Item 12
For Noting

Glasgow Kelvin College

Academic Board - 18 February 2022

Summary of Block 1 Focus Groups

Report by Learner Engagement Officer

1. Introduction

Learner Engagement activities allow learners to feedback meaningfully on all aspects of college life. As well as learners participating in the Block 1 Stop and Check activity, Learner Focus groups were suggested to help gather more information on blended learning and other aspects of the learning experience. A total of six focus groups took place online during Block 1, you will see the questions and responses below.

2. Focus Groups Summary

How is your experience to date?

Most learners are happy with their experience to date, even though some classes are learning at home full time, they would like to be back in campus for some of their course.

What's working well online?

Most learners enjoy the flexibility of online learning, which helps with childcare, less travelling and saving on the cost of travelling. Some find it easier to concentrate better online and can access their classes from anywhere. Some learner's classes are recorded and they find it useful to refer back to when needed. Learners feel Teams is great for communicating.

What's not working well online?

Some learners have had difficulties with IT equipment. Learners have spoken about course materials being more centralised, they are using different platforms, i.e., Moodle, Teams etc. Learners would like to be in campus more, especially for practical work and having face to face interaction with their peers and lecturing staff.

Do you know how to access support by teaching staff and support departments?

Most learners know how to access support and say they can speak to their lecturing staff when needed. Learners mentioned MyKelvin and the college website when discussing accessing support.

Do you feel you are able to express your concerns or views on aspects of college life?

Most classes have at least one Class Rep and some have attended SA meetings. Most learners said they can communicate honestly with lecturing staff if any issues arise. If any issues did arise, they felt that they have been dealt with.

Do you have access to IT resources?

Learners have access to IT resources, some learners have Chromebooks/laptops from the College. Some learners feel a bit more training is needed for the Chromebooks as some have had difficulties using them. Some learners had said there have been issues accessing Moodle. Learners in the Computing class feel that having laptops would be more appropriate than Chromebooks.

3. Conclusion

Overall, almost all learners are satisfied with their college experience so far. Learners seem to be enjoying some aspects of blended learning but obviously most would prefer to be in campus, especially for practical elements of their course.

The difficulties with facilitating Focus Groups online are that most learners keep their cameras off and only a few learners seem to fully engage. Learners have the opportunity to add any additional comments in the chat function or contact myself directly afterwards if they don't have the confidence to speak during the focus group.

Focus Groups for Block 2 have already begun, with some taking place online and others in campus. Feedback from these sets of focus groups will be reported to the next Academic Board meeting.

4. Resources Implications

No resource implications.

5. Equalities

No equality issues.

6. Risk and Assurance

No risk implications

7. Data Protection

No data protection issues.

8. Recommendations

Members are recommended to note the contents of this report.

9. Further Information

Further information on any aspect of this report can be obtained from Arlene Sweeney, Learner Engagement Officer.

Glasgow Kelvin College
AS
11/02/2022