

Chichester College

Minutes of the Meeting of the Student Committee held on Wednesday, 5 May 2010

Present:

Mr David Hazelden (Chairman)
Mr Jonathan Jones (Vice-Chairman)
Miss Emily Bone Mr Bach Hoang
Mrs Lynnedd Brown Mrs Angie Hobson
Mr Sam Cooper Miss Verena Kroll
Mr Ben Crabtree Miss Antonia Mills
Mr Josh Dann Dr Richard Parker
Mr Eli Engel Miss Frances Russell
Mr Mitchell Foster Mrs Jayne Roberts
Mr Nick Scarfield

In Attendance:

Mr John Bates, Deputy Principal
Mr Jamie Bunce, Student Activities Co-ordinator
Mrs Karon Chamberlain, Head of Student Support
Mrs Glenda Ford, Student Tutor Team Leader
Mr David Smith, Clerk to the Governing Body

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

48. Apologies for absence were received from David Hett and Deborah Urquhart.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

49. The Chairman drew the attention of the Governors and those in attendance at the meeting to the requirement to declare any interests they might have in any of the items on the agenda, as detailed in the agenda sheet.

MINUTES

50. The Minutes of the Meeting of the Student Committee held on Wednesday, 3 February 2010 were taken as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

51. The Committee received and noted a schedule outlining responses to action points from the Minutes of the previous Meeting.

(Copy attached at APPENDIX 1 to the Minute Book copy)

Minute 29: Timetabling Wednesday Afternoons

52. John Bates reported that following three meetings of the working group it had been decided to run a pilot for the next year encompassing AS Levels, EFL, Construction and Hair and Beauty. All first year full-time students in these areas would be off timetable on Wednesday afternoons to enable them to participate in a range of enrichment activities, both in their areas of study and cross college. Opportunities would also be provided for activities in the community. Further meetings of the working group were planned including a review of sports provision to identify opportunities for participation that were not necessarily competitive. Undergraduate students from the University of Chichester would assist with the development of the sporting programme as part of their studies.

CYBER BULLYING

53. Karon Chamberlain reported that, following discussion at the last meeting focussing on staying safe on the campuses, a working group had been established to review the issues raised. One of the areas they had reviewed was cyber bullying which appeared to be increasingly common. Karen gave a brief presentation on ways in which cyber bullying manifested itself.
54. The Committee participated in an activity to identify ways in which cyber bullying might be addressed, the results of which would be taken away for consideration by the working group. In the ensuing discussion it was suggested that any campaign to respond to cyber bullying should be based on using the same technologies to counteract it rather than the more traditional post and leaflet campaigns. There was also a brief discussion on ways in which individuals could protect themselves from cyber bullying.
55. Referring to other issues that had been raised during discussions at the last meeting Karon reported that action had been taken to respond to the most significant areas where safety concerns had been raised. Other areas would be followed up in due course.

STUDENT GOVERNOR REPORTS

56. Jonathan Jones and Josh Dann gave their termly report on their activities as governors since the last meeting of the Committee. As the Spring Term was rather short there had not been much activity aside from the normal round of meetings and participating in the appointment process for the Deputy Principal. Jonathan reported briefly on the NUS National Conference which he had attended and urged any students who were thinking of becoming involved in student politics to attend next year. Supporting this Richard Parker stated that a previous student governor, Beth Walker, had followed this route and subsequently had been elected as Vice-President (Further Education) of the NUS.
57. Jonathan and Josh circulated a draft role description for student governors which they had worked up together with David Smith.

(Copy attached at APPENDIX 2 to the Minute Book copy)

58. Jonathan suggested that whilst it provided a clear basis for describing the duties of a student governor he wanted to sit down with Josh and Nick Scarfield to develop it with a guide for prospective student governors. Supporting this Nick suggested that it might help to add some case studies to the document.

