

TEACHING & LEARNING COMMITTEE



GATESHEAD COLLEGE

Report: Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16
September 2015

Author: Clerk

Action: Approve

Status: Open

Present: David Mitchell (Chair)
Judith Doyle (Principal)
Christine Jones
Mark Taylor
Nick Hurn
Chris Toon
Ivan Jepson

In attendance: Gillian Forrester
John Gray
Andrew Robson
Tim Poolan
Kimberley Ievins (Acting Clerk)
Suzanne Clark

T/40 Welcome/Apologies

The Chair welcomed all to the first Committee meeting of the new academic year. No apologies were received.

T/41 Co-option pending appointment by the Corporation – Christine Jones (CJ)

The Chair recommended that pending formal appointment to the committee by the Corporation, CJ be co-opted to join the Teaching & Learning Committee on the basis she will bring a wealth of experience to the Committee. Members were asked to agree that CJ be co-opted for the purpose of today's meeting until formal appointment by the Corporation.

RESOLVED: to co-opt CJ to the Teaching and Learning committee.

T/42 Minutes of the last Meeting held on Wednesday 29 April 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29 April 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

T/43 Matters Arising

The Chair requested an update on the procedure for governors' involvement (T/29). CT advised that the Teaching and Learning Procedure is under review and will be shared at next meeting.

The Principal commented that much of the debate at the previous meeting was acknowledged during the recent inspection and the progress made was evident. The Chair agreed that the Ofsted judgements validated the debate and this illustrated the level of challenge and support from the Committee.

T/44 Ofsted Report

Chris Toon (CT), Deputy Principal: Curriculum & Quality presented the Report to the Committee.

CT advised that he was delighted to present the report to the committee. Members mustn't underestimate the significance of the report as it is one of only two outstanding judgements given during the last academic year. The College will continue to challenge where key areas for improvement have been identified. CT will ensure that key and emerging themes are embedded into curriculum areas. There is also a need to continue to monitor value added data.

The Chair echoed the comments of CT and thanked all members of the Committee for their efforts in supporting the College to achieve this outstanding result.

The Principal agreed that the result should not be underestimated. It is a significant achievement, especially to move from 'requiring improvement'. It was a team effort and this is clear in the report. The College is focused on the things that matter and the report shows that the College do their very best for their students.

NH commented on the significant achievement, especially based on when the inspection took place. This makes the result even more impressive.

The Chair added that the result came at the best possible time due to an area based review announced by Government. To be an outstanding College should give a reasonably secure footing and stand the College in good stead leading up to the review.

IJ suggested that the College needs to look at how we use the strength the result gives to influence area based reviews.

The Principal added that, along with the Chair of the Corporation and the Clerk, she had recently attended an event with the chair of the area based reviews (the FE Commissioner). The review will be completed by the North East LEP but the North East region is not considered to be high priority. All North East colleges have current grading of at least good.

The Chair emphasised that the Colleges focus must be on continuing to deliver high quality outcomes.

The Chair asked whether there was a need for a post inspection action plan. CT confirmed that areas for improvement will be addressed in the self-assessment process and it was not necessary to have a specific post inspection action plan.

The Chair asked whether the key area for improvement linked to promoting equality and diversity in curriculum teams. CT responded that there is always more to be done. CT has already discussed with the Committee the difficulty of embedding this into some curriculum areas. The inspection recognised how far ahead we were with embedding British Values and the Prevent agenda. The Principal commented that the College must not become complacent and must keep the culture of always wanting to improve. NH suggested that the College need to use succession planning to ensure there are always staff capable of moving into roles with more responsibility.

The Principal also advised the Committee that the College had received outstanding judgements for safeguarding and acknowledged the efforts by DM and JG and the work they do to ensure that the College is a safe environment for staff and students.

IJ thanked the Chair of the Committee for ensuring that the Board have more understanding of the quality of teaching and learning in the College.

The report was noted with great pleasure.

T/45 Higher Education Review – Further Update

This item is CONFIDENTIAL and not for publication.

T/46 College Performance Report

The report and the discussion ‘are closed to the public’ until such time as they are no longer commercially sensitive.

T/47 Teaching, Learning and Assessment Report

The report and the discussion ‘are closed to the public’ until such time as they are no longer commercially sensitive

T/48 Any Other Business

Mark Taylor advised the Committee that during a recent induction for 1st & 3rd year degree students yesterday a student confirmed that he had chosen to move to Gateshead College from another local college due to its Ofsted grade.

T/49 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 25 November 2015 at 3.30pm.