

MINUTES OF STUDENT VOICE COMMITTEE MEETING

Venue: HB201, The Hub

Date: Thursday 14th March 2024 at 1230 hrs
Members:

Charlotte Bosworth (Chair)
 Rani Sahota
 Aysha Rahman Amani
 Barbara Van Der Eecken (Associate)

In Attendance:

David Turner – Assistant Principal Quality & Student Experience
 Richard Brennan – Assistant Principal Curriculum
 Gregg Joesbury – Student Enrichment
 Helena Platt – Head of Student Experience (HSE)
 Kirsty Hayter – Student Engagement Officer
 Lesley Venables – Head of Governance
 Students: Freda Agyeiwaah Boateng, Samuel Fergusson, Konrad Klimczyk, Kashaan Ahmed, Kelesha Rose, Lucy Tullo, Suzzy Boakye, James Mckenzie, Shah Jalalur Rahman, Zeleike Taylor

	Apologies for Absence	
11	There were no apologies for absence.	
	Declarations of Interest	
12	There were no declarations of interest in any agenda item.	
	Minutes	
13	Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 th December 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	
	Matters Arising	
14	The Committee received a report on progress against all previous actions and noted the following: Item 10.23 (4) – A student survey was being undertaken to assess the viability of a new app for ordering Halal food. Item 10.23 (5) – There was an issue with ensuring sufficient sound-proofing, which should be dealt with after the Easter holiday. Items 10.23 (6 & 7) – the Chair reported that she had spoken to a local councillor at the Link opening event regarding support for garden-based enrichment activities and would be meeting with this individual shortly. 10.23 (11) Regular updates on the use of the College lifts would continue to be provided through personal tutors.	DR DR CB HP/ GJ
15	All other matters arising were either completed or included on the agenda.	

	Chair's Action	
16	There were no Chair's Actions.	
	President's Report	
17	The Student Union President presented a report on SU activities in the current term together with information on forthcoming events.	DR/ HP
18	Events that had taken place during the first term included: - Green Lane Freshers' Fair attended by 285 students - Mens' Health event - Games Club attended by 144 students, with the most popular being chess and draughts. - Other clubs included Debate, LGBTQ+ and Creative Arts & Crafts	
19	All SU officers took turns on the SU desk in the Foyer which has raised the profile of the SU.	
20	The SU's HE Officer had met with the Head of Security and the local police regarding student safety and improving awareness.	
21	The SU's Disability Officer had undertaken an accessibility survey, with use of the College lifts highlighted as one of the main issues for this group of students. The Head of Student Experience reported that she had met with the Director of Resources and the Head of Estates on this issue and a reminder would be circulated to all tutor groups for students to use the stairs if they were able to do so. The College was reviewing whether access to the lifts could be restricted from September 2024.	
22	Student Union elections would be taking place shortly, including the President and Deputy President posts.	
23	Scheduled forthcoming events included: 24 days in kindness - Cross-College Culture Festival on 21st May (to which governors would be invited)	
24	The Chair congratulated the outgoing SU Executive on their efforts during the past 12 months.	
	Enrichment Update	
25	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.	
26	Expenditure in term 1 had been £9k, with a further £4.3k for term 2. It was noted that the cost per interaction was approximately one-third of the cost per student, providing good value for money. The overall budget for 2023/2024 was £40k (£10k of which was for sports activities). This would probably be the same for 2024/2025 and the Committee felt that the monies spent were having a positive impact on the student experience.	
27	Supported learning students had the highest level of attendance and most departments attended at least twice each term. The take-up by adult students	

