

Northern Regional College

Education Committee

Minutes of the unreserved meeting of the Education Committee held on 17 November 2020 on Microsoft Teams, commencing at 5.03pm.

Present: Mrs I Allison (Chair), Mr K Chambers, Ms A Close, Dr K McCambridge, Mr T Montgomery, Prof T Scott

In Attendance: Mr A Ballantyne (50.10), Mr R Bolt (50.10), Mrs C Brown, Dr P Graham, Mr M Higgins, Ms A Morrison (50.10), Mr D Russell (50.10), Ms J Small, Mrs K Wallace (Secretary)

50.1 Apologies/Welcome

An apology was received for Ms Dynes.

The Chair welcomed Dr Philip Graham to the meeting as an observer, pending his appointment to the Education Committee by the Governing Body on 25 November 2020.

50.2 Declaration of Interests

None.

50.3 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2020 were approved.

Proposed: Mr Montgomery Seconded: Dr McCambridge

50.4 Matters Arising

A curriculum update was included under items 8-10 below.

50.5 Chair's Communication/Correspondence

None.

50.6 Minutes from Teaching & Learning Committee

Committee noted the minutes of the first Teaching & Learning (T&L) Committee meeting of the year, on 22 October 2020.

Prof Scott acknowledged the extensive work carried out by staff on the calculated grades process and noted the likelihood of the process being repeated for 2020/21.

5.15pm Mr Ballantyne, Mr Bolt, Ms Morrison, Ms Hampsey and Mr Russell joined the meeting.

50.8 Curriculum Plan 20/21

Mrs Brown spoke to the Curriculum Plan 20/21, which was previously deferred. Members noted that the Curriculum Plan template for 2021/22 would cover all key areas of provision and include trend analysis, and would come to the next meeting of Committee.

50.9 Curriculum Update - 20/21 Sectoral Comparison and Planning 21/22

The Chair welcomed Mr Raymond Bolt, who had recently been appointed as Curriculum Development Manager (CDM), and Heads of Department (HODs) to the meeting.

Mrs Brown advised Committee that the sectoral comparison presented gave a snapshot of figures at 9 October, representing a high-level indicator only, due to timing and validation issues.

5.25pm Ms Close joined the meeting.

The CDM and HODs took members through the report advising current areas of priority and upcoming areas of development and growth over the next 2-3 years, based on optimisation of resources.

Members welcomed ideas being considered around development of collaborative qualifications and blended learning; feasibility of part-time courses in the area of music technology; and extended offerings in health & social care, especially relating to adults returning to education.

Mr Higgins advised on the MaSN funding decision indicated by the Department at the bi-lateral meeting in October. Members also noted that a further bid for necessary resources, which would be identified by horizon scanning related to the College's 3-year plan, would be made to the Department before moving into the new campus.

50.10 Entrepreneurship Hub Progress Report

Mrs Morrison spoke to her report and highlighted current areas of focus for the Hub ie curriculum, staff and students, along with work on the development of entrepreneurship qualifications with OCNNI.

Members expressed their interest in this topic and the potential for the College to provide sector-wide leadership. It was agreed that this item be included as a significant agenda item for the next meeting.

ACTION: Entrepreneurship to be included as a substantive item on the agenda for the January meeting.

6.40pm Mr Ballantyne, Mr Bolt, Mrs Morrison, Ms Hampsey and Mr Russell left the meeting.

50.7 College Development Plan

Committee noted the final version of the College Development Plan (CDP) 2020/21 which had now been accepted by the Department.

50.11 Student Induction Survey

Ms Small updated Committee on the outcome of the Student Induction Survey which had closed on 13 November.

Members noted a substantial increase in the rate of response over the previous survey and thanks were extended to the Curriculum Area Managers (CAMS) team, particularly Ms Jennifer McFadden and Ms Katrina McCallion who had the highest percentage returns and to the Students Union for their work on promoting participation.

Analysis of the results and action plan would be brought to the next meeting of Committee.

50.12 SER/QIP Progress Report

Members noted the update on progress and key dates for delivery of the SER/QIP process during November/December.

ACTION: A report to be brought to the January meeting of Committee for members' feedback.

50.13 Any Other Business

Committee noted preparations for alternative graduation celebrations this year, which would be delivered remotely via 4 pre-recorded sessions and it was noted that the Student President would contribute a message of thanks for the events

Professor Scott recorded congratulations to Mrs Brown on receiving an ILM L7 Diploma in Leadership & Management at Belfast Met's recent graduation.

50.14 Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be held on 20 January 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.52pm

Mrs I Allison



Date: 16 February 2021

(Chair)

Mrs K Wallace



(Secretary)