

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE HARTPURY COLLEGE

Minutes of a Meeting 3.30pm Thursday 29th June 2023 Gwynne Holford

Present:	Ms Barbara Buck - College Governor (Chair)
	Professor Andy Collop – Vice -Chancellor & Principal
	Mr Chris Moody - College Governor
	Mr Philip Robinson – Co-opted Committee Member
	Ms Mary Heslop - College Governor

In Attendance Ms Gillian Steels– Clerk to the Governors Ms Claire Whitworth – Deputy-Principal Further Education Ms Rosie Scott-Ward – Deputy-Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ian Robinson University Governor Dr John Selby University Governor Ms Nichola Mayo - Director of Animal, Equine & Land Apologies: Mr Nick Oldham – Co-opted Committee Member Mr Sean Lynn – College Staff Governor Ms Helen Wilkinson – College Governor Ms Jennifer Garvey – College Student Governor

	\mathcal{S}	ACTION & ACTION DATE
FEQuESt 01/06/23	Welcome and Apologies Apologies were received as detailed above.	
FEQuESt 02/06/23	Quoracy It was confirmed that the meeting was quorate.	
QuESt 03/06/23	Declaration of Interest The Clerk advised that members' interests would be taken as those disclosed in the Register of Members Interests. It was noted the Vice-Chancellor and Chris Moody were members of both Boards.	
	There were no declarations of members' interests for agenda items.	
QuESt 04/06/23	Minutes of the Last Meeting The College QuESt Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting of 16 th February 2023 as a true and accurate record.	

		ACTION & ACTION DATE
QuESt 05/06/23	Matters Arising The Action Update log which updated members on the progress of actions had been provided.	
	Skills Position- good practice review – The Deputy-Principal Further Education advised that they had met with East Surrey to gain feedback for Hartpury's review of its skills statement which had been very helpful. A meeting was also planned with Hereford College of Art.	<u></u>
	The Action Update log was NOTED.	\mathcal{O}
FEQuESt 06/06/22	Quality Improvement Plan Update (including A'levels)	
	This Report updated on progress with the headline College Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) as of 12th June 2023	
	 Overall headline messages included: Maths and English GCSE 4 + pass rates for the November resits were 8.8% higher than last year for Maths and 25.2% higher than last year for English with English above national rate but Maths just below; attendance was currently tracking at 96.5% and overall RAG rating is showing positive progress for those still studying GCSEs and Functional Skills English, taking their exam in the summer term. Five BTEC courses were highlighted in the Self-Assessment Report as needing to improve retention where they were just at, just above or slightly below benchmark. Four out of five have all remained above last year's final performance outcomes to date but will need to be monitored closely to completion albeit there should be little change from this point. Apprenticeship retention for new Level 2 first years (14 starts) has remained at 00% and for completing students on two-year Level 2 courses. is 66.% (27 starts) which will be reflected in the current year end data. The first-year cohort completes in December 2023 so will be reflected in the 2023-2024-year end data. Access to HE retention is currently at 89.5% so higher than last year and strong when compared to Access provision in the sector, although there are still students at risk who are being monitored carefully and supported appropriately through to completion. Our refreshed and strategic, 'Employers as Partners' approach is now embedded into the annual cycle with our second round of Industry-Curriculum Co-creation meetings being planned for June 2023 to continue to ensure that industry are directly informing skills needs, sequencing of the programme and involved with co- delivery as well as curriculum intent with an additional focus on co-assessment for 2023-2024. A few enhancements had been made to the approach for June to align with evidence required for our Skills Review and also based on best practice following meeting with a Skills Nominee from another college. Our indus	

