said it was opportune to consider offering further support to student leaders and staff facilitators. **(Action: VP Pastoral)**

Recommendation: The Governing Body approve the College SAR-QIP subject to agreed amends to Strategic Aim 2.

c) Gatsby Benchmark Report: Careers

The review was conducted in the Summer term by a Careers & Enterprise Advisor following a similar format to an EQR. Areas for development had already been identified for progression through the QIP. There would be a full EQR of progression in the Spring and in the meantime a progression focus via enrichment and a platform shared with parents. The Careers Governor JD was noted, and it was confirmed this role sat within the current Governor link scheme.

6. Safeguarding (termly update)

The first of the termly updates was presented on the screen. Members heard of the future plans to track trends year on year. Members asked about the response of the counselling services. The VP (Pastoral) gave an update on the current position. The counselling service provides approximately 40 sessions per week for students. However, the level of suicidal ideation was high and thought to be a residual effect of the former Year 10 cohort that had been significantly impacted by the suicide cluster 2 years previous. This threshold level was beyond that of the services, requiring a clinically higher level. Therefore, these students fell between in-house support and external agency support due to lengthy waiting lists for CAMHS. This increased the pressures on Student Services. A new mental health and wellbeing strategy was underway and reflected in the QIP. There had been an internal promotion to fill the Safeguarding Officer vacancy so the team would be fully staffed by the new year.

Members thanked the VP (Pastoral) for the informative presentation.

7. Policies

Paper: Student Voice Policy

a) RCU Constitution

The VP (Pastoral) addressed the constitution first. This would be deferred to the Spring term to allow for potential updates to the eligibility and election process. **(Action: VP Pastoral)**

b) Student Voice Policy

The VP (Pastoral) explained the revisions. The policy had previously been approved by the Governing Body. The Clerk explained the requirement within the I&As to ensure there was a framework for all stakeholder feedback and in respect of strategic planning, however the policy itself was suggested as under the purview of this Committee in the revised Scheme of Delegation presented for approval to the Governing Body in July. The Clerk took an action to confirm next steps. **(Action: Clerk)**

Resolved: The Committee approved the Student Voice Policy.

8. AOB

Nothing to record.

9. Meeting Assessment

The meeting was conducted in good time by the Chair and feedback was sought on any areas that required more in-depth scrutiny; it was confirmed the SAR-QIP in particular had the appropriate level of focus.

10. Date of the Next Meeting:

The Committee would meet again on Monday 13 March 2023 at 16.30 [Post-meeting note – deferred to 20 March 2023].

The meeting closed at 17.56

Chair.....

Date

RRS 23-11-22