

**Minutes of Norton Radstock College Student Forum  
held on Thursday 14 May 2009 at 10.10am**

<b>Present:</b>	<u>Governors and Staff</u>		
	Jim Balliston-Thicke (Chair)		JBT
	Natalie Holloway-Attwood		NHA
	Barbara Chambers		BC
	Alan Ormerod		AO
	Martin Peter		MP
	Julie Stiddard		JS
	Rosie Williams		RW
	<u>Students</u>		
	Tom Bean	Public Services	TB
	Daniel Ford	B6	DF
	Amy Evans	B6	AE
	Tyrone Hobbs	Public Services	TH
	James Short	Engineering	JS
	Chris Thick	Art and Design	CT
	Misha Vowles	Health & Social Care	MV

**In Attendance:** Mr J Holland (Clerk)

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from P Routledge, K Connell, M Selby, A Fisher and Animal Care, Hair and Beauty and Horticulture who had been unable to provide representatives for today's meeting.

**2. Minutes of meeting held on 5 March 2009 for approval**

The meeting unanimously agreed to approve the Minutes.

**3. Matters arising**

The meeting went through the matters arising sheet and the following comments were made regarding items that were not on the main agenda:

- KC's action sheet on environmental issues from the last meeting was circulated. The meeting agreed that there was a noticeable improvement in the overall tidiness of the site.
- The lack of a bin in room 7 today was noted.
- MP would contact KC to establish what use he could make of waste cardboard.

**Action: MP SF5091**
- The high cost of disposing of recyclable waste to businesses was emphasised.

- The meeting concurred that there was no way a £4k spend on a smoking shelter could be justified. The meeting agreed the emphasis should be on getting students to give up smoking.

The following actions were agreed:

- The NHS Anti Smoking Unit should be invited to the College at least annually. Emphasis on help available at College should be more widely publicised and it was suggested that students could be trained to provide peer advice and help. BC agreed to follow up these points.  
**Action: BC SF5092**
- SF3095  
The meeting noted the cost of the Football Academy lockers and the problems with identifying a suitable location. MP to have further discussions with Everton Griffiths.  
**Action: MP SF5093**
- SF3097  
PR was not at the meeting to give an update.
- SF3098  
With regard to the large file size and printing, JH agreed to follow up with P Staples to get an update on this issue.  
**Action: JH SF5094**
- SF3099  
Students thanked the College for installing a water cooler in Engineering but were embarrassed that it had been vandalised. MP agreed to repair it.  
**Action: MP SF5095**
- SF30911  
B6 thought the internet access was still slow but was not going down as much now as in the past. JH agreed to discuss with P Staples.  
**Action: JH SF5 096**

4. **Update on environmental issues by Kevin Connell for information**

KC's apologies, due to illness, had already been noted as well as the circulated list of nine points of student-led suggestions for improving the College environment discussed at the last meeting.

5. **Update on contact with NUS regarding Forums and Union for information**

BC reported that Steven Coole had suggested a meeting in Bristol which was not practicable for the College.

BC had been in contact with the member of staff at Bath College who has responsibility for the Student Union.

BC had set up an initial meeting next week with the Bath College member of staff and would invite Student Governors to any subsequent meeting.

**Action: BC SF5097**

The College had also been given a contact for the President of the Union at Bath Spa University who could provide assistance.

The meeting was made aware that to operate a full Union, several executive roles would have to be filled by students.

#### 6. **Student Governor vacancies from August 2009 for information**

The meeting noted that RW would not be returning next year. NHA was still undecided on her plans for next year but if returning, would be happy to continue as a Student Governor.

A discussion took place about the benefits of having some Forum members/Student Governors in place from the current year students or waiting for a vote on each vacancy within the student population in September. The Bath College model can be evaluated at the meeting being arranged.

**Action: BC SF5098**

#### 7. **New student email system being introduced for information**

The meeting noted the paper with the new system to be reviewed in the autumn.

BC wanted pigeon holes available at sites to be able to communicate with Student Governors and Student Forum members. MP to investigate.

**Action: MP SF5099**

BC also informed the meeting that the College has set up a College 'Twitter' site for student communication.

#### 8. **Matters members wish to raise**

- The meeting had accepted that student organised fund raising events were needed to make improvements to the student facilities at the College by providing finance independently or to supplement any funding provided by the College.

The following were put forward as suggestions:

- Charity football match
- Cake stall
- Car boot sale
- Sponsored no smoking
- Guitar group performance
- Fancy dress days

The issues around control of money was noted.

- Areas of concern:
  - No soap in Gents toilets at B6  
**Action: MP SF50910**
  - Computer issues in Room 2
  - Lack of computers/printing capability in Room 4  
JH agreed to speak with P Staples re the computer issues  
**Action: JH SF50911**
- With the push towards more environmental friendly options, could the College look at providing a larger facility for student bikes.  
**Action: MP SF50912**
- BC was able to confirm that the enrichment offer, as presented at the last meeting, was being put in place.
- Engineering representatives complained of poor communication between Heads of School, tutors and students. This has resulted in very short notice of when work and assignments are due and in some cases duplication of lessons have taken place. AO agreed to follow up these issues with the Heads of School.  
**Action: AO SF50913**
- BC outlined to the meeting the offers that are available to students at Midsomer Norton Leisure Centre for using the gym and swimming pool.
- MP outlined that as part of the environmental issues he is looking at replacing the plastic cutlery with reusable cutlery, with no impact on prices.  
**Action: MP SF50914**
- The next meeting was now to be arranged in September 2009 but it was agreed that feedback on the actions would be made to the attendees today as the majority were not attending next year.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.15am.