

DRAFT ALT Research Committee Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the ALT Research Committee held on Thursday 7th Feb 2013 at 1100 GMT through Blackboard Collaborate.

1. Welcome, participation and apologies.

The meeting was attended by Norbert Pachler (NP chair), Barbara Newland (BN), Rachel Harris (RH), Anne-Marie Cunningham (AMC), Nigel Ecclesfield (NE), Lesley Gourlay (LG) and Brenda Bannan (BB).

NP welcomed those present to the meeting.

John Slater (jbs) was in attendance.

Apologies were received from Jane Seale (JS), Laura Czerniewicz (LC), Maren Deepwell (MD), Caroline Steel (CS), and Su White (SW). John Traxler (JT), having apologised for missing the first half, joined the meeting after business was concluded early.

It was noted that two members of the committee (LC and CS) had been prevented from joining by technology problems. It was reported that these were being addressed by Blackboard and should be fixed by the next meeting.

2. Introductions, membership and website.

Members noted that JS had moved to the University of Exeter to be the Professor of Inclusive Education there.

It was reported that keeping the details of members on the website up to date was to be a standing item on all ALT subcommittee agenda. Please see <http://www.alt.ac.uk/about-alt/who-we-are/operational-committees/research-committee> to review current data and let jbs know if anything requires further updating.

3. Approval of minutes of last meeting and of the subsequent joint meeting with Publications committee. (RC09a and RC09b).

The minutes were approved. RC09a would now become the final minutes of the October meeting (and not draft) on the website.

4. Matters arising not separately on the Agenda.

The committee received Paper RC10 noting progress on the following actions.

4.2 Membership and website:

Completed: Changes notified were in hand but there was a need for further work. This was now a standing item on all, ALT committee agenda.

4.5.1 Confidentiality:

Completed: Seems to work. This was the last reminder ion 2012/3

4.5.2 Webinar Programme:

Completed. All suggestions made have been taken on board. Webinar audiences were increasing.

4.6 Recommendation to CX for Vice Chair:

Completed. The recommendation of PC had been accepted by CX. PC was now the Vice Chair.

4.7 Standardised rubric for ALT committees and plan resulting:

Completed. The revisions had been made and a draft plan produced which would be discussed under Agendum 7.

4.8 How can we encourage research in the FE and skills sector, by practitioners?:

Completed. NE had produced a paper for discussion under Agendum 5.

4.9.1 Changes to ALTC:

Completed successfully in discussion with PX and subsequently – there will be a research themed day and there will be a special issue of RLT. See <http://www.alt.ac.uk/alt-conference/altc2013/submit-proposal/call-research-papers>. This will be discussed further under Agendum 6. CX accepted proposals. We shall approach some CX members when the papers are in.

4.9.2. Relationship with RLT:

Completed. The term "Journal Supplement was now deprecated although the one remaining in progress would be completed. Other details were agreed as hoped.

..and also a matter arising from joint meeting with PX

4.JMPXRC ALTC 2013:

There was fruitful discussion of the possibilities of making the proceedings of the conference properly reviewed through RLT mechanisms "up front" by revising the conference reviewing procedure. This might enable rapid publication.

It was important in any changes that the existing contract with the publisher be respected. Action completed as procedures now defined. See also Agendum 6.

5. Promoting and sustaining practitioner research in the UK FE and Skills Sector.

NE introduced RC11. With the demise of LSIS, no single agency has a brief for research in the FE (Community College) sector. Jisc plc (pka JISC), may find some funds to take things forward but there is a role for ALT as an honest broker bringing together those with an interest such as FE Guild and IFL and FERA with funders such as BIS and the departments in Wales, Scotland and NI to ensure that vital evidence building work continues to be pursued, especially by practitioners.

NP mentioned www.relectingeducation.net and suggested that someone from the area should make a contribution to it.

Actions: NE + MD + jbs to meet to decide on specific actions with a possible involvement of NP as chair of any resulting meeting

Office and PX to consider a possible future special issue of RLT in the area?

