



Communications and Publications Committee

Minutes

Minutes from the meeting on 2nd February 2016.

1 Welcome and apologies

Chair: Neil Morris

Present: Anne Hole, James Little, Ros Walker, Colin Loughlin, Maren Deepwell (ALT).

Apologies received from: Lesley Diack, Kathy-Ann Daniel-Gittens, Katharine Jewitt, Sandra Huskinson, Santanu Vasant.

2 AoB

No other business added.

3 Approve minutes

Minutes from 20th October 2015 were reviewed and approved with no changes. Most actions were noted as complete with the following being carried forward:

Action: NM to discuss with Peter Reed ways to create publication routes guidance document to help editors.

Action: NM, SH, JL and the Journal editors to undertake a desk study of alternative publication mediums used in other journals.

Action: MH and SH to discuss 'vox pops' for the next conference.

4 Items to be reported to/from other committees

The Committee received a new joint report. The Committee welcomed this shared update and reviewed the items reported from the Committee for Further Education and cross-sector engagement and also the Committee for Membership Development.

5 Journal and Editorial Board

NM reported from the recent meeting and noted that the increase in submissions and the previous volume of submissions have put excess strain on the editors. The current Call for Editors has now closed and we have received a good number of submissions. NM noted the conflict of interest for any members of the committee who have expressed an interest.

Action: MD to circulate expressions of interest today, deadline for feedback by Monday 8th

Recommendations: NM with Editors to draw up recommendation for new appointments

Editorial Board considers Special Issues (now called Themed Collections) in conjunction with two

upcoming conference Open Education conference and also the Playful Learning conference. Conference Chairs Mark Langan, Alex Moseley and Nicola Whitton are meeting with NM to discuss further details.

The Committee noted that the new conference publication route implemented after the feedback from Thomson Reuters re the criteria for impact factor review ensures that the journal avoids any issues stemming from publishing conference proceedings as previously practiced.

6 Events Report

The Committee welcomed the report from Anna Davidge and noted their thanks and positive feedback for the team delivering the Online Winter Conference. The Committee further discussed how positive the increase in events activities has been overall. Reflecting on the feedback shared in the report members considered how presenters at online events could be supported and guided with respect to preparing their sessions and engaging their audience. It was noted that the webinar interface could be improved on for discussion sessions.

The Committee further noted that early bird registration for OER16 is now open and the Call for Proposals for the Annual Conference published.

Action: the feedback from the discussion to be shared with the staff team

Action: discussion of sessions about publications at the Annual Conference to be added to the next agenda

7 Communications Report

The Committee welcomed the report and noted in particular the conclusion of the ALT Annual Survey and the new weekly publication dates for the News Digest. Overall the Committee commended the ongoing work in this area and reflected on the improved reporting of traffic on different sites.

Action: the Committee to be updated at the next meeting on the work of re-formatting the News Digest.

The Committee noted the development of the new webinar format "Community Calls" and suggested that the name may not attract maximum attention to the sessions. The Committee's general consensus was to change the name to better reflect the nature of the webinars, their speakers and topics with the aim to attract a larger audience.

Action: the Committee to be updated about a change of name as part of the wider events programme at the next meeting

8 #ALTC Blog

Monthly editor catch up. New category of articles on app reviews/case studies and new posts from editors. Overall number of submissions is slightly down. The committee discussed the possibility of offering Open Badges when contributing to the blog. The Committee was very enthusiastic about the idea of introducing badges. This is currently being explored including technical implementation.

Action: AH and MH to progress Open Badges in due course.

9 AOB

None.

10 Dates of next meetings

10-11am on 26 May.

11 Close of Meeting

Minutes written by: MD, MH 8/2/2016

Reviewed by: NM