

**Minutes of the Standards Committee meeting STC21.3 held on Thursday 3 March 2022
Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge**

Present: Jenny O'Hare (committee Chair), Paul Andrew, Yolanda Botham (Principal), Rikki Morgan-Tamosunas, and Olivia Palo

In attendance: Steve Dann (VP), Harriet Riches (AP), and Chris Childs (AP)

Clerk: Anne-Marie Diaper

| Ref | Actions: |
|---|-----------------|
| STC21.3.1 Apologies for absence Apologies had been received from Maryum Jadoon, and Alex Pryce. Olivia Palo advised that she would need to leave the meeting early. The Clerk advised that the meeting was quorate. | |
| STC21.3.2 Declarations of Interest Jenny O'Hare declared an interest in item 9 on the agenda. | |
| STC21.3.3 Request for any other business None | |
| STC21.3.4 Minutes of Standards committee STC21.2 Thursday 2 December 2021 With no suggested amendments, the minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. | |
| STC21.3.5 Matters arising None | |
| STC21.3.6 Progression The Assistant Principal presented her UCAS report outlining on progression in 2021 and 2022; she picked out some key points. After very high application rates (in College and nationally) in 2021 due to the uncertainty of the pandemic it was reported that applications in 2022 had returned to levels similar to those in previous years. Information on the range of institutions and to highly competitive universities was reported. The committee noted that actions on progression discussed at the last meeting under 'governance' had been helpfully picked up in this report. With a short discussion on possible further work in this area, the committee thanked the AP for the report. | |
| STC21.3.7 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) report 2020/21 The AP presented the report which was against objectives set in 2019 and which was coming to the end of its 3 year cycle. The report would be for public consumption. | |

The report detailed the range of actions taken to support EDI, including Student Commission on Racial Justice, Rainbow Flag and College of the Year in the Queer Student Awards, and those activities to help develop future objectives and SMART targets, working with staff and students. The College advised that people were finding it useful and were engaging with the work and activities, but whilst it was acknowledged that not everything was measurable, it was agreed that what was most important was impact.

Governors wished to pick out a couple of areas in the report for discussion, and thanked the managers for an interesting report. The committee looked forward to a further discussion on the EDI policy and KPIs later in the year.

STC21.3.8 In-year progress report and mock examination data

The VP presented his written report which included students' progress (an apparent greater range of attainment and attendance, according to gender) and the quality of teaching and learning, incorporating data from recent key assessments, lesson observations and student voice activities. It was reported that 'value added' measures used as a national performance metric and by the college for internal monitoring through ALPS were currently unreliable due to the inflation of awarded GCSE grades in 2020 and 2021.

The governors supported the College's approach to increase focus on raw grades and lesson observations to assess quality. With the range of challenges brought by the pandemic, it was reported that predicting achievement in the 2022 exam series would be difficult. The committee discussed the gender gap observed in key assessment data, and the link between low attendance and underachievement for a small subset of students. A Governor led a discussion on different approaches to formative feedback. The senior leaders outlined the actions being taken to provide students with additional support, especially those at risk of underachievement. There was a short discussion about vulnerable students achievements and attendance, including those with EHCP, and red CP files.

The meeting touched on the revision survey and its impact, mid-year assessments, key assessments including upcoming mock examinations, retention, learning walks and reviews. The feedback from the committee was that the report provided some valuable insight.

Olivia Palo left the meeting at 6pm.

STC21.3.9 Progress against targets in Quality Improvement Plan (QIP)

Ref**Actions:**

The committee considered targets and actions specified in the QIP. Governors overall felt the college seemed to be making good progress across all areas. Actions to address underachievement of male students and students with poor attendance had been discussed earlier in the meeting, and Governors commented that these actions could be better represented in the QIP. The managers agreed to update the QIP in two sections.

VP**STC21.3.10 Safeguarding update**

The AP presented her written paper that included an update on a range of safeguarding matters including consent and peer-on-peer abuse, figures on safeguarding alerts, mental health, and the numbers of requests for counselling. The meeting touched on the current conflict in the Ukraine and noted helpful information coming from sector bodies (SFCA, and AoC).

The safeguarding Governor reported that she had met with the AP and the newly appointed 'wellbeing Manager'. There were no further questions.

STC21.3.11 Committee review of policies and procedures

External Speakers and Events policy. The Clerk advised that the meeting was still quorate and that the policy was for committee approval. The AP advised that this policy was an amalgamation of two policies that had slightly different angles. The policy aimed to benefit the safety of the community, give staff clear procedures to follow to include escalation. It reflected changes in staffing to take account of health and safety, and included references to 'freedom of speech', and Prevent.

A Governor asked if external speakers were asked to sign to say they had read the policy, which the AP confirmed was correct.

The committee agreed that the policy was coherent an improvement on the earlier version. The policy felt proportionate and risk based and received committee approval.

STC21.3.12 Governance improvement plan 2021/22

The committee reviewed the updated GIP. The committee asked about feedback from parents, and the managers explained the topics on which parents had shown particular interest. The committee then discussed how best to present and consider meaningful feedback from parents which the senior managers would take away for further consideration.

VP

There was nothing further for discussion and this item was closed.

STC21.3.13 Review risks relevant to committee not covered by agenda items

Ref**Actions:**

The committee noted the cross reference included in the report cover sheets to the relevant risks.

The committee asked if the managers agreed risk 4.2 needed to be revised or changed. The senior managers would take this back for further discussion to the College Risk group.

VP/Principal

A Governor felt that something had been discussed at the committee on virtually all the risks. The meeting agreed there was nothing further to discuss.

STC21.3.14 Any other business

None.

STC21.3.15 Date of next meeting

STC21.4 Thursday 5 May 2022. The meeting closed at 6.38pm.