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S	 The quality of our small but growing apprenticeship provision continue to be under review. Retention as mentioned above was strong for the new cohort, attendance was strong and student, parent and employer feedback was also strong indicating that the enhanced student experience driven by our Rapid Improvement Plan is having the intended impact. End point assessment mocks for first years indicate good progress is being made and EPAs for completing students (who finished their programme in April) were also very positive with 5 Distinctions, 11 merits and 1 pass achieved overall. Governors were pleased to note the impact of the Rapid Improvement Plan BTEC exams continued to be a focus following their introduction last year from both a pedological and logistical perspective. Overall January BTEC exam results were strong and further improved overall since the previous year (which were also strong). Overall the pass rate for our Agriculture Department was now in line with our Sport, Animal and Equine Departments (was slightly lower last year). Effective LSIP Collaboration has supported the development of a strong Accountability Statement drawing on LSIP findings and other local, regional and national evidence of skills need. Work has also commenced on the Skills review, aligned with the development of our 2030 Strategy. Agriculture staffing and 'industry pull' dnallenges. Governors queried if these issues would be resolved for 2020/24. The Deputy-Principal Further Education advised that at his point the full staffing would be in place for September. Work was ongoing with sector bodies to support landbased colleges. The potential for a graduate scheme/higher apprenticeship was being explored Governors queried how the quality of the agriculture apprenticeship was maintained given the staff versite and versite that the forus ther orbote to the root explored individuation have capacity to oversee the management of the programme this versi than been openorin	
	THE TE QUEST COMMITTEE NOTED THE QUAITY IMPLOYEMENT FIAN OPDATE.	

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FEQuESt 07/06/23	Landex Peer Review	
	It was noted that Review themes explored had included articulation of the curriculum intent, highlighting learning gain in the personal development, behaviours and attitudes curriculum, the role of Aspire in supporting EHCP (Education Health and Care Plans) learners, and the impact of the rapid improvement actions undertaken in apprenticeships. Reviewers undertook learning walks in Sport and A Levels. Feedback was shared with Professor Andy Collop, Vice Chancellor and Principal, and Claire Whitworth, Deputy Principal Further Education.	\mathcal{P}
	The positive feedback was noted. In particular comments from the Review that highlighted "There are some strong examples of student success that potentially the sector could learn from in supporting a more inclusive curriculum and assessment models." And "Staff articulated systems to support the raising of concerns, responsibilities and actions within the field of safeguarding, including specific arrangements for potential peer or sexual abuse cases" and "Leaders in A Level provision, Access to Higher Education, Maths and English, and Sports and Outdoor Education articulated a strong curriculum, focussed on outcomes for learners and informed by industry partners, taking into account the knowledge, skills and behaviours learners need to progress to high quality destinations be this higher education or high quality technical careers." And "Learners were confident of 'why' the specific topic was important, and in the collaborative session, were cognisant that teamworking and communication was part of their learning experience. All learners were able to articulate Safeguarding and Prevent, with some able to reflect on British Values. It may be worth further visual aids a ound college to help reinforce this message. All students were polite and gave thoughtful responses to questions, seeking to represent themselves and Hartpury professionally." And for apprenticeships "In implementation the team have looked to build strong partnerships with employers and apprentices, building in the Hartpury Prep for Success, and using off the job hours to develop knowledge, skills and behaviours along with a wider understanding of the allied sector."	
	Areas for further staff development or future planning were also highlighted. It was confirmed these would be incorporated in the Self-Assessment Report (SAR) and Quality Improvement Plan (QuIP)	
\sim	Governors agreed that the Landex review's provided helpful external assurance and challenge.	
\bigcirc	The FE QuESt Committee NOTED the Landex Peer Review.	
FEQuESt 08/06/23	Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment Report	
	The Report provided an overview of the quality of teaching, learning and assessment for Hartpury College. It was noted that the established Teaching, Learning and Assessment (TLA) Strategy was further developed in preparation for 2022-2023, with modification reflecting outcomes of the TLA staff consultation, sector best practice and based on our findings from our 2021-2023 'deep dive' process. The autumn and spring term observations had reflected a	

