

CORPORATION STUDENT COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting 15 held on 12 March 2010

- Present:** Cayleigh Galloway (Student member of Corporation), Glynis Hamlett (Corporation member), Richard Smith (Principal), Sarah Smythe (Corporation member), John Wilson (Chair of Corporation), Daniel Wood (Student member of Corporation)
- Clerk:** Fiona Bagchi
- In Attendance:**
Staff: Kim Higgins (Student Association Adviser/Teacher of Psychology), Mike Rogerson (Vice-Principal, Students and Staff), Ian Taylor (Vice-Principal, Performance Improvement)
- Students:** Emily Abbas, Jay Callow, Jessica Crow, Joanne Day, P Diazlor, Rachael Dean, Charlotte Frank, Nicolle Frietag, Emma Hirst, Josh Holtby, Katie Jordan, Elizabeth Morgan, Alex Nicholson, Jenna Hara, Jade Playe, Holly Robinson, Ben Underwood

15.1 Apologies

There were no apologies. As noted at the November 2009 meeting of the Committee, the meeting was chaired by Cayleigh Galloway.

15.2 Declaration of interests

There were no declarations of interest.

15.3 Minutes of Meeting 14 held on 20 November 2009

The minutes of meeting 14 held on 20 November 2009 were approved.

14.5 Matters arising and actions

(Actions shown below are numbered according to their position in the action points table appended to the end of the previous minutes. The reference to the item where the action can be found in the previous minutes is given in brackets at the end of each item).

- 1 The student equality report was on the agenda.
- 2 With reference to the report on Educational Maintenance Allowances & Adult Learning Grants it was noted that HAPB meant Helpline, Assessment and Payment

Body.

- 3 Kim Higgins reported that contact had been made with the local branch of Macmillan Cancer Support UK. It was still hoped that a representative would be able to attend to speak to students.
- 4-5 It was noted that the revised Student Association Constitution had been approved at the December 2009 meeting of Corporation.
- 6 Student Crew activities were included in the March 2010 Student Activities report, as agreed.
- 7 The Annual Report of the Student Committee 2008/09 had been presented to Corporation at its meeting on 17 December 2009.
- 8 The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hull had been invited to perform the ceremony to open the Oak Building and had accepted.

15.5 Annual review of confidential minutes

It was noted that there were no confidential minutes to review.

15.6 Student Equality and Diversity report

Mike Rogerson, Vice-Principal (Student and Staff Support) spoke to the student equality and diversity report.

Members noted that:

- The College now had a Single Equality Scheme in place, covering all strands of diversity and equality.
- The College enrolment data for the academic year 2008-09 on Ethnicity indicated that 8.4% of the student population were classified as BME (Black, Minority and Ethnic), with data for 2009/10 showing little change at 8.2%.
- Latest estimates are that black and minority ethnic (BME) residents now make up 4 % of the population in the Hull area, compared to the 2001 census figure of 2.3%.
- It appeared likely that the student population of students from BME backgrounds continues to remain above the level of the city as a whole but more accurate comparison would become available following the 2011 census.
- The College had added a field to the application form to enable students to declare a disability, should they wish to do so, and 92 students had reported a disability or learning difficulty.
- In 2008-09, 38% of the student population were male and 62% female, with the figures for 2009/10 being similar at 39% male and 61% female.
- The gender breakdown of the applicants for 2010/11 was currently 63.4% female, 36.6% male, with the gender imbalance more pronounced because of the number of female students applying to the College from the East Riding of Yorkshire, independent and faith schools.

Those present discussed the gender imbalance in detail, noting:

- The marketing team kept marketing information under review to make sure that it appealed to potential male students.
- Anecdotal evidence from students present suggested that the male pupils attending schools with sixth forms were less willing to move educational institutions at age 16.

- It could be useful for the College to commission research into this area.

The student equality and diversity report was received.

(Mike Rogerson left the meeting).

15.7 Value-added report

Ian Taylor, Vice-Principal (Performance Improvement) gave a presentation on value-added data for 2008/09, with reference to the ALIS (A level Improvement System) and ALPS systems.