	was relatively low. The Freshers' Fair and the Creative Club had attracted the most positive feedback.	
28	The Committee asked for the activities to be ranked according to the number of students and the level of engagement. This would enable areas with a low level of take-up to be targeted for further promotion.	GJ
29	Wherever possible activities were linked to personal development topics, such as British Values, positive citizenship, careers/progression, sport and staying safe. Non-qualification activities were also used to build individual resilience and character. Enrichment also brought students together as a community and encouraged them to make links across the organisation.	
30	A governor asked how feedback was gathered on potential activities for future years and was advised that an evaluation form was used, together with verbal comments from tutors and students.	
31	It was suggested that the collection of photographs of student enrichment activities should be played at the start of the next Corporation meeting as a way of informing governors of the range and their value.	DT
STUDENT UNION CONSTITUTION		
32	The Head of Student Experience presented for information the revised SU Constitution. This had been re-drafted with support from the Head of Governance to ensure that it met the latest requirements. The document had been recommended by the SU Executive at its most recent meeting and would be submitted for approval by the Corporation on 21 st March 2024.	
SAFETY ISSUES		
33	The Committee was advised that this item had been included on the agenda in response to continuing concerns amongst students, particularly in travelling to and from College. A number of measures had been introduced this year such as coverage of personal safety as part of the enrichment programme, the local PCSO holding drop-in sessions on a regular basis and tips on staying safe (like a tracking app).	
34	Students expressed concern about the plans to move into the former M&S building opposite the main campus, as this was in a more open area and meant a considerable walk from public transport in a poorly-lit area. Management explained that the relocation of some College provision was partly of a wider project to regenerate the town centre and that, in the long-term, safety should improve and that the College would be able to meet the needs of more individual learners.	
35	Regular meetings were held with the police and the local authority with a high degree of effort put into improving safety for students and staff. However, it was difficult to replicate the level of safety that existed inside College premises in a public area. The College had requested a more visible police presence at the end of lessons, but this could not be resourced and students were encouraged to do everything possible to keep themselves safe. Ideas as to how this could be achieved were welcomed from all stakeholders.	
36	It was suggested that special lighting could be used in the street, which had been trialled successfully in other areas. This would be shared with the Director of Operations & Resources so that this and other measures could be included in	DR

37	the design of the M&S building. Further proposals were to issue students with personal alarms and to publicise safer travel routes. Students were thanked by the Chair for their input on this issue and it was agreed that further discussions on safety would be scheduled as part of these meetings.	CB/ LV
STUDENT UNION EXECUTIVE REPORT		
38	The Committee received an update on recent SU Executive activities.	DT/ RB
39	International Women's Day had been celebrated across the College. A number of ideas had been received for future events around the menopause, sexual health and safety equipment.	
40	A number of SEND students had requested a number of items to improve their experience at the College, including more equipment, a minibus and an expanded canteen facility with a better range of food options. These suggestions would be discussed with the Head of Student Experience and the Enrichment Officer.	
41	A men's mental health event had been put forward by a group of students. This emphasised the importance of students having someone to speak to in relation to mental health concerns, particularly male students who were often reluctant to seek support. The Assistant Principal (Quality) advised that the College had invested in an online platform, called TogetherAll, which contained useful strategies for dealing with mental health issues and signposted individuals to other sources of advice and support. Students attending the meeting were unaware of this facility and it was agreed that this would be followed up with curriculum staff.	
42	Some students had participated in compiling an anti-bullying video with social media personalities. This would be used during the enrolment period to publicise the College.	
43	LGBTQ+ history month had been celebrated and the group had held drop-in sessions for students.	
ANY OTHER BUSINESS		
44	A governor questioned how much of the information discussed in this meeting had been communicated to ESOL students. The Assistant Principals responded that all information was circulated to each tutor group but it was dependent on staff passing it on.	
45	It was suggested that it might be more effective for the SU President to visit ESOL classrooms to publicise the types of support that are available. The Committee noted that the Culture Festival mentioned earlier in the meeting was being arranged by the Head of ESOL and provided an opportunity to break down any barriers that existed for this group of students.	
Date and Time of Next Meeting		
Thursday 23 rd May 2024 at 12.30 p.m.		