

## MOULTON COLLEGE

### ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE

#### Minutes of the Academic Standards Committee Meeting Held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2008

**Present:** Mr J Gaggini (in the Chair), Mr C Alderson-Smith, Mrs K Mackaness, Mrs J Charlton-Jones, Mr M Thomson, Mr R Thompson, Mr A Ellis, Mr G Patrick, Miss D Humberstone

**In Attendance:** Mr R Chapman, Mrs L Furness, Ms L Johnson, Mr M Wilkinson, Mr R Dewing, Miss C Whitworth, Mr L Price

The Chairman welcomed Dawn Humberstone, Lee Price, Lindsey Johnson and Linda Furness to their first meeting.

#### **08/8 Apologies for absence (agenda item 1)**

Apologies were received from Mr C Barney, Mr P Heygate, Mr A Merriman, Prof P Bush, and Mr C Moody.

#### **08/9 Minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2008 (agenda item 2, paper A)**

The minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

#### **08/10 Matters Arising (agenda item 3)**

There were no matters arising.

#### **08/11 Self-Assessment Report 2007-8 (agenda item 4, paper B)**

##### **a) Sport, Equine and General Education Faculty**

##### **i) Sports Studies**

The area had graded itself as 1 for FE and 1 overall. The area had 10 key strengths and no key areas for improvement. All but 1 course had been above benchmark for success. The First Diploma in Sport was above benchmark but the success rate had fallen over the last 3 years due to a declining retention rate. Great care had been taken in allocating staff to this course for 2008-9. Observation of teaching had resulted in 92% of grades being good or better last year. The Quality Improvement Plan was addressing the 2 weaknesses identified under the key questions. Following discussion, *the grades were approved for recommendation to the Board.*

##### **ii) Equestrian Studies**

The area had graded itself as 1 for FE, 1 for Work Based Learning and 1 overall. The area had 6 key strengths and 1 key area for improvement. All full-time courses were at or above benchmark. Work Based Learning (WBL) performance was good but student numbers were low, and this was the key

the key area for improvement. The WBL market was limited but there was scope for further improvement in recruitment. The number of key skills and additional qualifications were well above the target of 2 per learner. 75% of lesson observations had been graded good or better. The Dressage Academy could be added as a strength to key question 3 as it was meeting the needs and interests of learners. Low entries on level 3 key skills had been noted but this was a college-wide problem. The area was also taking steps to try to improve its gender and. Following discussion, *the grades were approved for recommendation to the Board.*

**iii) General Education**

The area had graded itself as 1 overall. The area had 10 key strengths and 1 key area for improvement, relating to some inconsistency with vocational subject areas, and this had prompted the area to look at how well part-time students succeeded compared to full-time students taking the same qualifications. 100% of teaching observations had been good or better. Following discussion, *the grade was approved for recommendation to the Board.*

**b) Landbased Faculty**

**i) Agriculture**

The area had graded itself as 1 for FE, 1 for Work Based Learning and 1 overall. The area had 10 key strengths and 2 key areas for improvement. Success rates were generally above benchmark although a few had been affected by low retention in small cohorts. There had been a large improvement in the average number of key skills per learner from the previous year to 3.6. A target of 25% of level 3 students to progress to HE had been set for 2008-9. 83% of teaching observations had been graded good or better. Following discussion, *the grades were approved for recommendation to the Board.*

**ii) Animal Welfare and Veterinary Health**

The area had graded itself as 1 for FE, 2 for Work Based Learning and 1 overall. The area had 8 key strengths and 1 key area for improvement. Success rates were good and there was a high level of key skills and additional qualifications per learner. 84% of teaching observations had been graded good or better. There had been a low progression rate to HE last year. This had been investigated and was considered to be mainly due to financial reasons. The number of WBL students had been low in 2007-8 but had improved in 2008-9. Following discussion, *the grades were approved for recommendation to the Board.*

Richard Dewing left the meeting.

**iii) Horticulture**

The area had graded itself as 1 for FE, 3 for Work Based Learning and 2 overall. The area had 5 key strengths and 1 key area for improvement. Success rates on full-time programmes were above benchmark but had been low in advanced apprenticeship frameworks due to problems in achieving the technical certificate. WBL recruitment had also been low and there had been problems with attendance on some FE and WBL programmes during peak times for the industry. Measures were being put in place to encourage more full-time students to attempt merit and distinction grades on BTEC programmes. 100% of teaching observations had been graded good or better. Following discussion, *the grades were approved for recommendation to the Board.*

**c) Building and Construction Faculty**

**i) Building Studies**

The area had graded itself as 2 for FE, 2 for Work Based Learning and 2 overall. The area had 5 key strengths and 3 key areas for improvement. Success on roofing programmes, at 56%, was the biggest area of concern. Apprenticeship success rates had been above benchmark but further improvements were being aimed for. Efforts were being made to improve attendance on all courses with a view to retaining more students. Quite large levels of learning support were required in some groups. 84% of teaching observations had been graded good or better. Following discussion, *the grades were approved for recommendation to the Board.*

**ii) Construction Services**

The area had graded itself as 2 for FE, 1 for Work Based Learning and 2 overall. The area had 7 key strengths and 1 key area for improvement, relating to poor attendance rates across the subject area. Most courses were above benchmark for success, and WBL results were very good for both apprenticeships and advanced apprenticeships. However, the management of work based evidence and reviews had been identified as a weakness by Ofsted and this was being addressed. 68% of teaching observations had been graded good or better. Following discussion, *the grades were approved for recommendation to the Board.*

**iii) Furniture and Design Studies**

The area had graded itself as 2 for FE and 2 overall. The area had 7 key strengths and 3 key areas for improvement. Success rates were mainly above benchmarks although some part-time courses were weak. Attendance on year 1 HND and some part-time courses had been low. However, the main problem in the area was declining recruitment. 82% of teaching observations had been graded good or better. Following discussion, *the grades were approved for recommendation to the Board.*

**d) Management Centre**

The area had graded itself as 2 for FE and 2 overall. The area had 3 key strengths and 1 key area for improvement. Retention on health care programmes had improved significantly but had not been good on OSAT (on-site training and assessment) programmes in construction. Measures had been implemented to

speed up the assessment process as this was considered to be a significant factor in improving retention. Following discussion, *the grades were approved for recommendation to the Board.*

**08/12 Committee Self-Assessment Report 2007-8 (agenda item 5, paper C)**

Proposed changes were discussed. No further changes were made and, following discussion, *the Committee graded its work as 1.*

**08/13 Date of next meeting (agenda item 6)**

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2009 at 4.00pm.

**08/14 Any other business**

There was no other business.