Members discussed the presentation, noting:

- The student equality and diversity report included value-added data in relation to ethnicity taken from the ALIS report, although as the numbers of BME students at the College was low the information had to be interpreted with caution.
- ALIS data for gender showed that boys performed better at the College than girls.
- The ALPs report showed that the College was in the in the top 25% of colleges for actual against expected UCAS points for A2 and AS.

The presentation on value-added data was received.

15.8 Student Association Report

The Committee considered the Student Association (SA) report, noting that:

- The SA had raised £73 for Children in Need.
- Following on-line voting, students chose Macmillan Cancer Support as charity of the year and raised funds through a pyjama day, a slave auction, Valentine's Day love hearts sale, and a Blind Date event in the theatre.
- £1 from the sale of each ticket for the Easter Party was also donated to Macmillan.
- A successful Wyke Winter Wonderland party was organised by the Student Executive in December 2009 and an Easter party, Alton Towers trip, a Leavers' Party and yearbook for second year leavers were currently being planned.
- The revised SA constitution was approved by Corporation in December 2009 and the next SA elections would be held on 22 March 2010, with a paper ballot system being used rather than an on-line system.

The Student Association report was received.

15.9 Student Activities Report

The Principal, Richard Smith, spoke to the Student Activities Report, which contained reports on Student Crew activities, the Youth Speaks Competition, NorVlc Federation activities such as the Global Agendas and Student Union events, news from College departments, and College-wide fund-raising. The Principal thanked Jeanette Webster for compiling the report.

Students who had attended the Media and Film Studies visit to New York in February 2010 presented a short video of the visit, which had been posted on the College's Youtube video channel. Members noted that:

- Students and staff had gone live on RXP radio, produced trails for HOT97 radio and had recorded at NBC studios and visited New York State University, Ground Zero, Times Square, Liberty Island and the Empire State Building.

- Students had been impressed by the visit to the radio station and moved by their visit to Ground Zero.
- A number of students were hoping to return to New York with friends or relatives in the near future.

The student activities report was received and the Committee thanked the students who had taken part in the New York visit for attending the meeting, congratulating them on the quality of the video recording the event.

15.10 Review standing agenda items and terms of reference

The Committee reviewed its terms of reference and standing agenda item list and agreed that no changes were necessary.

15.11 Any other business

There was no other business.

15.12 Dates of next year's meetings.

It was noted that the dates of next year's meetings remained to be agreed.

Fiona Bagchi
Clerk to the Corporation

CORPORATION STUDENT COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting 16 held on 12 November 2010

Present:	Karolina Biagio (Student member of Corporation), Jim Darmody (Staff member of Corporation and Division Head), Richard Smith (Principal), Sarah Smythe (Corporation member), John Wilson (Chair of Corporation)
Clerk:	Fiona Bagchi
In Attendance:	
Staff:	Kim Higgins (Student Association Adviser/Teacher of Psychology), Emily Peach (Tutor), Ian Taylor (Vice-Principal, Performance Improvement)
Students:	Kabelo Hans Marape (KB), Harriet Van den Tooren, Louise Wright

16.1 Apologies

There were apologies from Glynis Hamlett (Corporation member), Billy Minns (Student member of Corporation) and Mike Rogerson (Vice-Principal, Student and Staff Support).

16.2 Declaration of interests

Sarah Smythe declared an interest as Headteacher of a partner school.

16.3 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Clerk reported that Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs were elected annually at the Committee's first autumn term meeting.

Richard Smith proposed Karolina Biagio for Chair of the Student Committee. The proposal was seconded by John Wilson.

Karolina Biagio was elected Chair of the Student Committee unopposed.

Richard Smith proposed Billy Minns for Vice-Chair of the Student Committee. The proposal was seconded by John Wilson.

Billy Minns was elected, in his absence, as Vice-Chair of the Student Committee unopposed.

It was noted that it was the Committee's practice for the Vice-Chair to chair the March meeting of the Committee.

16.4 UCAS report

Emily Peach presented a report on proposed tuition fee changes for students going to University in 2012.