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	number of strengths including the ability of students in articulating new skills, knowledge and behaviours that they had developed/learnt; teachers generally had high expectations for their students and the majority of their students were making good or outstanding progress and the pace and level of challenge seen in the lessons were good or outstanding. Staff were also preparing students well for their forthcoming exam. Areas for improvement were further challenge needed in a minority of lessons to deepen learning and more teachers could further focus on leadership and teamworking skills in lessons, in addition to further utilising their industry links to further support their delivery. Other elements of teaching, learning and assessment including work experience, student voice, duties and tracking of assessment outcomes were reflected in the report to provide a more holistic picture of the TLA activity and its impact. Assessment: A Level mock assessment performance in year had been	DATE
	measured against our 2021-2022 performance. To date, overall spring mock exam pass rates for completing students is in line with 2021-2022 spring mock pass rates although A*-C performance is lower. All students were working through their intervention targets supported by their teachers. GCSE performance to date was strong for English, with November results higher than national rates, but Maths slightly lower although both higher than the November resits last year. Current in year performance was reflecting good progress for GCSE Maths, GCSE English and Functional Skills English although slower progress for Functional Skills Maths. Our BTEC mock exam and January exam performance overall had been positive, this being the second time we had undertaken BTEC exams at Hartpury. The overall high profile was in line with last year and pass rates overall were better than last year.	
	overall pass rates, albeit a continued further focus will be on higher grades. It was confirmed that the deep dive processes had worked well. These had confirmed that staff were able to articulate impact and implementation. Governors queried whether Hartpury was still using graded observations. The Deputy-Principal Further Education advised that recent staff feedback on this had been mixed with the majority of those attending the TLA consultation preferring a grade. For 2022/23 there had been a graded observation in the autumn and then an ungraded observation as part of the learning walk process. The position would be kept under review, with reflection on the external landscape. Governors requested that in future the scale on graphs be considered as it was stronger than it looked at first glance.	Dep P – FE ongoing
V	It was noted that a mentor was working with the agricultural team, recognising the number of new appointees given the national challenges based on the industry salary pull. It was noted that the appointed staff had strong technical experience. It was confirmed that salaries in the agricultural area were a long- term challenge. The option of a market supplement might be considered and is being used. The Deputy Principal Further Education advised that Hartpury's flexible working policy had helped maintain some staff. The Vice-Chancellor commented that the overall environment and package needed to be made clear when recruiting. The Deputy Principal also outlined the strategic work that was being undertaken at national level to support this national shortage.	

		ACTION & ACTION DATE
	The FE QuESt Committee NOTED the Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment Report.	
FEQuESt 09/06/23	National Rates of Achievement Report	
	It was noted that the production of the annual National Achievement Rates (NARTs) had ceased during COVID-19 times but they were now available for 2021-22 performance (issued during the summer term of 2023). The report is reviewed Hartpury's achievement performance in comparison with our key specialist land-based competitors. It was highlighted that Hartpury always aimed to be in the top 10% nationally (it was noted that there were some anomalies in the data) and that some potential opportunities were to be explored.	523
	 Key messages (noting this was achievement based only and that providers use different awarding bodies): Our achievement remains strong in comparison with other sector providers despite moving to externally examined BTECs at level 3 in 2021-2022. For 2021-2022 data, we sit in the top 2 of 16-18 Level 3 providers of Animal, Equine and Agriculture (maybe top full-time level 3 depending what Bishop Burton's unregulated provision is). Top for Sport ('Award' level only, so a small proportion of our overall Sports provision) 12th for Sport Level 3 Diplomas. 7th for Uniformed Protective Services Level 3 Diplomas. 5th for Level 2 Animal and Agriculture Diplomas. 2nd for Level 2 Certificates in Sport Pass rate A Levels, in 2021-2022, we were in the top 2 for overall pass rates although retention was variable compared with other providers and dependant on subject. Whilst Maths and English performance looks favourable, it does not show achievement of grades of 4 or above which is the most important measure for this cohort. We are however using the overall comparator data released following the November re-sits. 	
	Governors agreed it was a helpful indicator to see the data, whilst noting the caveats.	
	The FE QuESt Committee NOTED the National Rates of Achievement Report.	
FEQuESt 10/06/23	Summer Term Student and Parent Satisfaction Report	
	The Report confirmed that as part of the formal College Student Voice process, on-programme student satisfaction surveys were conducted in the autumn, spring and summer terms to ascertain student perception of their course and the Hartpury experience and to supplement the Autumn Term Induction Survey. The Report focused on the most recent summer term survey outcomes. It was confirmed that overall, student satisfaction remained high for the majority of categories albeit there was some variation between some of the departments. All questions had been broken down by Department in this report to be able to	

