

**WALSALL COLLEGE  
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STUDENT VOICE COMMITTEE  
HELD ON THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 1230 HRS  
VENUE: HB101 THE HUB**

<b>PRESENT (COMMITTEE MEMBERS):</b>	Charlotte Bosworth Carol Flood Jo Hughes Khuram Mahmood Reece Clarkson-Boyce	Chair Governor Governor and Tutorial Coordinator Student Governor/Student Union President Student Governor
<b>TOGETHER WITH:</b>	Alan Woods Alastair Scales Fiona Macmillan  Gail Lewis Jayne Holt  David Turner Richard Brennan Deb Rajania Kit Rennie Alison Buick	Governor Governor Governor  Student Engagement Coordinator Assistant Principal Workforce Development and Learning Services Assistant Principal Quality and HE Assistant Principal Curriculum Director of Operations and Resources (from 1245 hrs) Welfare and Safeguarding Officer Clerk to the Governors
<b>STUDENTS</b>	Sam Jarvis Chris Cribb Sue Webster Billie Petit Olivia Tolley Sean Rogan Louise Miller Stacey Corns	Thomas Durham Usman Ulhaq Caleel Benjamin Stephen Jones Naomi Morrall Sophie Tipper Navjot Sanghera Beth Allan
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	None.	

**08.20 CHAIR'S WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, thanked them for their attendance and introduced herself as the new Chair. Everyone present was invited to introduce themselves. The purpose of the meeting was outlined, being to ensure that the views of students on their experiences in college were heard. Students were therefore encouraged to contribute their ideas, thoughts and feedback.

**09.20 MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 28 November 2019, having been circulated, were taken as read and approved.

**10.20 MATTERS ARISING**

The Chair noted that the Lead Manager had responded to the Action Points for the committee and that her written responses were included within the document. It appeared that all actions were being taken forward, with some having been completed.

Governors asked about actions for the Assistant Principal Curriculum and MIS. This would be checked and reported back. Governors also asked about the stationary shop at Hawbush and it was confirmed that it had re-opened this week.

## 11.20 STUDENT EXPERIENCE REPORT

The Student Engagement Coordinator gave an update on student engagement activities at Wisemore, which included:

- The use of the student lounge, including by deaf students from 0830-1000 hours;
- The drop in facilities available from the student office;
- The student clubs currently operating, which catered for a range of interests;
- The range of external organisations with which the college worked, including EDEN network, stop smoking support, contraception and sexual health service and Walsall Council public health;
- Feedback on a recent meeting attended by students with Aramark, the catering company that operated at Wisemore. Where possible, the issues raised by students had been addressed, although not all were within Aramark's remit to change. Feedback had been immediate. The Director of Operations and Resources added that in a recent survey by the college on catering, 2,300 students had responded and 87% felt the service was good. However, none of the students present at the committee were aware of this, so it was agreed that the communication of this process would be looked into;
- The Student EATS garden, which had originally been developed with NUS funding, but which was now in need of some repair work. It continued to be well used for a variety of activities;
- Work to fundraise and help plan student placements;
- The issue of free Citizencards;
- An application for free books to give away on World Book Night;
- The recent Student Focus meetings.

Senior staff present also encouraged students to make use of their free meals allowance of up to £3.10 per day. It was not possible to 'roll over' any unspent funds from one day to the next.

The second part of this agenda item was presented by the Tutorial Coordinator, who gave feedback on the recent Student Focus groups held at every campus. This covered:

- Induction;
- Course;
- Safeguarding;
- Enrichment;
- Student Voice;
- Student Union;
- Common Room;
- Resources;
- Environment;
- Feedback.

A summary of the positive comments and the areas to improve was given. Overall, the feedback was very positive. The areas to improve by campus were noted.

The committee and staff present considered some of the areas in more detail. It appeared that there was more work to do with regard to HE courses, facilities and tutorial activities. Hawbush students present commented on the need for a practice fire drill and for some onsite IT support. The Director of Operations and Resources would review the IT requirements, but did note that some issues could be addressed remotely.

Director of  
Operations  
and  
Resources

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Operations  
and  
Resources

A Governor asked about a suggestion in the previous meeting about streaming events from Wisemore to other campuses. It was confirmed that for large events this was now possible. Information about events was shared with students in a variety of ways including Yammer and the student calendar.

There was a discussion about having more covered outside spaces for students to use at Green Lane and Portland Street (not just smoking shelters). This needed further consideration

The presentation concluded with a summary of the ways in which communication with students took place.

Governors asked about the ways in which information was fed back to student reps. The Tutorial Coordinator confirmed that there were 270 student reps and that there was regular contact with them through Curriculum Managers.

There was a discussion about the forthcoming Student Conference in March and the topics to be covered. Hawbush students were asked to feedback to their Welfare and Safeguarding Officer. A Governor suggested an agenda item on the college's position on environmental sustainability would be topical, as it was important to understand student views on this. The Tutorial Coordinator also wished to have an item on #LoveMyStudentUnion and asked for input from the President on this. Several students expressed interest in being involved with a group to look at environmental strategy.

Director of  
Operations  
and  
Resources

Tutorial  
Coordinator

## **12.20 STUDENT UNION PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The Student Union President presented his report, which covered:

- Events – the election event held on 4 December, Great Christmas Get Together, Re-Activate and Holocaust Memorial Day;
- Further events were planned in February for LGBT History Month, Time to Talk and Valentine's Day;
- An update on the SU Exec, including the appointment of Louise Miller as Deputy President.

A student commented that it would be good to have LGBT covered as a tutorial topic. The Tutorial Coordinator confirmed that links had been sent out regarding 'Proud' and that the 'Ready Respectful Safe' campaign continued to cover discrimination in a wider sense, not just LGBT.

The President handed out papers for a short exercise and asked those present to provide feedback on whether the college should invest in more staff to support the SU and extra-curricular activities and also whether the Council's Youth Services should be contacted to see what support may be able to be offered the college.

At the conclusion of discussions, the President collected the feedback so that it could be reviewed.

## **13.20 STUDENT SMARTER TARGETS AND REFLECTION**

As there was insufficient time to cover this agenda item it was agreed that it would be carried forward for inclusion at the Student Conference in March.

## **14.20 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 30 April 2020 at 1230 hrs at Green Lane Campus.

The meeting ended at 1400 hrs.

Assistant  
Principal  
Workforce  
Development  
and Learning  
Services

