

**NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEARNING AND TEACHING COMMITTEE
HELD ON 18 MAY 2022.
THE MEETING WAS HELD REMOTELY**

PRESENT:

Fiona Godsman	Acting Committee Chair
Runa McNamara	Board Member
Johanna Thompson	Board Member
Jon Vincent	Board Member (from 17:20 onwards)
William French	Board Member

IN ATTENDANCE:

David Marshall	Assistant Principal, Student Experience
John Rafferty	Vice Principal, Curriculum and Quality Improvement
Kirsty Mavor	Clerk (Minute Taker)

22.12 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted from Alan O'Donnell, Gordon McGuinness and Eric Brownlie.

22.13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

R McNamara asked the Committee to note her involvement with the Glasgow Clyde Education Foundation. W French confirmed that he is a member of EIS.

22.14 DRAFT MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON 9 FEBRUARY 2022

The minute was accepted as a true record of the meeting of 9 February 2022.

22.15 MATTERS ARISING ACTION GRID

The Committee noted the one action was now complete.

22.16 AY 21/22 ARRANGEMENTS FOR ASSESSMENT CERTIFICATION

J Rafferty confirmed that SQA exams are taking place and the College has hosted a number of exams. Other exams will be going ahead as normal and internal assessment is continuing for other subjects. J Rafferty advised that industrial action may delay the release of results for internal assessments and this may create uncertainty for students. This will not however impact on the external SQA exams for National 5 and Higher subjects.

The Committee thanked J Rafferty for his verbal update.

22.17 QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

J Rafferty spoke to the paper which provided an update in two areas:

- (1) PI Benchmarks 2020/21
- (2) Applications 2022/2023

With regards to PI benchmarks, J Rafferty advised that the College had been reporting improving PI trends for a number of years across all modes of delivery. However, 2020-21 had seen a reduction in attainment due the disruptions caused by the pandemic. This reduction in attainment levels has been experienced across the sector. The PI Benchmarks for 2020/21 have been submitted to the SFC and published.

It was noted by the Committee that the College was performing highly in social subjects but the level of attainment for science related subject was not as high. Overall, the College was performing well in the sector. The Committee was pleased to note that the appointment of two Curriculum Managers is likely to contribute to higher levels of attainment in science related subjects.

With regard to applications for 2022/23, it was noted that whilst external applications are down the College is making progress at meeting portfolio targets. Steps have been taken to simplify the admissions process and the recent marketing campaign is likely to assist. The College is being proactive at guiding students towards the next step that may work for them if they are unsuccessful in their initial application.

The Committee discussed the factors affecting application levels and noted that there was a sector wide decrease in applications which may be related to the increasing number of University places and the impact of increasing modern apprenticeship places. The buoyant jobs market may also be contributing.

The Committee thanked J Rafferty for the update.

22.18 STUDENT PRESIDENT'S REPORT

J Thompson provided an update on her involvement with various focus groups across the three campuses. The subjects covered at the focus groups included (i) on campus learning (ii) online learning (iii) withdrawals (iv) inductions and (v) general communication. Overall, students were keen to report to campus but an element of online learning did provide greater flexibility for some individuals with childcare and other personal responsibilities. The Student Association will be promoting the induction programme for the upcoming College year and will also be working with the marketing team around communications.

J Thompson raised with the Committee a general concern about the level of digital skills amongst some students. In particular, some ESOL students were often facing both a digital barrier as well as a language barrier. This was discussed by the Committee and it was agreed that it was important to link the curriculum with the level of support provided to students. The curriculums were being designed so that there is a digital component to the course and separate digital courses were also being offered. The Committee asked for a further report to be provided on the steps taken to address digital challenges faced by some students.

JT/DM

The Committee thanked J Thompson for the helpful update.

22.19 STUDENT EXPERIENCE UPDATE

D Marshall presented this paper providing the Committee with an update on the restructuring of Student Experience services. He advised that many roles had now been recruited for both internally and externally, where required. The Student Experience Leadership Team had recently held a planning day to discuss the new structure and the way of working. This is part of the transition work taking place during May/June with the full roll out of the new structure scheduled for August.

D Marshall confirmed that all services are now open on campus with differing hybrid working arrangements in place to ensure services continue to be delivered. The DELTA project has also been extended until the end of December 2024.

D Marshall took this opportunity to thank J Thompson for her support and hard work over the last year and the Committee also expressed its gratitude. The Committee also thanked D Marshall for his update.

22.20 CURRICULUM AND EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

J Rafferty presented the report which provided the Committee with an update on the current credit estimates which are showing an outturn of between -4.6% and -4.7%. The latest figure for the day of the Committee meeting is -4.5%. If this credit outcome is achieved, the college will achieve all of its core credit activity but only a proportion of its ESF target. There may be further improvement in these numbers which is being driven by the increasing return to campus having an impact on retention.

At the time of this meeting, the SFC guidance for credit funding is yet to be published, however the SFC had shared a draft version of the proposed rules. This guidance indicates that a number of flexibilities introduced this year will still be available next session.

The Committee was pleased to note that UCAS has worked with the SCQF Partnership and SQA to now include all SCQF level 6 programmes in the UCAS Tariff Tables from May 2022. This will help broaden the opportunities available to many students.

J Rafferty referred to a recent Scottish Government Report published on the *Wider Harms of the Covid-19 pandemic on Learners, Students and Staff within Higher Education, Further Education and Community Learning and Development in Scotland*. It was agreed that this report should be shared more widely with the Board.

KM

22.21 LEARNING AND TEACHING KPI REPORT

J Rafferty spoke to the report and advised that, as agreed at the previous meeting, the relevant fields have now been populated with data for 2020/21. Steps are being taken to obtain data from external stakeholders to populate some KPIs and legacy data can also be added. The Committee advised that the aim of KPI data is to ensure that it has the right information to monitor progress. It noted that it would take some time for trends to establish but it was a useful tool to develop. The Committee agreed that the current data could be amended to refer to the modern apprenticeship scheme and present the numbers relating to complaints differently.

JR

Items for Noting

22.22 REVISED COLLEGE STRATEGIES

The Committee was provided with the revised strategies for the areas it oversees namely (i) Learning and Teaching (ii) Partnership and (iii) Learner Experience. The Committee discussed these strategies and whether there was a general awareness amongst employees of the strategies that underpin the College. It was agreed that not all employees will have a detailed

understanding of the strategies but they shape major initiatives in the College and also help inform action and behaviour.

22.23 AOB

The Committee agreed that all papers were disclosable.

The Committee discussed upcoming graduation plans and was pleased to note that planning is taking place for the graduation on 5 November to be held in person.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on 16 November 2022 at 4.30pm.