ASSOCIATION FOR LEARNING TECHNOLOGY ALT

Communications and Publications Committee

Minutes

Minutes from the meeting on 24th May 2016.

1 Welcome and apologies

Chair: Neil Morris
Present: Katharine Jewitt, Santanu Vasant, Colin Loughlin, Anne Hole, Lesley Diack Martin Hawksey (ALT)
Apologies received from: Sandra Huskinson, James Little, Kathy-ann Daniel-Gittens, Carlo Perrotta

2 AoB

No other business

3 Minutes of the 2nd February 2016.

Completed actions were noted. The minutes were approved by the committee.

4 Items to be reported to/from Operational Committees/Trustees

Items to and from other committees were noted and the renaming of 'Ordinary Member' to 'Member' was welcomed by the committee.

5 Journal update from meeting on 18 May

NM updated the committee on discussions and actions from the Editorial Board meeting on the 18th May. It was reported that the Journal now has 6 editors following the recent recruitment of Fiona Smart, Amanda Jefferies, Gail Wilson and Lesley Diack who join Peter Reed and Carlo Perrotta. The Journal maintains a healthy submission rate and these are being processed by the editorial team. An outstanding action from the Editorial Board is the appointment of one of the editors to CPX (most likely Lesley Diack who is already a CPX member). SV enquired about the status of the Journals impact factor. This was on the agenda for discussion at the Editorial Board but as co-action publisher was unable to attend and this will be carried to the next meeting.

5.1 Playful Learning Special Issue - Editors Fiona Smart and Mark Langan (MMU - Playful Learning co-chair)

A Playful Learning special issue of the Journal has been approved. Mark Langan and Fiona Smart will be editors on this edition.

5.2 Desk study on alternative publication formats

SH has begun a desk study on alternative and interactive publication formats. It is hoped that the

Playful Learning special issue will be an opportunity to test alternative formats. CPX members are invited to contribute and a shared document has been created.

Action: CPX members to contribute to shared deck study document at http://go.alt.ac.uk/1TuOT0w

6 Communications and Website Report

MH outlined recent developments detailed in the communications and website report on progress made in a pilot online space for ALT Members Groups/SIGs and the ability to award Open Badges. A server upgrade was also noted which increases the security when users use the alt.ac.uk sites. CPX noted that server and badges useful development. MH reported that more work needs to be done regarding policy and documentation with the new member spaces and issuing of badges. A request was made for CPX to be given access to the new Members online space so that they can understand how this space can be used and provide input. CL was also keen to explore how the M25 group could use this space and in particular issue badges to M25 presenters. Noted that working with CL would be an opportunity to develop a policy document for CPX to review at the next meeting.

Action: MH to contact CL about extending ALT Members space pilot to M25 group and scoping badge development.
Action: MH to draft ALT Open Badges policy document for review at next CPX meeting.
Action: MH to circulate a url for CPX to test ALT Members space

7 #ALTC Blog (Formerly ALT Online Newsletter)

AH reported that there have been 36 posts since switching the ALT Online Newsletter to the #altc blog. Reported that posts highlighting practice are in general most popular rather than conference and event reports. Part of the issue may be the turnaround time for posts and getting these out in good time is not always possible. The idea of switching to a weekly publication day was discussed but it was felt that this approach would put too much pressure on the Editors. KJ suggested exploring alternative formats such as infographics. AH noted they already encourage authors make short explanatory videos but the take up of this has been very low and feared that production of infographics would be similarly seen as an extra burden preventing publication. Mirroring content or reposting members posts was discussed. LD was concerned if we go down the reblog route. MH noted that the licence on the blog (CC-BY author) would permit reposting as the blog has no requirement on exclusivity. KJ enquired if the blog reader had been surveyed to find out the content they would like to read. AH noted that currently they publish what people are willing to write.

CPX acknowledged thanks to the three new editors on the blog, Theresa MacKinnon, Rachel Challen and Santanu Vasant for their contributions since joining the blog in October.

Action: AH to discuss with editors feasibility of reblogging existing posts.
Action: MH and AH to discuss methods to survey existing readers of the blog.

8 Events/Annual Conference

8.1 Events Report

CPX noted the report acknowledging the number and range of webinars. How to better promote recordings of webinars was discussed. Noted that recordings are usually added to the event page but often this isn't clear and that a limitation of the Blackboard Collaborate recordings is that they can't be embedded. As the Community Calls are recorded using Google Hangouts On Air it was noted that there was more scope for incorporating in the #altc blog.

Action: MH to speak to AH about incorporating community calls blogs

8.2 Sessions for publication routes at Annual Conference and Other CPX activity at the Annual Conference

Sessions for this year's Annual Conference were discussed. It was noted that it was likely the Editorial Board will have a session around publication at the conference. CL suggested a session on writing and publication for new writers. KJ was interested in a way to gather information on how to develop the

groups in the future and sharing what we do at the moment and what people want in the future. MH noted that the Actionbound App used for OER16 had features that allowed audience responses to surveys and collection of participant generated content like photos and videos. AH not in attendance at the conference but would be happy to contribute remotely. Noted that there had already been discussions between MH and SH about creating conference 'vox pop' video interviews with delegates. It was also highlighted that the Editorial Board would like papers that are on an editorial route to be highlighted as part of the conference.

Action: MH to provide a feature in the online version of the conference timetable to identify papers on the online timetable
Action: CL to develop session proposal for annual conference
Action: MH to continue discussions with SH about conference Vox pop videos.

9 Any other business identified at the start of the meeting
No other business.

10 Dates of next meeting:
Face-to-Face in October, Date TBC

11 Reporting to/from the Central Executive
No items reported to/from Central Executive.
Induction of the new Editorial Team for Research in Learning Technology is complete and all editors have taken up their duties.
36 items have been published in the #altc blog. The Editorial Team now consists of: Anne Hole, University of Sussex – Editor in Chief; Chris Rowell, Regent's University; Stella Ekebuisi, Queen Mary University of London; Howard Scott, University of Hull; Peter Reed, University of Liverpool; Rachel Challen, Loughborough College; Santanu Vasant, City University; Teresa MacKinnon, University of Warwick

The Committee started planning sessions about publishing with ALT for the Annual Conference.
The Committee noted that this year no vacancies will be advertised as no members are stepping down and new Editor members have joined.

Minutes written by: MH / 24/05/2016
Reviewed by: NM / 25/05/2016