Members noted in discussion that:

- Students going to university in 2011 would come under the present fees system throughout their course but students going to university in 2012 would come under the new system, which would allow universities to charge fees of £6,000-£9,000 for each year of their course.
- Some information was available about the re-payment procedures under the new system but there remained uncertainty about the level of grants and loans which would be available.
- Strong competition for university places was expected for 2011 entry because: students who had been unsuccessful in 2010, because of government restrictions on student numbers, would re-apply in 2011 and some current second year level 3 students might decide not to take a gap year in 2011/12, as the rules relating to fees payable in such circumstances were not yet clear.
- The College was advising students applying for entry in 2011 to:
 - make realistic first choices when applying to university and have an appropriate back-up plan;
 - secure an offer of a place first and make a decision on whether to defer entry when rules relating to fees and gap years were known;
 - ensure that they obtained the grades they needed by summer term 2011, as while it would be possible to re-sit and re-apply to university for entry in 2012 they would become liable to pay the new higher tuition fees.
- Emily Peach had already e-mailed students with information about tuition fees and more information would be made available to students and parents as it was known.
- Within the limits set, universities would be free to set their own tuition fees from 2012 but it was possible that this information would not be available before summer 2011 and it was not known whether there was likely to be much variation in fees between institutions.
- Universities which were likely to charge the highest level of fees (e.g. Oxford and Cambridge) currently also offered the most generous student bursaries.
- The level of scholarships and bursaries available could be a factor in determining future university choice, as it currently was in the USA.

A report from Emily Peach on university tuition fees was considered, with it being particularly noted that full details of grants and loans available when tuition fees increased to £6,000-£9,000 p.a. in 2012 were still awaited and that competition for university places was likely to be high in 2011.

(Emily Peach left the meeting).

16.7 College performance report: achievement

Ian Taylor (Vice-Principal, Performance Improvement) gave a presentation on student achievement and value added in 2010.

Members reviewed slides from the College's initial performance data, noting in particular that:

- Of 967 examinations taken in 2010 at A2, 964 had been passed.
- The A2 pass rate was high at 99.68%, excluding General Studies. This had been rising for a number of years and was now above the national pass rate.

- The Level 3 National Diploma had a 98% pass rate, with some students progressing to higher education and others to employment.
- At level 2, there was an A*-C pass rate in GCSE in excess of around 53%, with good outcomes in English , Maths and Science, but the College was seeking to improve this to an A*-C pass rate closer to 60%.
- The First Certificate and Diploma and the National Award had a 100% pass rate.
- Of the 33 awards made in the Extended Project, 19 had been A/B grades.
- With reference to the ALPs value-added data at A2, that the College was just above the 75th percentile which was grade 3 (Excellent), which was a 5-year trend.

Members discussed the extended project, noting that:

- Students undertook a wide variety of projects.
- Successful achievement of the project was worth 60 points but most students undertook it for developmental purposes although it could also be useful for UCAS entry e.g. one of the students present was hoping to study medicine and was undertaking a project involving research into an ethical issue connected to medicine

The Committee received a presentation on student achievement and value-added in 2010, noting the importance of the College's A2 pass rate of 99.68% as entry to university became increasingly competitive.

(Ian Taylor left the meeting).

16.5 Minutes of Meeting 15 held on 12 March 2010

The minutes of meeting 15 held on 12 March 2010 were approved.

16.6 Matters arising and actions

It was noted that there were no actions or matters arising from the meeting held on 12 March 2010.

16.7 College performance report: achievement

It was noted that the above item had been given earlier on the agenda.

16.8 Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) Report

The Principal, Richard Smith, presented the report on EMAs which had been prepared by Mike Rogerson (Vice-Principal, Students and Staff),

Members noted that:

- In 2009/10, 59% of students (669 students) were in receipt of the EMA, which was a high proportion of the student population.
- The College currently had 652 students receiving the EMA, which was likely to increase as applications were processed.
- 7 students were currently in receipt of the Adult Learning Grant (ALG), with the final 2009/10 total having been 21.

- A small number of students also received assistance with travel and living expenses from the College's Student Support Budget e.g. students living independently or travelling a particularly long distance to the College.
- On 20 October 2010, the Government announced as part of its Comprehensive Spending Review, that they intended to remove the EMA and replace it with £65 million of more "targeted support", saving £500 million annually.
- As a result of this change, applications for the EMA could not be processed after January 2011.
- Colleges would have to decide how the funds available should be distributed as they did currently with the Student Support Budget. The amount to be distributed would, however, be much less than was currently available to the students under the EMA.

