



STAFF CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th May 2010

PRESENT: Julian Cass, Maureen Deans, Linda Jordan (Chair), Antoinette McIntosh, Denise Brown-Sackey, Simon Eko, Zareen Graves, Zeynab Zuka-Bill, Quintin Peppiatt

IN ATTENDANCE: Philip Badman, Christine Freestone, Martin O'Regan , Zioge Smith (Clerk).

10/11 Apologies

Apologies were received from Caroline Hughes and Alistair Clark. It was noted that this would have been Caroline's last meeting as she leaving the employ of the College at the end of July.

10/12 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

10/13 Minutes of the last meeting held on 18th February 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2010 were agreed as a true record.

10/14 Matters Arising from the Minutes

10/08 – Draft Calendar 2010/11

The consultation for the summer shutdown had ended and final changes made to the College calendar.

10/15 2010 -2011 funding report and implications for budget

The Committee noted that:

- The combined reduction in income to date for 2010/11 was £1.446m
- There was a lot of uncertainty in the run up to the June Budget announcements.
- A number of FE quangos were being offered up for savings and it was yet unknown whether the government would accept this as sufficient cuts.

- Budget planning for best year was starting on a baseline of £2m being taken out of the budget.

10/16 Consultation on construction curriculum

The Committee noted that: -

- The construction curriculum was being reviewed for closure based on quality, learner demand, competitive environment and efficiency.
- Options 2 & 3 would offer opportunities for voluntary redundancies for some staff, skills audit and redeployment for others.
- In the short term, the space vacated by Construction would be mothballed and/or partly used by Engineering.
- The consultation process was not yet finalised.

10/17 Tuition fees policy and Pay as You Go

Councillor Peppiatt declared an interest in this item.

The Committee noted that: -

- A working party had been charged with looking at enabling learners pay fees in easily affordable instalments.
- Recommendations would be going to the College Executive Board for approval.
- There would be a technical feasibility study on closer working relationships with the local Credit Union.
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- Meeting to be set up with London Borough of Newham regarding ESOL provision across the borough.
- The LSC policy on fees had created an unsustainable fee gap for the College which had necessitated accommodating the challenges by getting learners to contribute towards their fees.

10/18 Learner attendance proposal

The Committee noted: -

- A working party was exploring alternative technologies to the learner attendance registrations system currently used by the College.
- Teachers would be nominated to participate in a trial in early June.
- There would be no reason for non compliance with College policy on marking registers in session if the new system was successful.

It was suggested that:

- The consultation should include staff that monitor student attendance.

Councillor Peppiatt left the meeting at this point. It was noted that the meeting remained quorate.

10/19 SIS Review

The Committee noted: -

- The College was reviewing the way it used Supported Independent Study (SIS) for the delivery of curriculum.
- Students would be consulted on the review which would look at if the College could use a blended learning model for delivery that expanded learning for students and provided more job outcomes.

10/20 Staff Conference

The Committee noted: -

- The Staff Conference would be taking place on 30 June at The Troxy.
- Attendance at the conference was compulsory and coaches had been arranged to leave from both campuses from 8.30am.
- The Annual Students Awards ceremony would be taking place later on that day at the same venue.

10/21 ICT support contract

The Committee noted: -

- After extensive procurement exercise, the College has selected Capita to replace Steria as the preferred contractor for the delivery of ICT support services.
- Existing Steria staff would be TUPED over.

10/22 Any other business

Consultation on Construction Curriculum

- The Committee noted that the Corporation Board and management team took that view that quality of teaching was just one aspect that contributed to success rates.
- However, the College was judged by its success rates and faced funding cuts in the face of poor success rates.
- While the College recognised the range of issues facing the curriculum area, including students' social circumstance, it could not afford to defend poor success rates and had to look for ways to maximise efficiencies.

10/23 Date of Next Meeting

5.00 pm on Thursday **4 November 2010.**

Signed as a correct record
Linda Jordan – Chair of the Committee