



Student Voice Meeting 6th October 2015

Apologies:

Rebecca Davis	356836	Beauty L3/2
Farad Mohammed	287369	Travel and Tourism 1

Present:

Staff Members:

Will Sparrow (chair)
Rosalind Birtwistle (notes)
Jamie de Boick
Lesley Ferguson
Em Lowe

Student Representatives: (34 signed in)

Mujakkir Hussain	Nisha Mohammed
Ali Ahmed	Darius Kinsley
Azizi Taylor	Tiffany Williams
Imran Khan	Rhiannon Eaton
Matthew Gentle	Sobia Akhtar
Josh Choules	Emma Costin
Bill Black	Summer Gill
Manraj Sidhu	Mahmood Khan
Sian Ingledew	Cameron Dunn
Chris Jones	James Conniff
Max Appleby	Holly Meadows

Janis Ciess	Tanika Pau;
Vicky Turner	Kyle Malik
Whitney Leith	Lewis Bedford
Tyler Belgrave	Asa Kabale
Paidamwoyo Mahka	Simran Kaur
Jasmin Janef	Natalie Egdell

The meeting opened at 12.25 in 'Yourspace'. Will welcomed student representatives to the meeting and explained the purpose of Student Voice.

He introduced other staff members, including Lesley Ferguson and Em Lowe who had come to recruit students for a focus group which will be held on Tuesday 13 October at 12.30 in Yourspace, and which will last about half an hour. Lesley asked students who are interested to think in advance about what elements they would like to have included in their student experience here at college, both within their courses and extra-curricular opportunities. She also asked them to talk to the students they represent in order to get a wide range of ideas, and reminded them that student views can be powerful. Interested student reps should inform Will or Rosalind before the meeting if possible.

Will delivered a small training session on roles and responsibilities.

Will then explained that we will have five Student Voice meetings over the course of the Year, plus two events: the meeting on 19th November which will be a chance for representatives to meet and question the College directors, and the SV conference, which will be held at Shuttleworth.

The purpose of this meeting was to gather views of students' initial experiences of Bedford College, from first contact until the end of induction.

Summary of Comments:

How have the first few weeks been?

The initial application and enrolment process had been efficient (PS) and well organised (H and SC) but some students had received their start dates with little notice (fashion/textiles. 3D, graphics). The enrolment team were welcoming and the teaching staff were 'kind and approachable' (Childcare, Foundation Course and Photography)

Many students found their lecturers to be organised, clear, positive and supportive (Animation/Public Services, Sport, H and SC). Students were positive about teaching staff, who treated them as adults:-" we are all equal" (ICT, Business and A and D). Tutorial support was also appreciated (PS, Animation).

Most new students had been taken on a tour of college, or been given a Trail with clues to follow in order to learn their bearings.

Rooms and timetables: This seems to have been straightforward for many students, with the exception of a timetable clash with English and Maths for some Art and Design students and some room changes or late timetable changes (PS, Animation). Some appreciated that they did not have to be in college 5 days a week. Students in PS suggested a later start in order to prevent classmates from falling asleep.

There were complaints that Rogers Court gets too hot and Springs gets chilly because of the air conditioning. St Mary's gets 'stuffy'.

There were non-specific complaints about the lifts, a discussion over priority and students with disabilities took place.

Maths classes are too crowded (ICT/ Business/A and D). Photography students would like more studio space and equipment. Childcare students would like lockers and filing cabinets.

Social and Common areas. Social areas are generally good (ICT, Business/A and D). Some students suggested a bigger 'Yourspace' some wanted more areas where they could eat.

LRC some complained that the staff were unaccommodating.

Catering: Some found the prices high (one student claimed that salads cost £5) and there was a suggestion for 'more desserts'. Some do not like using the student card as a pre-loaded pay card.

Enrichment: Not all students had noticed the enrichment timetables or were aware of the range of extra-curricular activities. It was agreed that a few more should be displayed. Some wanted more fitness sessions (H and SC)

Re: reporting complaints/concerns/grievances: Most students knew of the procedure.

Students who have classes across the road would appreciate a zebra crossing.

Travel bursaries delayed.

Toilets are good and clean with the exception of the Tower Block 3-4 floor toilet which is not always clean. One sink contained vomit all day (students were informed to tell any staff member if this occurs and not wait till the cleaner does her next round). A tap on an unspecified men's room was too pressurised.