		ACTION & ACTION DATE
	reflect where the additional focus needed to be and for discussion during QuESt.	
	The Committee considered the "Feel safe on campus" rating of 98.1% (up from 97% in the January survey. It was confirmed that anything less than 100% would be amber rated. It was confirmed that the concerns raised were considered at a departmental level. It was confirmed that Health and Safety issues were reviewed by the Health & Safety Manager and also Safeguarding Team where safeguarding related. Governors queried which areas students did not feel safe in, albeit it was a small number of students. They were advised it varied. It was noted a deep dive was undertaken in equine to gain further information which was helpful and provided further context. It was confirmed that the Respect messaging was integrated into the Preparation for Success, included in induction and on in ongoing tutorials etc.	523
	It was noted that there was a slight dip with who would recommend Hartpury to a friend compared to previous years which relates to Agriculture and Equine students specifically. It was recognised that the feedback in agriculture reflected the turnover in staff as had previously been discussed and the dip was specifically evident in term 3 but was strong in terms 1 and 2. The Committee was advised that the timetable had been reviewed for agriculture students to cover the curriculum in 4 days rather than 5 to make it more efficient and support staff timetabling. The issues raised in equine had been less expected and a deep dive was ongoing to review the feedback which largely related to some practical lessons. It was noted it was possible the survey in this area had been impacted by individuals subject to behaviour management. The Director for the Department advised that feedback from the deep dive had not correlated to the survey feedback. Deep dive feedback had been that students were enjoying the course and feeling supported and challenged. Issues relating to yard duties had been raised and actions were ongoing to aim to address these. There had been a request for instructors to be rotated which was being considered. It was noted the duty model had been changed the previous year to respond to feedback. It was noted that the Yard Management Team had been subject to significant turnover during the year which may have impacted on the relationships with students. It was noted that attendance at tutorials had reduced once university offers had been received. Actions to respond to the survey findings were in train.	
	It was confirmed that themes would be reflected in the SAR and QuIP. The improved number of parents taking part in the parental survey was recognised.	
0	The FE QuESt Committee NOTED the Summer Term Student and Parent Satisfaction Report.	
FEQuESt 11/06/23	Subcontract Quality Improvement Plan – overview, actions and impact to date.	
	It was noted that the British Rowing sub-contract was currently Hartpury's only sub-contract, focused mainly around 16-18s, capped at £163,020 and 60 new students each year, so relatively small in size.	

		ACTION & ACTION DATE
	It was highlighted that it was essential that sub-contracting compliance and quality of provision was scrutinised at Governance level, reflecting regulatory requirements. There continued to be emphasis on the quality of sub- contracted provision and how the prime institution, (Hartpury in this instance) holds the sub-contractor to account.	
	It was outlined that Hartpury had continued to focus on narrowing the retention gap between our internal Rowing DISE and that of the sub-contract and continued to support further improvements to the student experience. It was confirmed that student satisfaction remained strong and retention to date was almost in line with our internal DISE provision. It was noted that this will remain an area of focus as was still slightly lower this year (3% lower than internal DISE) but higher than last year and currently meeting the KPI.	323
	It was agreed that Hartpury's DISE Manager provide an overview presentation of our DISE provision in the November QuESt.	DISE Manager Nov 2023
	It was confirmed that safeguarding had been reviewed following concerns made nationally relating to gymnastics coaches and that subcontracting students were provided with safeguarding material and had access to Whisper – the anonymous safeguarding reporting tool used within Hartpury as well as the survey mechanisms for reporting.	
	Governors queried any implications of the contract having moved to Sport Aid funded provision from the ESFA. They were advised that the conditions mirrored the ESFA conditions.	
	The FE QuESt Committee NOTED the Subcontract Quality Improvement Plan	
FEQuESt 12/06/23	Hartpury College Skills and Employability Report	
C	It was highlighted that this report was a refresh and amalgamation of the two previously presented reports – the Annual ICE Report and Employability Report with a further, additional focus on stakeholder engagement. The Report highlighted that Hartpury's approach to skills development and stakeholder engagement was reviewed in the summer of 2022 and further refined throughout this academic year. Employer, education, civic and community engagement continued to be strong with our refreshed 'employers as partners' approach. These key relationships supported our industry- curriculum co-creation approach to programme design through to implementation involving co-delivery and some co-assessment, co- assessment being an area of focus for all teams in 2023-2024.	
	In addition to specific industry relationships, we continue to have strong relationships with GFirst LEP, Forest of Dean Council, Forest Economic Partnership, Gloucestershire County Council and Business West Chamber of Commerce and (LSIP collaboration). Other relationships with the south west of England and Gloucestershire colleges were further strengthened as a result of collaborative work in support of the SDF pilot in 2021-2022, the SDF phase 1 in 2022-2023 and furthermore, early discussions around the LSIF for 2023-2024. This all aligns with our Accountability Statement and our commitment to	

