

**MINUTES OF THE  
ADDITIONAL CURRICULUM AND QUALITY COMMITTEE  
C126E, GLOUCESTER CAMPUS  
8 MARCH 2018**

**Present:** Ms M James (Chair) Mr G Ridgway (Co-opted)  
Mr M Burgess (Principal) Mrs S Wilman (Co-opted)  
Ms T Burton

**In Attendance:** Dr K Morris Vice-Principal, Curriculum and Quality  
Ms S Steed Vice-Principal, Students  
Ms J Cosson Clerk to Governors

**Apologies:** Ms S Baldry (Co-opted)  
Ms J Haines (Staff Governor)  
Mr M Lawson (Staff Governor)  
Mr N Skroban-Korzeniecki (Student Governor)  
Ms J Tegg (Head of Employer Engagement)

**Attendance: 55.5%**

		<b>ACTION</b>
<b>PRELIMINARIES</b>		
<b>15/18</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
	Were noted as above.	
<b>16/18</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	None, other than those currently recorded on the Register of Interests.	
<b>17/18</b>	<b>Confidentiality of Items</b>	
	As marked, for reasons of commercial sensitivity, for a period of two years.	
<b>KEY BUSINESS</b>		
<b>18/18</b>	<b>Office for Students (OfS) - Registration as an Approved Provider</b>	
	KM provided an overview of the context, objectives and requirements of the new body at this stage.	



The aim was to reassure the Committee that the College is positioned correctly for registration by the deadlines, and that the College will therefore be able to continue to offer HE from September 2019.

### **Background and context**

From April 2018, the Office for Students (OfS) will be the regulatory body for the English higher education sector.

The OfS was established by the Higher Education and Research Act 2017. With the rapid growth of new types of providers in higher education, including FE colleges and alternative (private) providers, regulation had become fragmented with responsibilities lying between multiple bodies. The government wanted a simplified landscape that would bring many of the functions of HEFCE, OFFA, the Department for Education and the Privy Council together into a single organisation.

OfS is a regulator of the English HE marketplace – designed to encourage the growth of a competitive market that informs student choice, to intervene when the market is failing in areas such as equal access, and protect the interest of its consumers (students, government, and wider society). The Office for Students aims to put student interests at the heart of its function. The protection of students is a central focus, including destinations and value for money.

### **Operation**

OfS will manage and maintain a list of registered English higher education providers that must be publicly available. There are three categories of registration, which are linked to accessing public funding. The more public funding an institution receives, the more regulatory conditions exist.

HE providers will be charged a fee to cover the administrative costs for OfS to manage the register.

In terms of access, the bulk of the work of the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) is expected to continue as the organisation is merged into OfS.

In terms of quality assurance, HEFCE previously held the legal responsibility to assure quality in higher education, but outsourced it through contracts, which mostly went to the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA). Instead of outsourcing it to an independent body, such as QAA, it will now pass these assessment functions to a designated



body, for which QAA was the only bidder. The Annual Provider Review looks set to remain for this year but the position going forward is not yet confirmed. The outcome of the consultation as to the QAA process is expected shortly. The OfS will look at a baseline for standards. It is expected that QAA will continue to assess the College's performance.

Data is key to OfS regulatory functions, with the use of lead indicators to measure institutional performance and measure risks. The ongoing conditions for continuing registration have not yet been confirmed and there are only broad indications of what these will be at present. They will become apparent once the College has been successful with initial registration. The Committee reviewed the proposed conditions.

OfS has the power to intervene and to levy fines

OfS has the remit to promote value for money in HERA and HE providers will now need to publicly justify individual salaries over £150,000 to the OfS.

### **TEF**

The teaching excellence and student outcomes framework (TEF) is currently managed by HEFCE on behalf of DfE. The regulatory framework consultation proposes that entry into TEF will be a registration condition for Approved category institutions, and so the delivery of TEF is likely to move to OfS. This is a standard that recognises a College's performance above the baseline and is a desktop assessment. It will be compulsory for College's with over 500 learners from August 2019. It is possible to opt in to the scheme below that number. The College currently has 499 HE students and will therefore monitor the position. A high proportion of the FE Colleges in the pilot achieved the Gold standard.

### **Registration**

Registration opens on 3 April with a deadline of 30 April for submissions. The College aims to have completed the documentation by 29 March and to be ready to submit its application for registration as soon as the online portal opens. The Board will not therefore see the final submission for sign off.

There are 4 key templates to be completed in preparation for registration including one on Leadership and Management.

The College has a dedicated support contact at the OfS. Members of



	<p>the College staff are attending training on 15 March.</p> <p><b>Questions</b></p> <p>Members asked how much of the new framework differs from what the College is required to do now.</p> <p>KM replied that much of what is required is similar to what is required at present. However, the standards are clearer and more streamlined than currently.</p> <p>Under the new framework, 'Value Added' is called 'Learning Gain' and will take into account careers advice and destinations as well as success rates. The College's careers education, information, advice and guidance will therefore play an important part in this area.</p> <p>Improvements to the College's NSS scores will be a key challenge under the new system.</p> <p>A member asked if the new framework would result in any additional overheads for the College. In addition, whether KM has sufficient capacity to oversee the work involved. The College responded that the majority of the material required to satisfy the standards is already available; it is a case of gathering it together. The HE co-ordinator is doing most of this work. There will be a registration fee of £22k.</p> <p>A member asked if the College could gain any positive publicity from explaining to stakeholders how the new framework works and the College's preparations for it. The College will look into this.</p> <p>The College believes that the new framework provides an opportunity to re-examine the HE strategy and the conditions will form the basis of this going forward. The College has already engaged an external consultant, Jane Durant, to review the Self-Evaluation of HE and the underpinning evidence against the quality code. Her report on the outcomes and actions will be presented to the next meeting.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED: The Committee noted the report and was reassured by the overview received that the College is making adequate and appropriate preparations for the introduction of the Office for Students and its new regulatory framework.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: The Committee to commend the College's preparations to the next Board meeting on 22 March.</b></p>	<p>MJ</p>
<p><b>OTHER</b></p>		



gloucestershire college

19/18	Any Other Business	
20/18	Date and time of next meeting: 26 April 2018 at 5pm, Boardroom, Cheltenham	

Signed.....MP James

Date.....26th April 2018

