

NORTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Education Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 15 May 2024 on MS Teams commencing at 3.00 pm

Present: Dr P Graham (Chair), Ms J Hemphill, Mr M Higgins, Mr G McAllister, Mr B Patterson, Mr S Shevlin, Mr D Small

In Attendance: Mr K Nelson (GB Chair), Mr A Ballantyne, Mrs C Brown, Ms H Hampsey, Mr S Lavery, Mr S McCartney, Dr L Monteith

Acting Secretary: Mrs R Toms

67.1 Apologies/Welcome

K Nelson, GB Chair, was welcomed to the meeting at 3.10 pm in an observing capacity.

Noted resignation of student governor, Mr Dornan, and noted that he is still a student at the College and will be completing his qualification by June 2024.

67.2 Declarations of Interest

None.

67.3 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2024 were approved.

Proposed: Seconded:

Mr Small Mr McAllister

67.4 Matters Arising

None.

67.10 Student Experience

Mr McCartney was welcomed to the meeting to present the Student Union Report.

Mr McCartney noted the resignation of the Student President and noted the process for electing the next incumbent. Mr McCartney highlighted the key points within his paper, including the Breakfast Club; Got Bounce Programme; and Student Awards events, which were noted as being very successful. In response to a query raised, Mr McCartney noted that the funding for the Breakfast Club for 23/24 has now expired; it is hoped there may be funding allocated for 24/25. Mr Higgins noted that any future funding is dependent upon DfE allocation and positive PPE.

Mr Patterson raised a matter with Mr McCartney in relation to a student issue, of which he was aware; Mr McCartney provided contact details to ensure progression.

Action: Mr McCartney would email all lecturers to remind them of support available to students through Student Support Services.

Mr McCartney was thanked for his input and left the meeting at 3.15 pm.

67.5 Chair's Communication/Correspondence

Dr Graham noted that the ETI Inspection Framework document, currently in draft, has been received and summarised the key points within. Dr Monteith was asked to summarise the key differences with the new framework; she provided an update accordingly and noted upcoming training being provided by ETI. Dr Monteith welcomed the document and commended the content.

Noted that the MaSN commissioning letter received, the deadline for submission is 21/5/24; work is in progress to finalise the bid for 24/25.

Noted that the HLA proposal for 24/25 has been submitted to DfE; awaiting Letter of Offer.

67.6 VP Teaching & Learning Summary Report

Mrs Brown addressed her Report and focused on key areas, including: Level 2 Traineeships; and Curriculum Reform. There was discussion on the impact of the pace of progress by CCEA Regulator in respect of their quality assurance process in approval of qualifications.

Mr Higgins provided clarification from the sector perspective in respect of the implementation of Traineeships, including funding matters.

There was discussion on the impact of the key matters raised, including outcomes.

Mrs Brown noted the changes within the sector in respect of Hub governance.

Mrs Brown referred to the success of two engineering students, Charlie Carson and Jason Scott, who have been selected to compete at WorldSkills in Lyon in September 2024, as part of Team UK. Congratulations were conveyed to the students. Governors recognised the range of good news stories, including the successful validation of new OU HE programmes.

67.7 HE Provision

Dr Graham provided background to the request for a paper in respect of the College's HE provision.

Mr Ballantyne was welcomed to the meeting to address the HE Paper. He highlighted some key points to note, including: new OU provision; growth in HLA enrolments; sector HE context; and alignment with Minister's priorities.

Dr Graham commended the paper and noted its helpfulness for the Committee; Mr Small agreed and felt it was important that the College continues to deliver HE. Dr Graham also noted his agreement with this view.

There was discussion amongst members and the benefits of the provision of lifelong learning were noted.

Mr Higgins reiterated the importance of the College continuing to offer HE and stressed the importance of the progression pathways which this provides; he also noted the growth in HLAs. Mr Higgins advised the HE report will be incorporated into the year 2 review of the Corporate Plan by the GB.

In response to a query, Mr Ballantyne provided information on the WAPP scheme.

Dr Graham thanked Mr Ballantyne for the detailed report and thanked members for their feedback.

67.8 Proposed Curriculum Operational Plan for 2024/25

Ms Hampsey was invited to present her paper, detailing the Proposed Curriculum Operational Plan for 2024/25.

Ms Hampsey highlighted the key points within the paper, including: new courses; courses withdrawn; and, in particular, provision planned in new areas for the Causeway Campus.

Dr Graham thanked Ms Hampsey for her paper and commended the clear content.

There was discussion in respect of the replacement of the 10X strategy with the Minister's new priorities and the potential need to react to any further changes from the Minister's Office.

The Plan was approved.

Proposed: Seconded:

Mr Shevlin Mr Patterson

67.9 CDP Update Report

The CDP Progress Report was noted and Mrs Brown highlighted the key points.

Dr Graham commended the Report.

67.11 Entrepreneurship Hub and Activity Report

Dr Monteith was invited to present her paper, detailing the Entrepreneurship Hub and Activity Report.

Dr Monteith highlighted the key points and the positive work progressing, including upcoming PBL competitions; plans being progressed; and increased participation from staff.

Dr Graham commended the level of activity being achieved and noted the outputs.

There was discussion on the points highlighted and the sector context.

Mr Higgins commended the report and asked Dr Monteith about the possibility of tracking students who have participated in Hub activities; Dr Monteith responded and noted that it was under consideration.

67.12 Teaching & Learning Excellence Update

The QIP May 2024 Update paper was addressed by Dr Monteith, who highlighted the key points of progress.

The Maladministration and Malpractice Log 23/24 was noted and Dr Monteith drew attention to the key cases which are ongoing and noted the plans being progressed to improve practice and mitigate any further issues.

Mr Higgins noted that we encourage all staff to raise matters of concern, which will be recorded on the register. The purpose of the register is to record any issues and provide a focus on lessons to be learned which can be applied to prevent recurrence.

Dr Monteith addressed the presentation on Artificial Intelligence in Teaching, Learning and Assessment, which provides an overview of current activity and developments.

Mr Higgins thanked Dr Monteith for the update and noted that it was provided following queries at the recent GB meeting.

Mr Shevlin referred to a review of policies in the context of AI to ensure ongoing compliance. Dr Monteith provided detail of the work completed in this respect to date and plans going forward.

67.13 Any Other Business

None.

67.14 Date of next meeting

TBC.

Mr Nelson noted the positive meeting and thanked members.

Dr P Graham *P Graham*

Date 25 September 2024

(Chair)

R Toms

Mrs R Toms

(Secretary)

The meeting closed at 4.35 pm.