Communications and Publications Committee

Minutes

Minutes from the meeting on 24 May, 2018.

1 Welcome and apologies

Chair: Elizabeth Charles
Present: Amanda Jefferies, Anne Hole, Sandra Huskinson, Dario van Gammeren, Clare Thomson, Maren Deepwell.
Apologies: Lesley Diack, Santanu Vasant, Katharine Jewitt, Colin Loughlin, Jame Little, Richard Price.

2 AOB

Elizabeth asked to add an item on listing reviewers to the agenda.

3 Approve the Minutes of the 25 January 2018

The Minutes were approved. The Committee looked at the work that has happened since the last meeting including establishing the new journal working group, and the work on the conference.

4 Committee activities: everyone to discuss actions and progress

The Committee discussed the actions circulated earlier:

Propose community-led sessions for the Annual Conference
This could be on any aspect of ALT's activities that you are interested or involved in. Popular sessions in the past have included workshops in publication in Research in Learning Technology, or on CMALT (https://altc.alt.ac.uk/2016/sessions/how-to-get-published-with-the-alt-journal-research-in-learning-technology/ ; https://altc.alt.ac.uk/2017/sessions/pathways-to-cmalt-session-7002/).
Deadline: proposals for conference sessions should be submitted to thomas.palmer@alt.ac.uk by 31 July.

Write a guest post for the #altc blog or the conference blog and contribute your voice
Write a blog post reflecting on your involvement with ALT, and celebrating 25 years. You might like to reflect on your own career in learning technology alongside your engagement with ALT. The #ALTC Blog regularly carries opinion pieces, 'week in the life of' pieces, reflections on conferences and events, and so on. Be creative!
We are looking for posts starting now, so please email me to discuss details and a deadline.

Help us spread the word and recruit more Members
Write brief membership 'case studies' or sound bites articulating the benefits of ALT membership. It would be very useful to have perspectives from Further Education/VET and commercial contexts as well as Higher Education as we seek to improve the way we communicate about ALT with members and potential membership.

Suggestions:
ALT membership benefits me as an individual by… (100 words)
ALT membership benefits my colleagues/my staff by (200 words)
ALT membership benefits my organisation by (200 words)

Action: MD to circulate further details re submitting blog posts and testimonials.
Action: MD to follow up with Amanda re RLT session at the conference.

5 Journal and Editors Report
The Committee received a report from Amanda Jefferies on the journal and update from the Editors and Editorial Board including an update on publications in 2017 and year to date as well as the recently published themed collection on Playful Learning.

The Committee noted that the Editorial Board has been refreshed, and that the Journal Steering Group is making progress on the strategic development of the journal, including ALT applying for Membership of OASPA and COPE.

6 #ALTC Blog
Anne Hole shared an update on progress with the #altc blog.

Already 18 posts published in the year to date and the number of views are growing steadily year on year, showing a significant increase over the past 2 years.

The Editorial Team is now using Trello to coordinate its work which is working well and Rachel Challen is already shadowing Anne in an effort to provide continuity for the Editor in Chief role.

We discussed that due to the GDPR changes the work on scaling up use of badges and we will revisit this as soon as possible.

7 Events/Annual Conference
The Committee welcome the report which covered the Annual Conference, OER18 and current webinars including a webinar series on GDPR:

Annual Conference
For ALT's 25th Annual Conference we will bring together different critical perspectives in Learning Technology from across our community that will examine the challenges ahead and question the shape of things to come.
We are putting our values into practice and Members at the heart of the conference, so in this spirit the event will be chaired collaboratively by the Trustees of ALT, led by Sheila MacNeill and Martin Weller.

OER18
OER18 focussed on one of the often-cited benefits of 'open' – the promise of inclusivity. The conference will be chaired by academic and Open Education researcher Vivien Rolfe, alongside Wonkhe Associate Editor David Kernohan.
Bookings and and attendance were slightly down on previous years with a total of 158 bookings. The vast majority (88%) of bookings continued to be for both days. Attendance was excellent on both days.

OER18 has received overwhelmingly positive feedback. 100% of survey respondents felt that the 'pre-booking conference and administration', 'help provided during the conference' and 'general running of the event' was good or excellent, clearly reflecting the outstanding professionalism of the ALT team.

GDPR Webinars
We are running a very popular series of GDPR webinars, which have included to date:
● Webinar: A Learning Technology professional's guide to GDPR in the classroom
● Webinar: Blackboard - Implementation of the European Union General Data Protection (GDPR)
● Webinar: GDPR and Data Protection Compliance - How Moodle empowers institutions

TLC Webinars
We are collaborating with TLC webinars, providing information on the programme and links to the Wordpress site and webinar recordings, as well as promoting the series across the ALT community. Some of the TLCs are rewatched hundreds and even thousands of times and have been embedded in courses. We ask for your assistance in sharing information about this webinar series as it becomes available.
A full list of upcoming events including webinars is at:
https://www.alt.ac.uk/events/teaching-and-learning-conversations-webinar-series .

8 AOB
Elizabeth brought up an idea from a Member who suggested that reviewers for publications would be acknowledged in some form annually and we discussed the different options for reviewers to be recognised and another suggestion re a new platform, Publon, which is for reviewers.

9 Dates of next meeting
Dates to be confirmed via email.

11 Reporting to/from the Central Executive
Minutes written by: MD, 24 May 2018
Reviewed by: EC, 24 May 2018