		ACTION & ACTION DATE
	supporting skills gaps identified through the LSIP and analysis of wider labour market information. Our Innovation, Careers and Enterprise (ICE) Team, continued to work with the college academic teams to develop a variety of innovative methods, utilising our stakeholder relationships to support students in terms of developing understanding of careers pathways and in support of progression to further/higher education and/or employment readiness under our 'Hartpury Certificate Plus' framework alignment with the strategic aims of Hartpury College. It was noted that the Head of ICE had left and a new appointee would start in August, they had been based at the LEP so would bring good skills and understanding of working with industry.	SV3
	Governors noted that the 16% response rate on college destinations 6 months after completion was low, and asked how it compared with prior years, and asked the actions being taken to improve the position. The Deputy-Principal Further Education advised that students were contacted 6-8 months after leaving by phone, email and text. Previous levels had been higher. It was suggested that efforts should be made to engage students with Hartpury via the alumni team on Prize Day. It was agreed this approach would be investigated and implemented if possible.	Dep P- FE June 24 on
FEQuESt 13/06/23	External Quality Assurance Reports The Report advised that the quality of assessment and internal quality assurance processes as determined through external verification overall remained strong and generally consistent across all areas of the College supplemented by recommendations advised by the awarding organisations. Governors were pleased to see comments from external verifiers noting the high quality of work produced by students in particular and that the reports this year were more comprehensive from the awarding organisations, further supporting continuous improvement. In addition, the College Quality Cycle was included so that it was clear how these reports related to quality improvement and the relationship with Governance.	
G	A governor queried the reference in a number of reports to the lead internal verifier not being registered. The Deputy -Principal Further Education advised that this was a glitch which had now been resolved (it had impacted on a number of institutions). The FE QuESt Committee NOTED the External Quality Assurance Reports.	

		ACTION & ACTION DATE
FEQuESt 14/06/23	KPI Monitoring Update	
	 KPI Monitoring Update The report provided an up to on progress to date of performance against our KPIs. Our headline progress towards achievement of 2022-2023 QuESt KPIs was highlighted. Meeting KPI Attendance is currently tracking above the KPI (physical presence in the 'classroom' also included in brackets), albeit there is a slight drop compared with last year. Overall Autumn Term Student Satisfaction is above KPI at 99.3% Overall Burevel 2 complementary qualification retention is currently tracking at the KPI (1156 students) Overall Level 2 complementary qualification retention is currently tracking above the KPI (203 enrolments) External Sub-contract for DISE Rowing retention is currently tracking at the KPI (40 students) Level 3 Diploma Agriculture is still currently tracking at 100% retention (23 students) against 80% last year, 10 students (excludes Farm Mech students) Foundation Diploma Equine is currently tracking at 94.4% retention (71 students) against 88.4% last year (86 students) Access to HE is currently tracking at 89.5% retention (19 students) against 76% last year Not meeting KPI but exceeding 2018-2019 national rates Overall BTEC Level 2 retention of 94% has just dropped below the KPI (67 students) in term 3 1.2 Agriculture Apprenticeship Standards is at 66.7% retention (27 students) which is line with last year – new apprenticeships starting in year 1 in 2022-2023, by contrast are currently still at 100% retention (due to complete in October 2023) Maths and English GCSE resit November pass rates are higher in both Maths and English deforms are is 98.1% so just below the KPI of 99% atthough interestingly has increased since the spring term survey when it was 97.4% Maths and English attendance had improved again for another year and is now 06.5%, so only 0.5% off the target and only 1.4% d	
	 Overall Level 3 complementary qualification (Sport) retention is currently tracking below the KPI and 18/19 national rates (49 enrolments) Overall Level 1 complementary qualification (Sport and Agriculture) retention is tracking below the KPI and 18/19 national rates (146 enrolments) Level 3 Apprenticeship retention (2 students) is 50% so below KPI and National Rate 	

