NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEARNING AND TEACHING COMMITTEE HELD ON 24 MAY 2023
THE MEETING WAS HELD VIA TEAMS

PRESENT:

Gordon McGuinness	Committee Chair
Runa McNamara	Board Member
William French	Board Member
Maureen McKenna	Board Member
Jon Vincent	Board Member
Ashleigh McCulloch	Co-opted Member

IN ATTENDANCE:

Eric Brownlie	Assistant Principal, Quality and Performance
David Marshall	Assistant Principal, Student Experience
John Rafferty	Vice and Deputy Principal, Curriculum and Quality Enhancement
Kirsty Mavor	Clerk (Minute Taker)

23.13 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted from A O'Donnell and A Chaudhry.

23.14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

23.15 DRAFT MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON 1 FEBRUARY 2023

The minute was accepted as a true record of the meeting of 1 February 2023.

23.16 MATTERS ARISING ACTION GRID

The Committee noted that all the actions on the grid had been completed. An update was provided to the Committee on the recent election of a new Student President and Vice Presidents who will start in August 2023.

23.17 AY 2022/23 ARRANGEMENTS - ASSESSMENT/CERTIFICATION

E Brownlie confirmed that normal assessment practices have returned will a full diet of SQA exams being held for the first time in three years. Dispensation was arranged with SQA at the time of the Anniesland closure especially for practical subjects which required access to campus. By 2023/24 assessment and certification arrangements will be back to a full evidence-based approach.

23.18 QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

E Brownlie spoke to the paper which provided an update on the following areas: -

(1) **Attainment 2021-22:** Figures have recently been published and there has been a noticeable drop across all areas. The impact of Covid, COP26 disruption, increase in University places and buoyant job market have all contributed to attainment levels. While this drop has been experienced across the sector the College is proactively taken steps to support departments with lower attainment rates.

(2) **Applications and Recruitment Update:** The 'Come to Clyde' strategy has had a positive impact on application numbers which are considerably higher than last year. The number of offers accepted is almost 2000 higher than the equivalent time last year. A full evaluation of the success of the 'Come to Clyde' strategy will take place in September 2023.

(3) **Survey Feedback:** Details of the Student Satisfaction Feedback 2023 survey were provided with high levels of satisfaction recorded and improvements in most areas. Overall, 93.80% of students said they were satisfied with their College experience. Stakeholder feedback was also positive with every area surveyed receiving over 90% satisfaction in all areas.

(4) **Ten Year Anniversary:** The College is looking at ways to mark the College's 10 year anniversary taking into account the current financial challenges. Further details will be provided to the Committee.

23.19 STUDENT ASSOCIATION'S REPORT

In A Chaudhry's absence, the Committee was provided with an update on the election of the Student President and Vice Presidents. A more detailed report on GCCSA's work will be provided at the Board meeting on 14 June 2023.

23.20 STUDENT EXPERIENCE UPDATE

D Marshall presented this paper providing an overview of student experience activity. He advised that there has been a focus on improving the 'onboarding' experience to ensure that students have a smooth transition from enrolment to induction which will help improve students sense of belonging and retention rates. The roll out of this project will occur through the months June – August 2023.

Development work has been taking place across the College to establish the opportunities and challenges staff and students face with developments in artificial intelligence (AI). The College's eLearning team has been investigating possible ways in which AI could be used positively within learning and support environments and a series of seminars have been held.

The current funding allocation from the Scottish Government for Mental Health and Counselling ends in July 2023 so a new model of mental health support within the College is being developed. Steps are being taken to investigate the use of mental health mentoring which will support

individual students and could be funded through either DSA or bursary funds. Committee members encouraged contact with organisations such as MCR Pathways and Lifelink to see if they were able to assist.

The Learning Inclusion requirements have increased significantly in the College over the last few years and steps are being taken to address the increase in volume and complexities which is becoming unsustainable in the current financial environment. The service delivery model has been reviewed to increase efficiency and effectiveness in this area.

23.21 CURRICULUM AND EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

J Rafferty spoke to the report and provided the Committee with an update on the credits position. The college has two credit targets to meet, a core target of 124,357 and a Foundation Apprenticeship target of 2,320 credits (reserved for FA school pupils only).

The College is projected to meet a best-case scenario of **-0.9%** and a worst-case scenario of **-1.1%** which is within the 2% tolerance. The current position for core credits is 124,107 (99.7%) and for FA credits it is 1091 (47%). The level of recruitment for FA credits fell short of the aspirational target with other Colleges in the Glasgow region having a similar experience.

An update was provided on the Scottish Government's draft budget for 2023/24 and the withdrawal of the additional £26million allocated to the College sector. As a consequence of funding cuts to SDS, Modern Apprenticeship allocations to managing agents have also been reduced by 13%.

SFC indicative funding allocations were published during the Easter break. In terms of credit allocations most Colleges have been told they can receive all of their credit funding for a target which is reduced by 10% on last year. Core and FA targets will be merged into a single pot with the College's credit target reducing from 126,357 to 113,700 in exchange for a higher credit case value (£305 per credit). The SFC Credit Guidance document is expected to be published by the end of May.

As advised at the last meeting, the College has been modelling different curriculum approaches to maximise savings. The main changes are likely to be: -
- A new reduced portfolio of around 124,000 credits.
- All 18 credit FE courses to be reduced to 15.
- All courses to deliver one credit at low or no cost through integration with other units.

The College will continue to offer 40 hours of learning for all units, supported by good quality VLE materials, although the average face-to-face taught hours per unit will be 31 hours. These measures will free up

room in the curriculum to allow staff to leave through voluntary severance and to significantly reduce temporary staffing levels.

The Committee discussed the impact of these initiatives on the student experience and noted that the College was trying to provide shorter courses rather than withdraw complete courses. The change in credits from 18 to 15 could potentially decrease workload pressure on students which may help improve retention levels. The College will do all it can to try and ensure the student experience is meaningful and high levels of student satisfaction remain.

As discussed earlier in the meeting, recruitment for 2023/24 is trending positively compared to the last three years. Applications are up on the same point last year with the highest ever number of offers accepted (over 4000) and lowest ever number of remaining vacancies (only 873).

Details were provided of the current industrial action involving absence short of strike and the potential impact the results boycott may have on students and their onward destination.

The Committee thanked J Rafferty for his detailed update.

23.22   KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

J Rafferty presented this report and advised that, following an internal audit, the presentation of KPIs to this Committee will be changed so it is consistent with the approach taken by other Committees.   **JR**

The key messages from the KPI data are that:
* Student satisfaction rates have grown overall.
* Significantly more students have a 'sense of belonging' than last year.
* Attendance levels are improving.
* Course-related reasons have diminished significantly as a reason for drop-out.
* Employer satisfaction level seem to be improving but are possibly polarised in some areas.

Items for Noting
23.23   SCHEDULE OF WORK FOR 2023/24
The 2023/24 schedule was provided to the Committee and K Mavor advised that this schedule can be amended at any stage to reflect the Committee's upcoming work.

23.24   AOB
J Vincent thanked G McGuinness for his many years of positive contribution and leading the Committee so effectively in his role as Chair. As Chair he has ensured the Committee provided the right level of challenge in a supportive environment. The Chair thanked the Executive

for passing on their knowledge and expertise to the Committee and for the good working relationship.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING
The next meeting will take place on 15 November 2023 at 4.30pm via teams.