



## Minutes of the Committee for FE and Cross-Sector Engagement

Minutes from the meeting of the committee on Wednesday, 25 October 2017.

### 1 Welcome attendance and apologies

Chair: Bella Abrams (BA)

Present: Rachel Challen (RC), Paul Hollins (PH), Victoria Wilson-Crane (VWC), Jane Marsh (JM), Shirley Evans (SE), Sheila MacNeil (SM)

Apologies from: Sarah Williams and Adam Elce

The Committee welcomed Bella Abrams as Chair and Rachel Challen as Vice-Chair. The Committee also welcomed new Members: Victoria Wilson-Crane, Patrick Pemsel and Hannah Mathias.

### 2 Approve the Minutes of the meeting held 25 May 2017.

#### The committee

The minutes from the meeting held 25 May 2017 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

### 3 FE & cross-sector report

This report brings together work across different areas of the Association aimed at engaging with FE and other sectors. The report covers events, membership, working with partners and related Activities.

#### FE and work-based learning: Blended Learning Essentials Autumn/Winter programme 2017/18

The committee discussed how they could find Digital Champions for a national programme to support education and training staff to learn the skills of Blended Learning.

**Action:** Committee Members to encourage networks to be digital champions and take to SIGS

#### Working with industry: How and why should Learning Technologists engage with start-ups?

A discussion took place around how FE institutions are well placed to contribute to a guide about working with industry due to their apprenticeship agenda and the flexibility of sector. Lecturers also often have dual roles in education and industry.

**Action:** Committee Members to approach networks who would like to contribute to the guide.

It was noted that ALT are attending MozFest to increase the awareness of ALTs work.

## FELTAG SIG

The committee discussed future developments of the FELTAG SIG and ideas for taking their work forward. It was questioned whether FELTAG would benefit from renaming. It was raised felt that now the threat of missed funding has been withdrawn that the subject has been put on the backburner. It would benefit from review of FELTAG and its benefits. The key is influencing leaders to understand the importance of technology. The main question is how do we influence leaders? The committee came up with some suggestions including developing case studies of current positive examples , using our network contacts to our best advantage, defining the business case for Learning Technology, linking advice to sector policy,

**Actions:** The Committee suggests that Members convene a virtual meeting between FELTAG SIG and this committee and agree the way forward.

The Committee noted the highlighted articles in FE News on workforce development

**Action:** Committee Members to circulate FE news articles.

The committee discussed the relationship between The Blended Learning Consortium and ALT and noted the ALT membership offer in recruitment efforts with BLC member colleges.

A discussion was had about the Doug Gowan Memorial Fund and its importance. It was felt that having case studies and publication materials would aid promotion.

**Actions:** The Committee would like to hear at its next meeting who has received the funds and how their work is being promoted.

Question for Maren: What is ALT's membership position on colleges that have been taken over by FE institutions?

## 4 Events and conference report

JM presented the events report to the committee. The committee asked whether it would be possible to consider holding the Annual Conference at an alternative time of year, e.g. late June, as September was a difficult time for them to attend. The committee asked whether the runners up for the Learning Technologist of the Year Awards knew if they hadn't won. It was felt that attendance of the awards evening and anticipation could be improved if winners were not announced until the event. The committee would like to know how many delegates attended the Annual Conference from the FE sector this year. It was suggested that offering practical support to FE members looking to make conference submissions would improve the quantity and quality of FE representation in the programme at the conference. Practical support ideas included delivering seminars on how to make submissions and providing informal review prior to review. SE and PH offered their assistance as mentors to the submission process and the committee suggested a call to members to find additional mentors. The committee asked if the call for papers for OER could be worded to encourage submissions to include applied research.

BA and RC volunteered to run 1 session at the Winter Conference on the morning of 13th December.

**Actions:** Call to other committee members for to run and moderate winter conference sessions, aiming for two volunteers to help moderate sessions during the conference and members to run 1-2 sessions focused on the work they are currently doing.

Committee Members to promote the members only call for proposals to the ALT Online Winter Conference.

Committee Members to promote the call for papers for OER18.

Committee Members to disseminate opportunities for sponsorship and exhibition for OER18 and the Winter Conference.

## 5 Individual updates from members

Due to time constraints individual discussions were deferred until the next meeting, but the

discussion on other items covered many developments across sectors.

## 6 Items referred to and from other ALT committees or Trustees (see joint report)

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.

## 7 Any other business

The committee discussed how they could use their links to other sector bodies in order to promote ALT. The bodies discussed included AOC, COLAB, AELP, SEDA, JISC, BALEAP and EMFEC. The known or suggested contacts are listed below:

AOC - technology forum attended by BA

COLAB - BA to approach

AELP - Matt Cormack - ALT working in partnership on BLE project

SEDA - VWC and PH

JISC - James Clay. We could ask James about their views on ALT input. Bella to talk to Paul McKeen.

BLC - ALT already in liaison

BALEAP - VWC

EMFEC - RC

The committee also discussed suggestions for blog topics and came up with the following suggestions: skill sharing, day in the life of, opinion piece, submission support e.g. 'new to the conference game' or 'pimp my abstract'.

## 8 Dates of next meeting:

The next meetings are scheduled for 25 January and 31 May 2018.

Action: Next meeting online 25 January morning preferable, time tbc. Suggested move of the 31 May meeting to 1 June onwards (after half-term), to be arranged by email.

Minutes written by: JM,

Reviewed by: BA