

**WALSALL COLLEGE
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STUDENT VOICE COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY 27 MAY 2021 AT 1230 HRS
VENUE: VIA ZOOM**

PRESENT:	Charlotte Bosworth Fiona Macmillan Louise Miller Jo Hughes Aisling McGowan Shelby Lintern	Chair Governor Student Governor Tutorial Coordinator/Staff Governor Governor Student Governor
TOGETHER WITH:	Helen Griffiths Richard Brennan Deb Rajania Andrea Packer Alison Buick	Student Engagement Officer Assistant Principal Curriculum Director of Operations and Resources Interim Head of Student Services Clerk to the Corporation
STUDENTS	Katie Male – NCFE Cache Level 2 Certificate Introducing Caring for Children and Young People Taranveer Singh Chahal – A Level Biology/BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Applied Science (until 1pm) Ben Arrowsmith – Engineering Machinist Level 3 Diploma Jake Nicholls – Skills for Progression Entry Level 3 Aiden Carroll – Electrical Installation (C&G 2365 Level 2)	

APOLOGIES:
Jayne Holt

17.21 CHAIR'S WELCOME

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and welcomed them to the meeting.

18.21 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 11 March 2021, having been circulated, were taken as read and approved.

19.21 MATTERS ARISING

The Action Points record was reviewed and the following were noted:

Item 11.20.1

The Director of Operations and Resources commented on IT issues at Hawbush. Since January, 110 calls from this campus had been logged and dealt with in full. This compared to 3,400 calls from all other campuses. Survey results indicated 98% satisfaction with IT services. The IT support services were the same across all campuses, however, if students had further concerns in future, they were encouraged to feed this back once again.

Item 11.20.2

Social spaces on campus continued to be limited due to Covid restrictions. Facilities at Green Lane were to be improved over the summer period. There was a possibility of other future improvements, but this was dependent on funding.

The Chair invited students to comment on social spaces.

A student asked whether there were plans to provide hot food at Portland Street. The Director of Operations and Resources responded that options were being reviewed. A self-service micro market was one such option. As Portland Street was a small campus, there were limitations on the range of food available, although students could go to Wisemore if they wished. The Assistant Principal Curriculum added that the catering service would be provided in house from September 2021, giving the college greater control over the food and drink offer.

A Student Governor suggested that changes to the catering service could be linked to a healthy eating campaign. This would be considered. The college was conscious of having a healthy food offer and of providing education on this to students.

**Director of
Operations and
Resources**

A student asked about changes planned to Green Lane and commented on the difficulties of disabled access at Portland Street. It was agreed that signage would be reviewed to make clearer where the disabled access was.

**Director of
Operations and
Resources**

Item 11.20.3

The college was working to take forward its environmental strategy, and four working groups were being set up, all of which would involve students. The Director of Operations and Resources confirmed that the strategy had been approved at Corporation and that the first meeting of the new committee would be on 18 June. Alan Woods was the designated link governor for this.

The Assistant Principal Curriculum added that there was ongoing work to ensure that the curriculum areas reflected environmental issues where relevant and appropriate.

Item 15.21

The Director of Operations and Resources confirmed that lateral flow testing was continuing. In addition, a trial use of PCR tests was also taking place on 7 and 8 June. This was to review the effectiveness and accuracy of the lateral flow tests, and was part of a wider Government review.

The Assistant Principal Curriculum confirmed that in the first week of college re-opening from 8 March, 3,627 students had done lateral flow tests and only seven positive cases had been identified. In the last week, there had been three cases. Incidents at college were therefore extremely low.

There was a discussion about lateral flow testing, and the need to subsequently have a PCR test if it was positive. A number of false positives had been identified, meaning that people needed to self-isolate until their PCR test result was confirmed as negative. Students also discussed the current Covid measures in place in college.

20.21 STUDENT UNION PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Student Union President presented her final report for the year and the following were noted:

- Activities that the Student Union had run between March and May;
- That the Student Union elections had been postponed until the autumn term;
- The Union expenditure and recent purchases;
- Activities planned in June.

The Chair thanked the President for her report. It was clear that the Union continued to be very active and to provide a range of experiences for students, despite the challenges of the pandemic.

The Chair asked if the President had any feedback from the recent Student Conference. The President did not have any specific feedback, but was aware that the Tutorial Coordinator had been collating this.

The Tutorial Coordinator commented that some of the interactive activities planned at the conference had not been possible due to technical difficulties. A large part of the feedback reflected the technical issues. There had also been comments about a greater coverage in future on HE and making more time available for the conference. The guest speaker had been very well received and his presentation had been widely shared. The learning points would be taken away and reviewed when planning for next year.

The Chair acknowledged and commented on the difficulties of holding large virtual meetings. Her own organisation had experience of this, and she was happy to discuss this further with college staff outside of the meeting if it would be helpful.

21.21 STUDENT VOICE – THE IMPACT OF STUDENT VOICE: YOU SAID, WE HAVE

The Tutorial Coordinator reported a busy year of student voice activity. The quantity of feedback had doubled compared to the previous year and the quality had improved. All had been added to the student voice action plan, which was being monitored by the Quality team.

Specific activities included:

- A number of student surveys throughout the year;
- Review of trends in feedback;
- Student rep meetings every six weeks, although the attendance had dropped as the year progressed. The staff team were looking to make changes to improve this for next year;
- Work to close down all student voice actions by the end of the year rather than to be carrying some forward to next year.

The Chair commented that closing down all actions by year end seemed a potentially large task and asked if it was achievable. The Tutorial Coordinator commented that there were only 36 outstanding and that she was confident of them being completed.

Students were asked to provide comments or feedback, and there was none. The Tutorial Coordinator planned to set up a group to consider the student voice action plan further. She also shared on screen the new student voice page where students could continue to provide feedback. The 'Seven ways to have your say' would continue to be promoted through this and at induction, including the Student Voice Committee.

A student commented that it would be useful for students experiencing bullying to have a way to report back. Students felt that having an option for anonymous feedback would be helpful, and it was confirmed that this would be available. The overall look of the page felt more accessible, which students also thought was positive.

It was agreed that the Tutorial Coordinator would email a copy of the student voice action plan to all attendees after this meeting.

Tutorial Coordinator

22.21 TUTORIAL IMPACT 2020/21 AND INDUCTION PLANNING 2021/22

Student reflections on tutorials sessions were set out in the written report. Some of the key aspects were:

- There had been a range of delivery across the year;
- Changes were planned from September 2021 and more details of these would be shared at a future committee meeting;
- There was a need for more reflective practice with students;
- Linked In learning was available and this would be more widely used in induction for 2021/22. This was more focused on personal development and confidence building.

There was a discussion about the use of Linked In learning, which had a significant number of training and development options. Staff would be tailoring this to different curriculum areas. The Tutorial Coordinator shared her screen so that how this worked for her own profile could be seen. It was available to staff and students. Students felt that this was beneficial. It was confirmed that it could also be made available for Governors to use as well.

**Tutorial
Coordinator/Clerk**

23.21 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 26 November 2021 at 1230 hrs.

The meeting ended at 1.30pm