	ACTION & ACTION DATE
It was noted that the level of complementary qualifications was low.	
The FE QuESt Committee NOTED the KPI Monitoring Update.	
FE Termly Concerns and Complaints Report	
It was noted there had been 3 complaints, 0 in academic areas, 0 in service and 3 in welfare/non-course areas (none upheld). There had been no appeals to the Principal. There had been one complaint to the ESFA. Which had not been upheld, but a number of recommendations made to update policies which had been completed.	J?
It was noted that there had been some parental discussions with agriculture students but no formal complaints.	•
The Spring Term Complaints and Appeals Report was NOTED.	
SU Update	
The report provided an update on elections, staff changes, representation, guidance and opportunities, the recent StAR Awards (Student Allocated Recognition awards). Governors were pleased to see the increasing activity of the SU. The need to ensure increased engagement with FE was noted. It was noted that the SU provided Student Representative training.	
The FE QuESt Committee NOTED the SU Update.	
FE QuESt Committee Terms of Reference, Agenda Cycle and Self- Assessment	
It was noted that the formats of the Terms of reference had been amended and the college's role in responding to the skills agenda highlighted.	
The Committee APPROVED the proposed changes to the College Quest Terms of reference.	
The Committee NOTED the self-assessment and confirmed that the committee has met its requirements.	
The Agenda Cycle was NOTED.	
Any Points Identified to Highlight at Board	
QuIP Agriculture staffing Landex Peer Review and CPD to support Teaching Learning and Assessment – impact of Deep Dives Student Satisfaction – deep dives where satisfaction levels lower. Careers 1:1 focus	
It was AGREED to take forward as detailed above.	
	The FE QuESt Committee NOTED the KPI Monitoring Update. FE Termly Concerns and Complaints Report It was noted there had been 3 complaints, 0 in academic areas, 0 in service and 3 in welfare/non-course areas (none upheld). There had been no appeals to the Principal. There had been one complaint to the ESFA. Which had not been upheld, but a number of recommendations made to update policies which had been completed. It was noted that there had been some parental discussions with agriculture students but no formal complaints. The Spring Term Complaints and Appeals Report was NOTED. SU Update The report provided an update on elections, staff changes, representation, guidance and opportunities, the recent StAR Awards (Student Allocated Recognition awards). Governors were pleased to see the increasing activity of the SU. The need to ensure increased engagement with FE was noted. It was noted that the SU provided Student Representative training. The FE QuESt Committee NOTED the SU Update. FE QueSt Committee Terms of reference had been amended and the college's role in responding to the skills agenda highlighted. The Committee APPROVED the proposed changes to the College Quest Terms of reference. The Agenda Cycle was NOTED. Any Points Identified to Highlight at Board QuIP Agriculture staffing Landex Peer Review and CPD to support Teaching Learning and Assessment – impact of Deep Dives Student Statisfaction – deep dives where satisfaction levels lower.

FEHEQuESt		ACTION & ACTION DATE
FEHEQuESt 19/06/23	 Any Other Business It was noted that Uniformed Public Service Provision was scheduled to be defunded in 2026/27. Options to respond were being investigated and lobbying continued. College Prize Day – excellent event, very well organised – congratulations to all involved. Lewis Ludlow excellent guest speaker – benefit of former student speaking to current exiting cohort. 	G
	Dates of future meetings—NOTED The meeting closed at 16.30pm	N
	ARAPROVED	