The Committee consulted with students present on the type of targeted support that they considered would be most useful under the proposed new scheme, noting that:

- Help with travel was particularly valued by students but no preference was expressed as to whether this should be targeted at individuals or whether bus services should be subsidised.
- Grants should be made to students for things that they needed for College rather than cash being given which might be spent on other things e.g. for equipment or travel.

The Committee discussed with students present whether, in their experience, the EMA had improved participation post-16 or whether students would have attended college without the EMA, noting that:

- While some students had and would have attended the College without access to the EMA, anecdotal evidence suggested that its receipt had encouraged improved attendance at lessons/college for some students.

It was noted that it was possible that the adverse economic climate had/might encourage students to attend college regardless of whether financial support was available through the EMA and that government policy was currently that education or training should eventually become compulsory to age 18.

With reference to financial support available to students during their studies, increased difficulty in obtaining part-time jobs was noted and it was suggested that work experience and help with CVs could be useful, noting that CVs were currently covered in tutorials with reference to progression beyond the College.

The Committee received a report on the Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) scheme, noting that 59% of the College's students had been in receipt of an EMA award in 2009/10 but that the scheme had been abolished as part of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review and new applications would not be processed after January 2011. The College would provide students with further information on the smaller targeted support scheme which would replace the EMA as this became available.

16.9 Student Association Report

The Committee considered the Student Association report, noting that:

- Social events organised included a trip to Alton Towers, an Easter party, an AS party, an A2 Leavers' Party and leavers' yearbook, a BBQ and disco in conjunction with the "Old Boys" rugby game, a Freshers' party and a Halloween party. A Christmas party was planned for December 2010.

- £1,227 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Support, the chosen charity of the year for 2009/10, with funds raised through tutorial groups, a Valentine's Day Blind Date, £1 from the sale of each ticket for the Easter Party and a donation from the rugby team.
- The Student Executive also contributed to the Matt Graham memorial event and held a raffle to raise money for HOPEline, which had been chosen by Matt Graham's parents and has also been voted Student Association charity of the year for 2010/11.
- The Student Executive elections had been held in March 2010, with interviews held to fill the 2 First Year places on the Executive in October, an Executive team Building day was held in July 2010 and 500 NUS cards were sold in September 2010.
- Members of the Executive were involved with the official opening of the college on 1 October 2010 and acted as guides for groups of visitors, showing them around the college and answering questions.

The Committee considered the elections held in March 2010 and discussed why about 250 students had voted in the elections compared to about 500 attending the Easter and Freshers' parties, noting that:

- Hustings had been organised and were well attended but it was possible that second year students who were leaving the College in 2010 had decided not to vote.

The Student Association report was received and the Committee congratulated members on the social events and fund-raising organised.

16.10 Student Activities Report

The Principal, Richard Smith, spoke to the Student Activities Report, which included:

- news from the computing and IT, Media, Spanish, English, Business Studies, Sport, Performing Arts, Government and Politics, and the Maths departments, news from the library and individual student news and
- details of fundraising and volunteering events, including the College trip to South Africa in July 2010 during which students had worked alongside Botshabelo, a charitable organisation based in Midrand, Johannesburg, and in the township of Olievenhoutbosch.

The Principal thanked Jeanette Webster for compiling the report.

The student activities report was received and the Committee noted that many students had been involved in guiding visitors and activities around College for the Grand Opening event to celebrate the completion of the College-wide redevelopment project on 1 October 2010 and that visitors had been very complimentary about the students taking part.

16.11 Completion of annual performance checklist and review of performance indicators

The Committee completed its performance checklist for 2009/10, noting that it was 100% compliant, and reviewed its performance indicators (PIs) for 2009/10, noting that it had achieved or exceeded all PIs.

16.12 Annual report of the Student Committee to Corporation

The Committee' annual report for 2009/10 was approved for presentation to Corporation.

Action: Clerk/Chair

16.13 Any other business

It was noted that there was no other business.

16.14 Date of next meeting: Friday 18 March 2011 at 12.45 pm

Fiona Bagchi
Clerk to the Corporation
6.12.10

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 12 NOVEMBER 2010

NO.	FOR:	ACTION:	ACTIONS COMPLETED
1	Clerk/Chair	Present Committee's annual report to Corporation for presentation – <u>Dec. 2010.</u>	Done.