

UCEN Manchester Board

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th March 2018 at 10am in Room OP116/117

Present: Kimoni Bell, Paula Cole, Cllr John Hacking (Chair), Lisa O’Loughlin (Principal), Peter Winter, Kile Moyana

In Attendance Jane Nickisson (Director of Curriculum, Teaching , Learning and Assessment), Rachel Curry (Vice Principal Planning and Performance), John Evans (Vice Principle Quality and Standards), Jennifer Foote MBE (Company Secretary and General Counsel), Susan Holden (Director of Quality, Standards and Strategic Partnerships), Christine Kenyon (Vice Principal FE), Kate Mackenzie (Assistant Company Secretary and Solicitor), Debbie Sanderson (Divisional Finance Director College and Income Team) and Michael Walsh (Vice Principal FE and Higher Skills)

Apologies: Rebecca Bishop (Group HR Director) and Wendy Pennington (Director of Student Experience and Engagement)

No declarations of interest were received.

Part A

01/18	<p>Part A minutes of the meeting of the HE Board held on 17th November 2017</p> <p>The Part A minutes of the meeting of the UCEN MCR Board held on 17th November 2017 were received and approved as an accurate correct record and signed by the Chair.</p>
02/18	<p>SED/QIP 2016/17</p> <p>The Board received the paper and accepted the substantive details in the paper as read.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the self-assessment was based on Ofsted’s common inspection framework but scored against HEFCE terminology rather than numerical grading. UCEN MCR had however included an extra requirement ‘exceeds requirements’. The decision whether to keep this requirement in for the current academic year needed to be made. It was confirmed that for this first time self-evaluation had taken place at both curriculum level and course level and this had worked well. A member raised concern in relation to the reported position in respect of destination of learners. It was confirmed that whilst students may have good qualifications they may lack interview skills or have English as a second language and this year employability support was being embedded in some departments. In answer to a question from a member it was confirmed that the vision was to roll this out to all courses and having an operating model in each department, increasing</p>

	<p>learners ability to reach their destination. Following discussion it was confirmed that what was crucial for development was student engagement to help develop programmes.</p> <p>A member queried how the self -assessment of UCEN MCR compared to other HE providers. The Board was signposted to the HEFCE website where external validations were posted but the Board was reminded that the SED was an internal validation process.</p>
<p>03/18</p>	<p>Student Engagement Update</p> <p>The Board received the substantive paper as read. The Growth and expansion of the Student Union (SU) and the Student Representative Forum showing significant engagement was highlighted together with the project teams supporting with significant results. The Learning Gain project was referred to which revealed that less than 25% of students originated from traditional level 3 backgrounds. The Board was informed that the detailed report in respect of the Learning Gain project and key actions that UCEN MCR would be taking to improve student experience in light of this would be shared at the next Board. It was also highlighted to the Board that a shift in focus to move to discussions that focused on the academic side not just infrastructure in student forums would be key to achieving the richness of information to move forward with.</p> <p>The Board praised the team for the student conference which was considered to be very useful but discussion centred on the need to increase attendance. The merits of holding a separate UCEN MCR conference, split out from FE in the future were explored. The consensus reached was that true value for students would be received when they were instrumental in running the conference themselves for their peers. A member was of the view that based on experience, the SU should be more student lead.</p> <p><i>Paula Cole left the meeting.</i></p> <p>In response to a query from the Board it was confirmed that the work was in train to make the UCEN MCR offering discrete from FE. The first step had been the creation of the brand, the expectation had now been created and now the challenge was to live and feel this. The Board was informed of the campus sites that were exclusively or almost exclusively for HE students and this requirement for separation was being fed into the Group Estates Strategy. The Board was also pleased to note that some students were now referring to themselves as being part of a higher education organisation not the College.</p>
<p>04/18</p>	<p>Strategic Challenges</p> <p>The Board received the paper and this was taken as read. The risk in respect of UA92 was considered by the Board to also be a potential challenge and one to watch along with the OFS with the potential for new entrants in the market. The Board reiterated its view again that it was even more important at this time for HE provision to have a differentiated marketing strategy. The Board was informed that Budget would be the next time when potential further direction would be signposted.</p>

05/18	UCEN Manchester Divisional Board Membership The Company Secretary and General Counsel explained to the Board that the Governance Committee had undertaken a Group wide skills audit. It had been identified that the UCEN MCR Board required a member with a professional financial background. An informal approach had been made to an individual with this skill set and then the usual governance process around this would take place.
	<p>----- Chair</p> <p>----- Date</p>

The meeting closed at 1.11pm.