



Minutes of the Membership Development Committee

Minutes from the meeting of the MDC on Wednesday 25 October 2017, Birmingham

1 Welcome and apologies

Chair: Sarah Sherman (SS)

Present: Matt Cornock (MC), John Couperthwaite (JC), Elizabeth Charles (EC - guest), Rich Goodman (RG - guest), Susan Greig (SG), Sheila MacNeill (SM - guest), James McDowell (JM)

Apologies: Jane Britton, Alastair Clark, Lynne Downey, Simon Kear, Matthew Newcombe, Daniel Scott.

The Chair welcomed JM as Vice-Chair, and MC and SG as new committee members. Departed Vice-Chair Julie Voce and departed committee member Kerr Gardiner were thanked for their service.

2 Any other business

See item 11.

3 Approve the minutes of the MDC meeting held 22 May 2017

The minutes were approved by the committee.

4 FE and cross-sector engagement report

TP asked members to note some recruitment incentives around the Blended Learning Essentials course (discounted CMALT fee); a current ALT membership offer for Blended Learning Consortium member colleges; and funded CMALT places still available under the Doug Gowan memorial fund. The committee discussed the current work around engaging with startups, and raised the possibility of extending this type of work across a range of questions about the relationship between industry and universities and colleges.

5 Conference and events report

TP asked members to note relevant actions around promotion of the Winter Conference (12-13 December) and OER18, as well as next year's ALT conference. Please contact TP for promotional materials if required.

Action: Two volunteers to chair sessions at Winter Conference. SS volunteered and the call will be circulated by email.

6 Membership and CMALT report

TP presented the membership and CMALT report. The committee noted positive trends in recruitment and retention. ALT membership has reached 3000 and the 400th CMALT award has recently been made.

There was some discussion of the distinction between paid individual and Associate members. At present the former are distinguished by voting rights. Does this imply a tension with the commitment to openness and democracy?

The two-year expiry date for CMALT registrations was discussed; an automated reminder should be possible.

Action: TP to set up reminders for expiring CMALT registrations if possible.

7 Proposal to establish ALT North East Members Group

The committee discussed the proposal and recommended that it be approved by Trustees. Member Groups and SIG reports were briefly discussed. There is a home for group updates on the [#ALTC Blog](#). The question was raised whether group reports could be required in this format. SIGs' current status was discussed; the ViTAL SIG appears to be inactive.

Recommendation: ALT Trustees to approve the ALT North East Members Group.

Action: Chair and TP to determine status of ViTAL SIG.

8 Institutional membership

The role of the institutional membership representative was discussed. The question was raised whether more can be done to engage this important group as a body. Suggestions included the formation of networks at the local level, through ALT member groups; work with some individual representatives to generate case studies for what the role involves; and the designation of an 'institutional champion' in addition to the representative (the creation of additional engagement roles would also assist in mitigating the risk for ALT arising from staff turnover).

Action: MDC members to find out who their own institutional reps are.

9 TEF

JM led a useful conversation on the TEF, emphasising the continually evolving nature of the exercise and requirements. In light of this uncertainty a circumspect attitude on ALT's part seems advisable. In general, relevance of CMALT is accentuated by need to evidence staff teaching quality - perhaps more incentive for academic staff to undertake CMALT. MC noted that academics may struggle to complete a whole portfolio; but one might have case studies/portfolio sections assessed and e.g. badged.

10 Items referred to and from other ALT committees and Trustees including shared update from all committees

The committee noted the shared report from the last round of committee meetings. This committee's contribution to the next shared report will reflect the actions and recommendations minuted here.

Recommendations to be reported to Trustees:

Recommendation: The committee recommends that Trustees approve the ALT Members Group for the North East region.

Action: Two volunteers to chair sessions at Winter Conference.

Action: 1-2 Committee Members to volunteer to set up the Terms of Reference for the inaugural ALT Research Award.

11 Any other business

TP asked for 1-2 Committee Members to volunteer to set up the Terms of Reference for the inaugural ALT Research Award.

Action: Volunteers to be sought by email to committee list.

11 Dates of next meeting

Poll to be circulated for next meeting in February 2018.

Minutes written by: TP 26/10/2017

Reviewed by: SS 20/11/2017