



Committee for Further Education and cross-sector engagement

Minutes

Minutes from the meeting on Wednesday, 4 February 2015.

1 Welcome and apologies

Chair: James Clay

Present: James Clay, Sarah Williams, Nick Jeans, Paul Hollins, Maren Deepwell, Anna Davidge

Apologies had been received from: Gillian Dyer, Malcolm Ryan, Jonathan Eaton

2 Any other business

None identified.

3 Minutes from the last meeting

The committee reviewed the minutes from the last meeting and approved them as accurate.

4 Membership recruitment in FE and SIGs and RIGs

The Committee noted a report from the Membership Development Committee on existing SIGs and RIGs and ways to better support and promote these groups and their activities. The committee discussed ways to ensure that the FE audience is aware of RIGS and SIGS and how they can be used to support work in colleges.

The committee recorded it's thanks to Sarah Williams for her work in promoting RIG and SIG activities to colleagues in FE.

5 Current policy developments

BETT 2015

It was felt that this year's event was weak from an FE perspective, there is an FE track planned for next year. The committee discussed the possibility of ALT members presenting at BETT in future in order to raise the profile of FE at the event.

FE Coalition

ALT was invited to join the newly formed FE Coalition. MD recently attended their second meeting. The Coalition was formed in response to FELTAG for 20-30 organisations and individuals who want to support learning technology in further education. MD will update the committee after the third meeting which is planned for 4 March 2015.

6 Website and communications update

The committee discussed and reviewed the report.

7 Events and conference report

The committee discussed and reviewed the report.

8 Individual updates from members [Confidential item]

In advance of the meeting members provided the committee with short updates on their sphere of work:

Paul Hollins, Cetis

The FE sector remains a challenging environment and uncertainty in terms of the forthcoming election isn't helping, although in truth the distinctions between the Conservative and Labour parties at the policy level are negligible both announcing a focus on developing the apprenticeship agenda. Colleges are, I believe, still wrestling with the recommendations of FELTAG and though the SFA have provided their perspective as indeed have the AOC there still remains confusion in the sector, in my experience, at the senior management level of colleges as to what constitutes "online learning", infrastructure to support a staged increase in the use of technology is still weak. The other area of concern to ALT is the lack of understanding of TEL at the board/governor level and perhaps ALT could do some work with the AOC in this respect.

Nick Jeans, Sero Consulting

There have been changes in the senior management at the Sheffield College: The Chief Executive, Heather MacDonald, is leaving, to be replaced by Heather Smith, currently Local College Principal of Hillsborough, Norton & Peaks Colleges. Julie Byrne, currently Local College Principal of Sheffield City College & Sheffield College of Applied Engineering, is leaving, having failed to get the top job.

Meanwhile the Online College still has no direct manager since Julie Hooper left a year ago. This has made it difficult for them to get involved in new initiatives in the community, which has been their strength in the past.

Techdis was wound up over Christmas despite being a very lean and efficient operation. The website will exist as is at least until the end of March 2015 and possibly until July 2016. It will still be possible to continue to use the information and resources but there will be no one available to answer queries. A number of TechDis staff have been offered roles in the new JISC structure, including Alistair McNaught, Lisa Featherstone and Emma Millard. The boss, Sal Cooke, has recently lost relatives as well as her job, but is unlikely to remain out of the picture for long. She has plans but is not yet ready to divulge them.

Sarah Williams, Coleg Cambria

The Using Technology for Learning initiative and new Teaching and Learning Framework remain the focus for learning technology developments.

A Learner App has been developed to bring information for students and access to learning platforms into one place.

We are using Open Badges to recognise activities outside of the classroom and staff development.

ProMonitor is being used to as an eLLP and to track pastoral progress and the Markbook feature is being piloted in a few areas.

Learning platforms - Moodle, Google Communities linked to Google Drive and Google sites. We are also using Google Classrooms but this is limited due to only being able to have one tutor per classroom.

ePortfolios - WBL and some areas of FE (Learning Assistant, OneFile, VTCT).

Showcase portfolios - Google Pages, Google Sites and Blogger to create showcase portfolios / CVs.

James Clay, Activate Learning

Working on how we can introduce more online learning and delivery as part of FELTAG recommendations.

Implementing BYOD, technical and policy aspects done, now working on the curriculum design and delivery.

Innovative practice using Raspberry Pi, Google Glass, Oculus Rift, all taking place.

ACTION: AD to circulate poll to committee regarding ways to improve engagement at meetings.

9 International issues

None at this meeting.

10 To and from other committees

AD to communicate discussion of RIGs and SIGs to Membership Development Committee.

11 Reporting to/from the Central Executive

The revised Equality and Diversity statement was noted by the committee.

12 AOB

None identified at the start of the meeting.

13. Dates of next meetings

Date of next meeting TBC.