



NEWHAM COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION

STUDENT CONSULTATIVE FORUM

Notes of the meeting held on 8 February 2017

Present:

Students: 14 students attended.

Governors:	Andrew Edwards	Vice Chair of Student Consultative forum
	Di Gowland	Principal
	Angelina Ikeako	Staff Governor
	Ahmed Noori	Student Governor

Staff:	Beryl Hughes	Clerk to the Corporation
	Annette Cast	Deputy Principal – PQI
	Anil Nagpal	Deputy Principal Finance & Infrastructure
	Carlos Cubillo-Barsi	Vice Principal
	Mary Herbert	Vice Principal
	Olivia Besly	Director of HR and Legal Services
	Pieter Vermeulen	Director of Finance
	Andrew Mitchell	Director of Marketing
	Clive Ansell	Director of Student Services
	Steve Parry	Director of ITS
	Odetta Carew	Director of Service Industries
	Simeon Gibbons	Registrar
	Danielle Giles	Sport Development officer
	Fiona Adams	Catering manager

1. Introduction

AE welcomed the attendees and the staff present introduced themselves. Vice Chair explained that the purpose of this forum was to discuss issues of common interest as well as general concerns and that the meeting served as a direct line to the governors and the College management.

As there was an open agenda for the meeting, AE invited students to talk about issues that they wanted to bring to the attention of senior staff and Governors.

2. Matters arising

The forum received an update from Steve Parry on IT issues raised at the last meeting and an update from Mary Herbert on Catering issues raised at the last meeting

IT –

- SP has met with students and a focus group is being set up.
- A web filtering system went live in December and it has been established that 40% of Wifi traffic was video streaming and music.
- Half term week will be used to deal with web filtering problems
- The Wifi service has improved but the size and shape of rooms affects reception.
- A phased PC refresh programme is planned

Catering –

- MH confirmed the catering times had been changed as requested
- FA has met with students and a focus group has been set up to discuss food preferences

Student Finance –

- SG confirmed 24+ level 3 advance level loans are readily available
- 16-18 funds are running low
- Students should not panic if a letter has been received for fees if they are over 19 but contact learner services

Issues raised by students

3. IT FOR ENGINEERING

- You Tube has been blocked at SC and students are unable to access for their courses

Response:

- Access for W8 and W9 in the engineering block will be investigated

4. CLASS REP RESPONSIBILITIES

- A HE student had not been made aware of the forum prior to 8 February and was also unaware of her responsibilities as class rep

Response:

- D Giles will meet with student separately to update her and apologised that information had not been given by the member of staff running the election following her election as class representative.

5. MATHS AND ENGLISH SUPPORT

- Access to HE students not being supported for English and maths

Response:

- MH said support should be given and she will check why it is not happening and to ensure support is provided.

6. ACCESS TUTORS

- Teachers are sometimes absent
- Students left unsupervised and not given work.
- A teacher speaks disrespectfully to students.
-

Response

- MH will meet with the student at SC after half term to discuss full and take appropriate action but stressed that the access courses are a great success. It is unusual to encounter problems as tutors want students to succeed.

7. TOILETS

- Toilets at Stratford Campus are dirty

Response

- All toilets are cleaned regularly but the cleaners will be asked to check.

8. FASHION LEVEL 1

- Students disappointed they do not have the opportunity to go on study trips to museums and foreign work experience placements

Response:

- Trips vary depending on the courses but there should be three a term.
- Foreign work experience is linked to the course and so far this year travel, business and Health & Social care have had foreign work experience.

9. SAMSUNG DIGITAL ACADEMY

- Chairs are not up to standard and students are uncomfortable when working.
- PC's are not a high enough specification for the courses.

Response:

- Health and safety will check the chairs.
- SE will liaise with SDA staff on PC problems.
- As websites relating to games are required as part of some courses the filtering system in SDA will be reviewed.

10 ENGINEERING

- Classes are being swapped around
- Fifty per cent of tools and equipment is missing
- Tutors are not helping to source tools required
- Previously students were asked to show ID to obtain tools but that no longer happens
- There is a leak in the ceiling

Response

- MH will meet with staff after half term and check what is happening to the classes and tools
- Estates will check the ceiling.

11 STUDENT PRESIDENT

- Suggested Humanity students should have an opportunity to go to courts to observe
- Voiced concern about the lack of opportunity for foreign trips.
- Delivered an update on the work the student union had done including charity work.

Response:

- The Principal reiterated that foreign work placements are linked to courses.
- They are funding by the European Social Fund and no other funds are available to the college.
- MH confirmed opportunities for industry relevant trips would be looked at.

Students were reassured that their queries and complaints were taken very seriously and followed up by the relevant departments.

Students are kept up to date with information by text, email and notice boards and it is essential that students keep their contact details up to date.

The Chair was disappointed with the low number of students attending would like to see the number of attendees grow.

The Chair thanked the students for their questions and comments and encouraged them to raise day-to-day issues or concerns with their faculty managers or through the official customer complaints system.

Date of the next meeting
17 May 2017 - Stratford Campus