Minutes of the Committee for FE and Cross-Sector Engagement

Minutes from the meeting of the committee on Wednesday 19 October 2016, Maple House, Birmingham

1 Welcome attendance and apologies

Chair: James Clay (JC)
Vice-Chair: Bella Abrams (BA)
Present: Present: Rachel Challen (RC), Daniel Clarke (DC), Fiona Harvey (FH), Nick Jeans (NJ), Malcolm Ryan (MR), Liam Sammon (LS) and Sarah WIlliams (SW)
Apologies were received from Adam Elce, Paul Hollins, Ellen Sims

2 Any other business to be added to the agenda at the end of the meeting

Members raised two additional items:
From JC: Apprenticeships and providers of technical education
From RC: Role changing focus to HE

3 Approve the Minutes of the meeting held in June 2016. Note any outstanding actions

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes of the last meeting, and noted progress made and completed actions. The Committee discussed the work currently in progress including for the committee to list some discussion points or practical ideas to post to the mailing list, to arrange an additional meeting of committee members together with Maren Deepwell to discuss the questions raised regarding area based reviews, in particular ALT's role in supporting these institutions and the committee discussed ideas for FE and cross sector focused articles for the altc blog.
ACTION: The committee was asked to send any ideas for potential blog posts to RC.

4 Appointment of Vice Chair

Members formally welcomed Bella Abrams, Director of IT at Hull College Group, to the Committee in her role as Vice-Chair.

5 FE & cross-sector report

This is a new report bringing together work across different areas of the Association aimed at engaging with FE and across sectors. The report covers events, membership, working with partners and related activities.
JC noted that it is encouraging to see the 2016 Individual Award for Learning Technologist of the Year awarded to an individual in the Further Education sector and highlighted the importance of encouraging entries from across sectors. The committee acknowledged the impact of the Awards as a way to

recognise skills within FE. The committee discussed ways to specifically target schools through Multi Academy Trusts. The committee noted the number of FE and schools focused sessions at the Annual Conference and discussed the importance of having colleagues from all sectors on the Programme Committee. Committee members are invited to contribute any news or ideas for inclusion in the next report. Committee members are asked to promote the Blended Learning Essentials route to CMALT accreditation and the Doug Gowan memorial fund for learning and skills CPD in learning Technology.

6 Events and conference report

The Committee welcomed the report, which focused on the Annual Conference - a success despite political disruption in the run up to the event. Attendance was up against 2014 when the conference was last held in Warwick, and income generated from exhibition and sponsorship exceeded the budget target. The conference received good media coverage, and delegate feedback reflected a high level of satisfaction overall. JC noted that 25% of attendees at the 2016 Annual Conference were from outside HE and that this percentage has been increased over the past few years.

The committee discussed the difficulty for FE colleagues to attend the Annual Conference in September but noted that there are online aspects of the conference such as live streamed sessions and Twitter chats that those unable to attend can engage in. The committee also noted that there are other events throughout the year for colleagues from across sectors to engage with, specifically webinars and the Online Winter Conference.

The committee discussed ways to make the Annual Conference more inclusive for members across sectors including publishing a 'beginners guide' to the event on the ALT blog and encouraging members of the Programme Committee to engage with first time attendees at the event.

JC suggested looking into a partnership with LILAC Conference and similar library focused events as more librarians take on learning technology focused roles.

RC suggested promoting events to Colleges–University of Leicester Network (CULN) and other similar networks to encourage participation from Further Education.

MR noted that it would be useful to see a comparison of event feedback from colleagues in HE and FE.

ACTION: AD to add an option to identify your sector when completing the anonymous evaluation form.

ACTION: AD to add an item on Open Education to the agenda for February's meeting.

ACTION: Members of the committee are asked to promote the call for proposals to the ALT Online Winter Conference and call for papers for OER17.

7 Innovation, Community and Technology report

The Committee noted the Innovation report, which included a number of new developments such as the new Members Group hosted websites, and the opportunities they provide for increasing communication and dissemination across the community; the successful online delivery of the Annual Conference, with positive feedback on the interactive platform/timetable and continuation of enthusiastic engagement on social media; the transition of the weekly News Digest to HTML format; and the #ALTC Blog badge and badging infrastructure.

JC highlighted the effectiveness of the ALT Members Jiscmail list in promoting blog posts and news from across sectors to the wider ALT community and encouraged committee members to post discussion topics to the list.

8 Individual updates from members

Individual Members of the Committee shared their updates. For example from SW: SVs not accepting e-portfolios / electronic marking.

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

JC noted how the joint report highlights the ability of the FEC Committee to influence governance of ALT in terms of reaching/engaging with the learning technology community across sectors.

10 Any other business (identified earlier)From JC - Apprenticeships and providers of technical education

The committee discussed the potential for the use of learning technology in apprenticeship programmes as they evolve and how ALT can engage with training providers.

LS highlighted the necessity for training providers of using blending learning as they are not able to use a traditional classroom setting.

11 Dates of next meeting: February, exact date TBC

ACTION: To confirm date via email.

Minutes written by: initials/date
Reviewed by: initial/date