

## DRAFT ALT Research Committee Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the ALT Research Committee held on Tuesday 30/10/2012 at 11.00 GMT at Aston V Business School as part of the annual 4 way ALT committee meet.

### 1. Participation and apologies.

The meeting was attended by Norbert Pachler (NP chair), Patrick Carmichael (PC), Su White (SW), Rachel Harris (RH), Sarah McNicol (SM), Anne-Marie Cunningham (AMC), John Traxler (JT), Nigel Ecclesfield (NE) and Lesley Gourlay(LG).

Barbara Newland (BN) joined by conference call between 1130 and 1310.

John Slater (jbs) was in attendance.

Apologies were received from Jane Seale (JS), Maren Deepwell (MD), Brenda Bannan (BB) and Caroline Steel (CS). The last two had hoped to dial in but were prevented by external circumstances (hurricane and air travel respectively).

The chair welcomed the committee to the 2012/3 year and especially those new to the committee and its work (SM, LG and CS (in absentia)) who all brought important links to the committee.

### 2. Introductions and membership.

Each member present introduced themselves briefly. The committee noted the membership. As detailed in RC01 and agreed to keep jbs informed of any changes and also changes and additions to the website entries.

The committee received paper RC02 giving background to being an RC member.

**Action: All members to follow up on the website and membership changes as required. There already some changes that will be implemented by jbs.**

### 3. Cancellation of May meeting

The committee noted the cancellation of the May RC meeting due to the lack of sufficient urgent business.

### 4. Minutes of previous meeting (02/02/2012)

The meeting considered and approved the minutes of the meeting held on 02/02/2012 by Eluminate (RC03).

### 5. Matters arising not covered separately on the Agenda.

The committee received paper RC04 which had been circulated as a report of matters arising sent out in May 2012. The following matters were discussed

5.1 Confidentiality: Members are reminded that minutes are now published on the ALT website - initially in draft form and then in final form. If something needs to be confidential because it contains personal information, this needs to be specifically noted in the meeting itself.

**Action: All members to follow the convention about confidentiality**

5.2 Webinar Programme: Suggestions for new webinars to Maren Deepwell are still welcome. These continued to be popular. Several members expressed interest.

**Action: All members to think of possible webinars.**

5.3 Impact: The 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012 meeting took place at LMU and was well attended and successful. Jane Seale presented and led a solid discussion of the issues.

#### 5.4 A research component for CMALT:

There was some discussion of this and its relation to item 8. PC and NE volunteered to work with jbs to take this forward.

#### 5.5 Ethics:

It was reported that CMALT development was now at a stage where it was hoped shortly to reopen the discussion. JT and PC were still happy to be involved from RC but action on the matter was first needed elsewhere.

#### 6. Recommendation to CX for Vice Chair.

The committee recommends that Professor Patrick Carmichael of Stirling University be Vice Chair for a period of 3 years. He has indicated a willingness to undertake the role.

**Action: NP/jbs to take the recommendation forward to CX at its November meeting.**

#### 7. Standardised rubric for ALT committees.

The committee noted that its earlier work (RC05) had now been replaced by the version handed out in the earlier plenary (RC07) which would be put to CX for approval in the near future. The two were very similar. There was broad acceptance of RC07 but three drafting changes were proposed:

- In the role section replace "development of good knowledge" by "ethical development of knowledge".
- In remit 5, remove the specific word "supplements" as it is possibly becoming deprecated – suggest "taking responsibility for any issues assigned to them and offering"
- Replace "meeting" by "meetings" in working 11.

It was also suggested that the word "ethical" should appear in all 4 committee terms of reference as it should be a core ALT value.

NP and PC agreed to assist jbs with the drafting of a plan.

**Action: jbs to take the proposed changes to MD.**

**Action: NP/PC/jbs to produce a draft plan for the next meeting.**

#### 8 How can we encourage research in the FE and skills sector, by practitioners?

NE introduced this item. There was agreement about the need for support for practitioner researchers and those at early stages of research careers in general. It was also agreed that this should be an important areas for ALT. Useful discussion followed on the mechanisms for doing something including events, training opportunities, ALTC opportunities, a SIG etc. NE agreed to write up these and other ideas for a fuller discussion at the next meeting.

**Action: NE to produce a paper by 25/01/2013.**

#### 9. RC Activities in 2012/3.

The chair has circulated a paper (reproduced as RC06) and members have commented (RC08). It was a wide ranging paper that might form the basis of the proposed plan. In the time available it was only possible to discuss perhaps a couple of areas with further discussion at the next meeting, perhaps with further papers. Given the joint meeting with the Publications committee in the afternoon and the urgency of some things proposed for ALTC2013, these areas would now be discussed.

However, it was felt that in the case of events there was considerable advantage in sponsored collaborative events with other bodies and that all events should allow remote participation. LG, AMC, NE and NP agreed to help in this area. It was also felt that if reworking WRH2S4P were taken forward, it should be in association with an event.

### 9.1. Changes to ALTC.

It was reported that the organisers were considering the proposal in RC06 that there should be a concentration of research papers on one day and mechanisms and encouragement for researchers to attend. This might require changes in the publication process (see 9.2) and also in the longer term changes to the esteem of the journal.

RC might specify a theme for the research papers. After some discussion some felt that the title of the conference could be that theme and that it might form the basis of a resultant special issue.

It was noted that all three proceedings paper editors (David Hawkrige, Steven Verjans and Gail Wilson) were on the RLT editorial board and that accordingly this was a good time to propose changes that involved RC and the editorial board working more closely together as had been proposed in the past but not realised.

It would be a good idea of RC members volunteered to review research papers for both ALTC and RLT and several members indicated their willingness in this area. A greater overlap between RC and the editorial board would also be desirable.

**Action: Take discussion further with Publications committee.**

**Action: Individual members to be sympathetic to volunteering if/when requested to act in some of the roles outlined, after the CX meeting has considered the proposals.**

### 9.2 Relationship with RLT.

Members noted that the title "journal supplement" was not one that was universally understood. Perhaps what were required were further special issues. This might help to address international understanding and esteem problems

Members saw the RC role in the journal as one of helping the editors by providing advice on important areas, steering some papers arising from the conference and otherwise and influential areas. It would be a mistake for RC to take control of issues which would then be divorced from the normal editorial process. It was important that RLT editors, ALTC proceedings editors and RC members developed a way of working together.

It was felt to be a mistake to consider having papers as part of RLT (as a supplement or whatever) that were not double blind peer reviewed. It potentially undermined the move to acquire higher status for the journal.

The committee talked further about the possibility of making ALTC research papers subject to an "up front" review process for RLT.

**Action: Take discussion further with Publications committee.**

**Action: Matter to go to CX and to the editorial board of RLT.**

### 10. Any other business.

In the afternoon there would be joint meetings of RC with PX and of MSC with FE. However all committees were encouraged to send a member to the "other meeting" to ensure good cross fertilisation of ideas. NE agreed to attend the FE/MSD meeting.

### 11. Dates of next three meetings.

7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2013 (conference call), 9<sup>th</sup> May 2013 (conference call), October 24<sup>th</sup> 2013 (provisional).

The chair thanked attendees for their involvement in a very productive meeting.