STUDENT EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY AND EVENTS CALENDAR

59. The Committee received for information a paper prepared by Nick Scarfield outlining the work that had been undertaken by members of the Student Executive on the February Stop the Track Day.

(Copy attached at APPENDIX 3 to the Minute Book copy)

60. Nick reported that a major focus for the day had been communication and the need to ensure greater engagement between the Student Executive and the student body. Within this they had looked at ways to promote Chi SU, particularly as an information source for international students and work-based learners. Other topics of discussion included student entertainment and events and developing links with sport. Looking to the future Nick indicated that he planned to produce a wider report to help guide the new Executive before he completed his term of office.

THE STUDENT VOICE POLICY

61. Karon Chamberlain gave a brief presentation on developments in the student voice that had been introduced since the start of the year. Karon suggested that the student voice needed strengthening further. Within it she felt the Student Union needed a stronger identity as did its structures and the activities it promoted. Working in groups the Committee was asked to consider a number of questions about the student voice and ways in which it could be developed further. Karon indicated that the responses would be analysed and the suggestions taken account of in developing the student voice further.
62. Jonathan Jones suggested that a review should be undertaken of the means for marketing the Student Union and the services it promoted. He suggested that, as with the discussion on cyber bullying, posters and leaflets were not sufficient. He suggested that there was scope for establishing an internal project group to review the means by which the Student Union might engage more closely with the student body.

STUDENT PRESIDENT'S REPORT

63. Nick Scarfield gave his termly report together with a round up of the year. He suggested that replacing the Student Council with the Student Conference had promoted opportunities for greater focus on issues. Attendance had been better initially although it declined term on term. Nick suggested that the level of success of the student representative meetings had been more variable. They appeared to have worked particularly well in Sport, Construction, Hospitality, Childcare and A Levels. The quality of the feedback and notes from meetings had also been variable. He was particularly grateful to Lynnedd Brown for the support she had given him at Brinsbury. Other aspects of the role were participation in the accessibility review and the curriculum area developmental reviews in which he had gathered the views of learners as well as participating in lesson observations.
64. Referring to the Student Executive, Nick stated that it was somewhat smaller than it had been in recent years and attendance at meetings had also declined. Despite this there had been a number of successful events across the year. Looking forward he hoped that it would be possible to promote more events for students as well as continuing to support charities. During the year the Executive had been a lot more involved with the NUS and he hoped this would continue and that the Executive would take even greater advantage of the training available. Nick also reported that Lynnedd Brown had been elected as a national representative for FE on the NUS National Executive Council. As such she would be a part-time officer supporting the full-time Vice-President (FE). The Committee congratulated Lynnedd on her appointment.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE STUDENT PRESIDENT ELECTIONS

65. Glenda Ford reported that arrangements were in hand for the election of a new Student President and other officers of the Student Union. Nominations would be invited during the week commencing 24 May and voting would take place in the week commencing 7 June. The results of the elections would be announced on 14 June.
66. Nick Scarfield stated that he had received expressions of interest for all of the post except the Vice-President for Brinsbury Campus. Lynedd Brown indicated that there had been some expression of interest among students whom she knew were returning next year.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2011

67. It was

Resolved

That the calendar of meetings for the Committee for 2011 be as follows

Wednesday, 9 February 2011, 12.15 pm

Wednesday, 4 May 2011, 12.15 pm

Wednesday, 19 October, 12.15 pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

68. It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday, 20 October 2010 at 12.15 pm.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

69. David Hazelden thanked the Student representatives who would not be returning to College next year for their participation and support over the past year. He also reminded the Committee that this would be last meeting for Richard Parker and John Bates, both of whom were retiring at the end of the year. David thanked Richard and John for their support for the work of the Committee over the years.

REVIEW OF THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

70. David Hazelden invited members to consider whether any items of business in the meeting could have been dealt with in a different or more appropriate manner and to submit any comments they had to himself, David Smith or Nick Scarfield.

Chairman

Date