ROSE BRUFORD COLLEGE OF THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE

INFORMAL NOTES OF THE MEETING WITH FULL TIME STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 25 JANUARY 2017

Those present:

Louise (Scoobe) Karlinski Scenic Arts L4

Tamsin Robinson Theatre Design L4

Jasmine Newsome-Stone European Theatre Arts L6

Bethan Price Costume Production L5

Grace Seabrook Costume Production L6

Anja Thorsen Costume Production L5

Edward Scragg Lighting Design L4

Janet Provan Stage Management/SU L5

Faisa Ibrahim Stage Management/SU L5

Ewaoluwa (Ewa) Dina Acting L4

Dr Andrew Walker Vice Principal Chair

Caroline Jenkins SU Participation Co-ordinator

Gill Simson Quality Officer Clerk

As a result of issues raised at the previous meeting, the VP was able to provide an update of some of the actions taken:

1. Library opening hours

Longer evening and Saturday opening hours were raised at programme committee level and through responses received to the Library survey which over 200 students completed. As a consequence, and through staffing changes, the Library is recruiting staff to enable later opening four nights a week and for a limited period on a Saturday. In the meantime, the Library will remain open until 5.00 pm on a weekday with an extension to 7.00 pm on a Thursday.

1. Communication to applicants

 The points raised by L4 students had been forwarded to key individuals. A lot of work has been undertaken, particularly on Christopher Court and accommodation. An applicant’s Offer Pack is being developed that will be sent to those who have been made offers.

1. Safety in and around campus

One of the SU exec team, Ben Freer (“Smithy”), is now a member of a Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel which meets four times a year (organised by the police) at which particular concerns had been raised including safety in the park. Coincidentally, the panel is chaired by the College’s Head of Marketing. The police are keen to know if there are continuing concerns about safety or any potential sense of events happening.

Students were reminded that Bexley is the safest London borough and Sidcup is the safest ward within Bexley. However, students were encouraged to walk around the perimeter of the park after dark.

TDAP (Taught Degree Awarding Powers)

The VP reminded students that the College’s taught degrees are currently validated by The University of Manchester and that the College has applied to award its own degrees. The College’s most recent TDAP leaflet was circulated.

The VP explained the various TDAP stages the College had been through leading to a final recommendation to the Quality Assurance Agency Board which met in December 2016. The outcome of this is that a confidential recommendation was made to the Privy Council which formally makes the decision as to whether the College can award our own degrees. Positive news will enable the College to do so.

Clarification of what this means to a student is dependent upon the year of study and when the Privy Council’s decision is made. If the decision is taken and communicated over the next few months then the impact will be as follows:

Level 6 students graduate with a University of Manchester award

Level 4 or 5 students will have the ability to be the first to graduate with a Rose Bruford College degree. (If current level 4 and 5 students wish to continue with The University of Manchester they will be able to do so.)

The College will be extremely keen for you to take up the opportunity to be

amongst the first students to graduate with a RBC degree. When the College’s receives the outcome, it will communicate with all students and set out options available.

**Action: Student reps to share this information with colleagues**

Surveys

NSS: The NSS survey is open to Level 6 students across the country and is run by IPSOS Mori. Last year the College achieved almost an 80% response rate and hopes to get a similar response this year. The survey is really important to the College as from the NSS results it is possible gain a detailed impression of what some of the issues are facing students. In turn, the College seeks to respond to these each year through its annual monitoring processes with appropriate actions being taken.

Level 4 survey: The First Impressions Survey is now open. A reminder will be sent out. So far, 52 Level 4 students have completed the survey ie 1 in 4 students. Performance Sound students currently have the highest proportion of respondents.

**Action: Student reps to encourage L4 student participation.**

Impact of the loss of Institutional Funding

Student reps’ attention was drawn to last year’s news from the HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Committee) that the College would be losing a substantial amount of funding, through the withdrawal of its Institution Specific Funding. As a result, the College is looking quite carefully at how it operates. Student reps’ were reassured by the VP that the College was doing everything possible to protect the “student experience”. An indication of what is meant by the term “student experience” is all aspects of teaching & learning, access to facilities associated with learning, student counselling, Library etc.

Students’ Union

Attention was drawn to a number of societies which had been set up including:

Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority Group

Clown Society

Film Society

Vegan Society

Christian Union

Mental Health Ambassadors’ Society

Debating Society

More societies were in the process of being set up. Anyone wishing to set one up could do so by completing a simple form and there was a possibility of SU funding. Talk to Caroline Jenkins in the first instance.

For anyone interested in being involved in the SU, there will be a session on it later in the year. Also, talk to Caroline Jenkins or the current SU Executive members who would be happy to talk about their experiences.

If you have any ideas for activities, please talk to the SU.

College Committees

Attention was drawn to student representative vacancies on the Student Experience Committee, School Boards and the Learning, Quality & Standards Committee. Anyone interested should contact Gill Simson. (To be a student member of these committees it is not necessary to be a programme student rep.)