NE to look into who should consider contributing to reflecting education.

6. ALTC and Research Papers.

See Paper RC12. There was a renaming from "Proceedings Papers" to "Research Papers". It was hoped that numbers would increase. As far as possible all will be presented on Wed 11th Sept 2013 at Nottingham. The editors of the resulting special issue on "Building new cultures of Learning" would be Steven Verjans, David Hawkrigge and Gail Wilson, the conference research editors who were all on the RLT editorial board with Steven one of three editors. The same standards and procedures as for RLT will be used in reviewing. This meets all requirements for a special issue. It will meet the REF time deadline. LG explained further details.

There were Robin Mason fellowships to subsidise attendance by research students, especially if giving a paper. These can be bid for through the website.

Actions: All members to be prepared to review if asked.

All members to use their chat channels to drum up support – closing date end of month but may be extended to mid March. ALT is especially keen for international member action here.

Jbs to contact Sheila Kearney, the Research Director at LSIS to see if there are possibilities for sessions arising out of work being completed.

7. Plan and RC Activities in 2012/3. See RC13a and RC13b.

RC accepted the revised Terms of Reference. (RC13a)

RC added to the bullets in RC13b the need to work with other relevant organisations such as SRHE (BN), FERA(NE) and IfL possibly hold a joint event.

CMALT volunteers were still needed. How was CMALT related to Professional Standards Descriptor 1?

Action. Jbs to follow up with BN and NE the possibility of joint events with appropriate bodies.

Jbs to report back on CMALT progress including CMALT Australasia.

8. Possible Policy Board. See RC14

The committee welcomed the proposed policy board but wondered if the timescale was too tight although the doctrine of ripe time applied. BB noted that the policy issues and worries were shared with those outside the UK.

It was important to have a clear pedagogic lead to the event.

Action: Members to send any further comments/suggestions for speakers etc. to jbs by 15th Feb

9. To and from other committees.

NP had been invited to join the Journal Steering Group (which reports to the Trustees as well as to PX and to RC) and this would lead to better communication with PX. The CMALT work might also join up with MSC and work under Agendum 5 with FEC. This was now a standing item on all committee agenda.

This was also a good place to advertise the forthcoming RLT special issue on Scholarship and Literacies in a Digital Age. See <http://www.alt.ac.uk/publications/research-learning-technology/call-papers-special-issue-2013>

10. Any other business.

10.1 Open Access:

ALT had submitted evidence to both the House of Lords enquiry under Lord Krebs and the BIS select committee. This was largely based on the experiences of JLT which had gone gold open access on Jan 1st 2012. Since that time there had been substantial increases in downloads, abstract downloads and submissions. It was too soon to see much effect on citations.

As a result we had supported the eventual wish for Gold Open Access but with low APCs and different transitions for different discipline areas (some involving Green) and with transitional protection for some learned bodies who could not cope. It was however important that subjects bore the resulting transitional costs.

10.2 Possible involvement in SCALA network:

ALT had been approached to be involved in a network of national bodies involved in dissemination of LLL TEL successes, with special reference to cost effectiveness, in bidding to the EU. A volunteer was sought with an interest to help craft the bid and the ALT involvement therein. NE volunteered and this was warmly welcomed by RC.

10.3 OCTEL:

The proposed ALT MOOC had now over 140 signed up to take part. Some help was needed in reviewing the materials for the 10 modules under development. RH who is involved, outlined what was required. There was a meeting soon that would finalise the need.

Action: jbs to circulate the final list by 19th Feb and seek volunteers.

Actrion

11. Dates of next three meetings.

May 9th 2013 (if required, conference call), October 24th 2013 (provisional date, face to face, four way all day meeting). Feb 6th (conference call)

Conf calls start at 11.00 (UK) and finish by 13.00 UK time at the latest.

Note that at the next meeting in May the UK will be on BST (GMT +1).