

South Lanarkshire College

Curriculum Quality & Development Committee (Board of Management)

Held on 23rd November 2022

Present

H Stenhouse (Chair)

A Kerr

A McKechnie

D Morrison

F Mullen (Co-opted member)

Cheryl Robertson

Apologies

A Mackie

K Phillips (Normally in attendance)

In Attendance

S McManus

M Sisi

D Innes

I Beach (HMI Education Scotland)

B Keegan (Clerk)

1. Introductions & Apologies

The Committee welcomed Heather Stenhouse as the new Chair as also Ian Beach of Education Scotland to attend our CQD Committee, a welcome visitor in view of the impending HMI progress visit in February.

Apologies were received as above noted

2. Declarations of interest

A Kerr and A McKechnie declared their interest as Members of the Lanarkshire Board. A Kerr declared his membership of the Scottish Funding Council. Cheryl Robertson declared her interest as an office-bearer of EIS.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes were approved subject to the insertion of one sentence which had inadvertently been omitted.

Student Association Report

The Committee noted that Gemma McClarence, currently on maternity leave and therefore unable to attend, had been delivered of a baby boy. The Association were looking to the appointment of an additional Vice President to ensure full involvement of the student body in the work of the Board and its Committees.

The student report was full considered. It was noted in particular that:

- that the College had been selected as one of only two colleges to participate in the Emily Test Gender Base Violence Pilot Charter – a great honour.
- Freshers Week had been successful, and 500 Smile Boxes had been handed out to students.
- the graduation arrangements had proceeded smoothly.
- In the light of COP26, the Association was working with the college to raise awareness of sustainability issues
- to support student learning 200 laptops had been provided by way of laptop loans to disadvantaged students.
- it was hoped to continue with the Free Soup and Sandwich Initiative to support students in poverty.
- another 50 yoga mats had been provided to further support the highly successful yoga sessions.
- security was vital with a steady footfall of visitors, guests, and construction workers – accordingly the Association will continue to promote the use of college lanyards so as better to identify & protect students.

5. Education Scotland

I Beach addressed the Committee on Curriculum Planning. Key points were:

- Curriculum Offer for 2022-23
- Labour Market Need
- Cost Savings & Efficiencies
- The need to identify risks to success
- Capital Investment Needs
- Forward Planning

6. Curriculum Quality Update

The Committee noted the most up to date analysis of completions and withdrawals – and noted that, although attainment was lower than in previous years due to the impact of COVID, the college statistics compared favourably with the equivalent national rates.

There was likely to be a shortfall against the college credit target, a challenge reflective across the sector, and the Scottish Funding council has been asked to continue their funding flexibilities. In line with Scottish government advice, a blended learning approach has been adopted to address the COVID challenges.

Recruitment had nonetheless been disappointing:

- The **Faculty of Business** faced recruitment challenge in specific areas and plans are in train to address this – specifically there are recent very promising industry placements.
- The **Faculty of Care** has also reported recruitment challenges but has planned additional provision to help meet targets, as well as creating new provision with the Council and the University of Glasgow. Recently the Minister for Children and Young People met with students from these areas.
- The **Faculty of Construction** has increased its recruitment this year and retention is holding up.

Curriculum Planning is now well under way and is focussing on short-, medium- and long-term planning to create clear progression pathways with identified entry and exit points. Excellent work has been undertaken by the Quality team to support curriculum areas with quality assurance activities.

All faculties recently completed their self-evaluations which also have Quality improvement action plans, and, in that regard, a revised approach has been rolled out to all staff.

The Alternative Funding team is focused on meeting Modern Apprenticeship and Flexible Workforce Development Fund allocations and are bidding for new contracts.

7. Developing the Young Workforce

The Developing Young Workforce initiative is ongoing with a strong relationship with local authorities and Gradu8 enrolments, although up in numbers, are slightly down on target – but with 90%. Senior phase independent options are still being offered to St Ninian's High and Carluke High schools on site, the Winter leavers pathway has been reintroduced for this academic year and Foundation Apprenticeships have recruited well albeit with smaller class sizes in some frameworks. The College continues to infill small number of pupils from East Renfrewshire and continues to engage with schools to showcase SLC as a viable next step in their education.

This year's college funding allocation includes 400 credits but only for new FA provision. Accordingly, a new Creative and Digital Pathway (approx. 100 credits) has been introduced.

8. Student Services & Marketing

Marketing and Communications remains a key risk & priority area with a decrease in applications by 24% year on year. Plans are in place to minimise risk of a continued decrease of applications and recent research drawing on labour market intelligence will inform curriculum review.

By contrast Social and Digital Media performance remains strong and the College remains one of Scotland's top performing colleges - 1st in Scotland for August, September and October and reaching 10th in the UK for August and 4th for October (the highest ever SLC score)

Despite COVID the College graduation ceremonies went well over 2 days with 192 graduands and with Board Members and special guests in attendance – including Dr Lisa Cameron, Collette Stevenson, the Lord Provost, Marvin Bartley, Dr Lou Mycroft and Dr Julie McElroy.

Other points noted by the Committee were that:

- Market research is informing improvement to service provision
- Brand articulation and website tenders are an ongoing priority
- The college has been shortlisted for a further 2 awards and won 1 since the last report.
- COP26 has led to numerous planned activities including 'Cheer for Change',

There being no other Competent Business the Chair closed the meetings with thanks to all contributors