

**Minutes of the Standards Committee meeting STC20.5 held Thursday 1 July 2021
Long Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge**

Present: John Godwood (committee Chair), Paul Andrew, Yolanda Botham (Principal), Colin Greenhalgh, Jenny O'Hare, Alex Pryce and Owen Shield

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

Clerk: Anne-Marie Diaper

Ref	Actions:
STC20.4.1 Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Paula Heaney, Rikki Morgan-Tamosunas, and Olivia Palo. The meeting was quorate.	
STC20.4.2 Declarations of Interest Jenny O'Hare declared an interest in agenda item 10.	
STC20.4.3 Minutes of Standards committee STC20.4 Thursday 6 May 2021 With no suggested amendments, the minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.	
STC20.4.4 Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda None	
STC20.4.5 Request for any other business None	
STC20.4.6 Update and current summary data The VP presented his paper for information only. He reported that TAGs were submitted for year 2 students to awarding bodies by the June deadline, commenting that thorough staff training and quality assurance had been carried out. The data had been analysed by subject and student group in relation to the 2017-2019 results, and sent to the SFCA service <i>Six Dimensions</i> for detailed analysis against the sixth form sector. He reported that this indicated that TAGs had been awarded fairly. The VP reminded the meeting that grades remained provisional until August. The committee would review outcomes in September. He paused for questions from Governors. A Governor asked if a great deal of moderation seemed likely, and another about the possible sampling (A level/GCSE). The VP commented that moderation was unlikely to be flagged as a risk and all appropriate policies and procedures were in place.	

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Governors expressed appreciation of thorough checking. Teachers had taken on the roles of examiners this year, and the VP commented that some refund on exams fees was expected.

On Year 1 students the Assistant Principal shared his screen showing some subject overview ALPS data including that of the concern teams. A Governor asked for a further summary analysis of year data to be presented at the start of the next academic year in September.

VP**STC20.4.7 Safeguarding update**

The Assistant Principal presented her report which included updates from the safeguarding team and a breakdown of safeguarding alerts. The report showed numbers were not high, but an upswing trend was evident compared with previous terms, as well as an increase in counselling referrals. The College had run on-site welcome days for vulnerable new students, and was preparing an action plan in response to Ofsted's recommendations regarding peer abuse. The AP reported that future data analysis would be enhanced by monthly reporting and yearly comparisons.

A Governor asked about the difference between female and male students seeking counselling and the actions being taken. Another Governor asked about how vulnerable new students were identified. Governors were reassured about the visits on offer for children moving up, to allay fears of transition.

The committee thanked the senior managers for the report.

Owen Shield left the meeting at 5.19pm

STC20.4.8 Progress against targets in quality improvement plan (QIP)

A summary against 10 top level targets agreed in November was presented. The VP commented that the paper aimed to give the committee a flavour of expected student outcomes this summer. The targets had been set on the assumption that exams would take place, whereas the rules underpinning TAGs would be likely to change the profile of outcomes. He reported that retention and online attendance had been good this year; the committee discussed the possible reasons for this. Students were relishing the physical return to College.

Owen Shield returned to the meeting at 5.29pm

STC20.4.9 Quality Cycle 2021/22

The VP presented an outline update. The quality cycle showed set dates for key assessments and other monitoring and reporting on students' progress, together with reviews of teaching and learning, and parent

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consultations. 2021/22 followed a similar cycle to previous years, but in response to lockdown showed additional exam practice and parent consultations, which it was reported had worked well online, and a more systematic approach to increased student voice activity. The VP reported that a parallel calendar for student support and advice on progression was being developed.

The committee Chair mentioned that the committee's meetings and the business plan for the committee during 2021-22 would need to be aligned to the quality cycle and the item closed.

STC20.4.10 HESA report 2019/20

The Assistant Principal's report showed data on HE continuation rates and class of degree achieved by Long Road students over a five-year period, compared with sector and national averages. Data was included for Russell Group universities and all HEIs, and included outcomes for 'first in family' students and those from disadvantaged postcodes. Data indicated that success rates improved markedly over the period in question, both nationally and for Long Road students

STC20.4.11 STC Terms of Reference, meeting dates, and business plan for 2021/22

The committee reviewed its own ToR, proposed meeting dates for 2021-22 and business plan. One small amendment was agreed to the ToR. The committee business plan had been checked against the Quality Cycle for data purposes and it was agreed to move the STC21.2 meeting scheduled for 25 November to **2 December 2021**.

STC20.4.12 Governance improvement plan 2020/21, and committee annual report and self-assessment of effectiveness 2020/21

The committee Chair introduced this item. It was proposed that the Chair and the Chair designate prepare the draft governance SAR and committee annual report during the summer to present to the committee at the September 2021 meeting. Some deliverables were likely to be carried over from 2020-21 to 2021-22.

STC20.4.13 Review risks relevant to committee

The committee reviewed the paper provided by the Clerk detailing relevant risks for the committee.

The committee raised the prospect of the imminent loss of a number of long-standing Corporation members totalling in effect around 100 years' experience, at the end of the year, on some Governors' retirement. The Principal commented that newly recruited Governors were already asking challenging questions in a different way. Further recruitment would be likely to take place in the coming months. The Principal led a discussion about the possible interest of a committee member in

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becoming a co-opted member and suggested the Clerk would follow up with this Governor.

Actions:**Clerk**

The committee were content not to further discuss any risk at this point.

STC20.4.14 Any other business

The STC Chair wished to convey a heartfelt thanks to a number of Governors who were retiring or coming to the end of their terms of office: student Governor, Owen Shield, and Independent Governor, Colin Greenhalgh.

STC20.4.14 Date of next meeting (2021-22)

STC21.1 Thursday 23 September 2021. Meeting closed 6.36pm.