



Committee for Further Education and cross-sector engagement

Minutes

Minutes from the meeting on Wednesday, 3 June 2015.

1 Welcome and apologies

Chair: Sarah Williams (Vice - Chair)

Present: Nick Jeans, Paul Hollins, Nigel Ecclesfield, Gillian Dyer, Malcolm Read, Maren Deepwell, Anna Davidge

Apologies had been received from: Sean McCready, James Clay, Jonathan Worth

2 Any other business

One item from Sarah regarding her change of role was noted.

3 Minutes from the last meeting

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

4 New Special Interest Group on FELTAG

Committee members were encouraged to join the newly formed FELTAG SIG:

<https://www.alt.ac.uk/get-involved/special-interest-groups/feltag-sig>

This Group proposes to provide a means of discussing the major challenges and areas for change that comes with the removal of barriers. It will explore the role of students and their teachers as change agents and their managers as enablers, as well as the development of curriculum models and methods of delivery in terms of format, time and place. It will do this through discussion, and sharing ideas and resources.

This SIG is open to all those interested in promoting the themes of FELTAG and wanting to share ideas relevant to it. The SIG will discuss its work more widely through a FELTAGSIG Jiscmail list, periodic face-to-face meetings and webinars as appropriate.

The committee heard an update from Nigel Ecclesfield on work within the FELTAG Coalition.

5 Discussion: ALT members respond to the policy consultation

<https://goo.gl/PQigRk>: A Dual Mandate for Adult Vocational Education

James Clay will be leading on ALT's response to the consultation.

Action: committee members to contribute via Google doc.

Update following the meeting: ALT has submitted a response as follows:

Summary of key points

1. Build on FELTAG recommendations to show commitment to Learning Technology and focus on how regulatory, inspection and funding frameworks can be updated to reflect the importance of competencies around digital learning, teaching and assessment;
2. Require all publicly funded educational tools or resources, such as the work being done in response to the FELTAG recommendations, to be openly licenced under the appropriate Creative Commons licence, to ensure maximum impact and to encourage providers to adopt the same approach;
3. Show stronger support for the innovative work being done by professionals such as ALT Members in driving forward the adoption of Learning Technology in FE and supporting accreditation schemes such as CMALT, pioneered by the Association;
4. Require all providers to publish statements of how Learning Technology is used across the curriculum and update them annually;
5. Articulate further adoption of new technology as a priority for Government.

6 Discussion: Annual Conference

The Committee discussed the increased participation from across the FE at last year's Annual Conference and plans to hold an open online conversation on Learning Technology in FE to collect views from across the community to inform this year's Annual Conference FE Day.

Action: MD to progress with Geoff Rebbeck and James Clay

7 Website and communications update

The committee discussed and reviewed the report in particular noting the recent articles in FE News and use of the #altc tag.

8 Events and conference report

The committee discussed and reviewed the report commenting on FE engagement at OER15, held in Wales in April and the increase in submissions for this year's Annual Conference.

9 Individual updates from members

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

Nick Jeans, Sero Consulting Ltd

There have been changes throughout the Sheffield College, which is losing 25% of its staff: Norton is closing, while the separate structures at Hillsborough and City are being merged, with Heads of Department covering both centres as the college returns to the merged structure it used to be several years ago.

The Chief Executive, Heather MacDonald, is leaving, to be replaced by Heather Smith, currently Local College Principal of Hillsborough, Norton & Peaks Colleges. Julie Byrne, who was Local College Principal of Sheffield City College, has left

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. 2 of the teachers on the team have volunteered for redundancy.

Sarah Williams, Coleg Cambria

Open Badges (through Moodle) have been used to recognise non accredited learning. Badges have been developed for Digital Citizenship, Attendance, Plagiarism and Referencing, Preparation for University.

ProMonitor is being used to as an eILP and to track pastoral progress.

Learning platforms - Moodle, Google Communities linked to Google Drive and Google sites. We are also using Google Classrooms in some areas.

Blogs have been used to encourage writing and develop the literacy skills of learners through work

experience diaries.

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

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

Piloting the new Welsh tool for Initial / Diagnostic Assessment for all post 16 learners - Wales Essential Skills Toolkit (WEST)

Collaborating with other Colleges in Wales to develop resources for Welsh Bacc as part of a response to the FELTAG online recommendation.

Jonathan Eaton, Newcastle College

Some concerns around the content of the BIS dual mandate consultation paper. It is encouraging to note that commitment to improving the use of technology, including the development of MOOCs.

However, there seems to be a lack of clarity around the role of National Colleges in accrediting programmes and leading curriculum developments within their specialist domains at a national level. Some of the points in the paper suggest a radical shift in the FE landscape over the coming years. Is there an expectation that the National Colleges will take the lead in, for example, the development of MOOCs and equivalent open online resources?

Paul Hollins, University of Birmingham

1. Reductions in adult funding

2 FELTAG

10 International issues

None at this meeting.

11 To and from other committees

Nothing this meeting

12 Reporting to/from the Central Executive

MD will report back to Trustees on item 5, policy consultation for BIS.

13 AOB

13.1 New CPD provision survey:

The Committee discussed the survey and there was a call for action for all members to circulate it to their networks.

https://www.alt.ac.uk/news/all_news/using-technology-enhance-learning-online-cpd-course-user-requirements-survey

Action: For all Committee members to circulate the survey.

13.2 [Confidential item]: Coleg Cambria restructure.

Sarah Williams will be moving to a full time lecturer post from next term.

14 Dates of next meetings

Date of next meeting 20 October 2015, from 10am. Face to face meeting, venue TBC.

AD, 12 June 2015

SW, pending