

MINUTES OF STUDENT VOICE COMMITTEE MEETING

Venue: HB201, The Hub

Date: Thursday 13th June 2024 at 1230 hrs
Members:

Mary Mahoney (Chair)
Rani Sahota
Aysha Rahman Amani

In Attendance:

David Turner – Assistant Principal Quality & Student Experience
Richard Brennan – Assistant Principal Curriculum
Gregg Joesbury – Student Enrichment Officer
Helena Platt – Head of Student Experience (HSE)
Kirsty Hayter – Student Engagement Officer
Lesley Venables – Head of Governance
SU Executive Member

	Apologies for Absence	
46	Apologies for absence were received from Charlotte Bosworth and Barbara Van Der Eecken.	
	Declarations of Interest	
47	There were no declarations of interest in any agenda item.	
	Minutes	
48	Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 th March 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	
	Matters Arising	
49	The Committee received a report on progress against all previous actions and noted the following: Item 21 It was agreed that draft minutes would be circulated to the SU President and Student Enrichment Officer in future. Item 10.23.4 – Halal food in cafeteria – App to enable pre-ordering to be introduced shortly. Item 10.23.5 - Sensory room has been installed, but due to recent accommodation changes, this is not in use. This will be resolved from September 2024 Items 10.23 (6 & 7) – garden-based enrichment activities – now resolved and in use. Item 6 – Safety – College was undertaking a range of measures to improve student safety and it was noted that representatives from the local authority had been invited to address students to inform them of external safety initiatives. 10.23 (11) Regular updates on the use of the College lifts would continue to be provided through personal tutors. This was now part of the induction talks to	LV DR DR

	students and there had been a noticeable decrease in the use of lists. Students felt that the associated posters did not provide a sufficiently clear message and should be re-drafted. Item 10.23.31 – Collection of photos of student activities throughout the year to be shown during the staff summer conference, at which some governors would be present.	
	Chair's Action	
50	There were no Chair's Actions.	
	Committee Terms of Reference	
51	The Head of Governance presented draft Terms of Reference for recommendation for approval by the Corporation.	
52	These had been drafted to enable the Committee's schedule of business to follow the student journey through the academic year and to rationalise the membership.	
53	The Enrichment Officer reported that the membership should include the full Student Union Executive, to ensure that all aspects were covered at each meeting. The Head of Governance advised that the intent was to have a total of 8 students, 2 from each area who could also be SI officers.	
54	It was agreed that the Terms of Reference would be reviewed again and a further version submitted to the next meeting.	LV
	President's Report	
55	The outgoing Student Union President presented a report on SU activities in the current term, including: • Hope & Harmony • Attendance at national NUS Conference in Blackpool • Football tournament, which Walsall College won • SU elections, which had seen a significant increase in turnout this year • Student Lounge re-opened, with further discussion with management planned on its future location • Sustainability business competition • Clubs & societies – full offer would be reviewed for September 2024. Space was limited and it was difficult to accommodate demand in some cases, plus the neighbouring areas could be adversely affected by noise. The AP Curriculum responded that the lack of additional space at the Wisemore Campus meant that any changes would impact on other areas. The new Adult Learning Campus would provide more accommodation and enable further enrichment activities to be offered.	
56	The SU President thanked her SU colleagues for their support during the past year and the Chair congratulated all individuals on their contributions to the College.	
	Enrichment Update	
57	The Enrichment Officer presented a summary of enrichment activities and the level of engagement during 2023/2024. The range of enrichment had increased significantly and there was a tracking system in place to monitor attendance.	

58	There had been a total of 4654 enrichment activities, with 17669 interactions (approximately 4 to 5 per student). Supported Learning students had logged the highest level of attendance, followed by ESOL and Health & Social Care students. The lowest attendance levels were in Professional Services, Hospitality, Access, Engineering, Motor Vehicle and Protected Services. The data in this report would enable management to focus on driving up attendance in these areas.	GJ
59	Successful events held during the year included the Freshers' Fair, Winter Wonderland, Careers Fair and Black History Month.	
60	It was felt that this provided a strong foundation on which to build for 2024/2025. Staff had noticed a change in culture and student mindsets that wider experiences were important as part of students' time at College.	
61	A future item for discussion would be how the College could engage more apprentices in enrichment activities.	
62	There was a plan to increase the amount of enrichment activities undertaken at the Green Lane Campus, where limited resources had impacted in 2023/2024.	
SAFETY ISSUES		
63	The Head of Student Experience reported that safety activities had now been given a higher priority in enrichment and personal development sessions. There had been a panel discussion of safety issues and students had been signposted to other useful sources of support and information.	
STUDENT UNION EXECUTIVE REPORT		
64	SU members were asked what they were most proud of in 2023/2024: - Clubs – debating, anime, KPop - Environmental competition - National Womens' Day – free period products provided on every campus, tie in with College's Menopause Club. Female discussion group being established for 2024/2025 - Safety/staying safe initiatives - Obtaining feedback from student body and high level of engagement - LGBTQ+ month, Pride event was well-attended - SEN engagement at Hawbush and Green Lane Campuses - Football tournament – students asked for a larger space for this type of event in future - Open days in student zone to give students an idea of the College experience	
STUDENT VOICE UPDATE		
65	The Committee was advised that the repair of the lifts had now been completed. There would be contemplation rooms available for students from September.	
66	In terms of student safety, the College was providing as much support as possible. Work on the Prevent Agenda would be a major focus in 2024/2025.	
CALENDAR 2024/2025		
67	The Head of Student Experience reported that management was currently reviewing the calendar for 2024/2025 to allow greater opportunities for feedback from student voice activities.	

68	Events could be tailored to particular campuses or groups of students if sufficient notice was received. The College was looking at alternative arrangements for some activities which may have a negative impact on those not participating as a result of additional noise and numbers of people.	
69	A governor asked whether any events had yet been arranged to engage students from other cultures. The Enrichment Officer responded that this was due a lack of capacity amongst his team and the amount of specialise input required into any such events. It was considered to be more effective to focus on more general events such as the Hope & Harmony Festival, where different cultures had been represented and had their own stalls.	
ANY OTHER BUSINESS		
70	The AP Quality & Student Experience reported that governors had recently approved a Freedom of Speech Policy and that it was important that students understood its content. Concerns were raised by some SU Executive members as to the principles involved and how these should be applied in practice. The Head of Student Experience advised that it was vital that students listened to and respected the views of others.	
71	The College was currently updating its Corporate Strategy and it was noted that the consultation process had included students to shape future priorities. A final draft would be presented to the Corporation for approval in the Autumn Term.	
Date and Time of Next Meeting		
Thursday 5 th December 2024, 12.30 p.m.		