

LTC16D009

Title: Partnerships Office Update June 2016 – October 2016
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Issue

An update on Partnerships Office activity from June 2016 to October 2016.

Recommendation

The Learning and Teaching Committee is asked to note the Partnerships Office activity from June 2016 to October 2016.

Resource Implications

Not applicable.

Equality and Diversity

Not applicable.

Further Information

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Background

The Learning and Teaching Committee receives a report at every meeting providing an update on Partnerships Office activity.

Discussion

1. QUALITY ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

1.1 Staff studying for a UEA Award

There are currently 9 members of staff at partner institutions registered on UEA awards as follows:

- Postgraduate Research – 7
- Postgraduate Taught – 4

1.2 Partnerships Conference

Arrangements are underway for the inaugural Partnerships Conference which will be held on 27th April 2017. The event will be an opportunity for partners to share best practice and hear from a number of UEA colleagues on key topics interest.

2. PARTNER VALIDATION / REVALIDATION EVENTS – 2015/16

2.1 Number of events

Fifty events were planned for 2015-16. However, three events were cancelled or postponed during the year.

These events included an Institutional Approval at new partner, Brooksby Melton College in Leicestershire, an Institutional Review at INTO UEA and validation of a new course (International Year One in Psychology) at INTO UEA.

Two courses put forward for approval by UCS were not approved: MA Curation at Ipswich – the panel felt that the course lacked definition; BA (Hons) Design at Lowestoft – the panel decided to delay re-approval for a year to allow the course team to further redefine the course.

2.2 Validation/Revalidation themes

Examples of some of the conditions and recommendations made at the events are:

Conditions:

- Tidy/update documentation (e.g. amending typos and omissions in programme specifications, student handbooks and module specifications)
- Refine the wording of the learning outcomes to ensure they reflect the appropriate academic levels
- Review assessment load and schedule
- Provide a detailed plan for student induction
- Develop a consistent feedback/feedforward policy to help manage the expectations of students

Recommendations:

- Continue to develop careers advice for all students
- Investigate ways for better marketing the programme to ensure sustained recruitment
- Review the use of formative assessment
- Give further consideration to the programme/course title

- Further integration with Partner Institution to increase data sharing and engagement with the Student Union
- Clarify the role of workplace learning in the course
- The need to ensure adequate staffing levels, particularly when branching into new subject areas.
- Where a suite of related courses are presented for approval, the need to adequately differentiate learning outcomes for each course

3. UNIVERSITY OF SUFFOLK

3.1 Transition from University Campus Suffolk (UCS)

The University of Suffolk was launched on the 1 August 2016 with its first cohort of students commencing their programmes in September 2016. All students who are continuing programmes from UCS were required to advise if they wished to continue studying for a UEA/ University of Essex Joint Award or transfer to a University of Suffolk degree. Approximately 23% of students had indicated they wish to remain studying for a UEA/ Essex award which equates to circa 600 students. Mechanisms for UEA and Essex's oversight of programmes including these students has been agreed with University of Suffolk, with arrangements being formalised in the '*University of Suffolk Handbook for Provision Leading to Joint Awards of University of East Anglia and the University of Essex*'

3.2 PGR Provision

Following the decision by the University of Essex to withdraw from validation of University of Suffolk PGR provision, discussions have been held between UEA and Suffolk to continue validation under a new model. This is due to be implemented from January 2017 and will consist of Suffolk providing primary and secondary supervisors with the UEA carrying out appropriate oversight measures to ensure the quality of academic standards and student experience, overseen administratively by the PGR Service.

1.3. Joint Academic Committee

The minutes of the Committee held on 1 June 2016 are available to view at:

<https://portal.uea.ac.uk/partnerships-office/committees/ucs/2015/16>

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 9 November 2016.

2. CITY COLLEGE NORWICH

2.1 Joint Board of Study

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 13 July 2016 are available to view at:

<https://portal.uea.ac.uk/partnerships-office/committees/ccn/2015/16>

The next meeting of the Board will be held on 18 November 2016

3. EASTON&OTLEY COLLEGE

3.1 Joint Board of Study

Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 8 June 2016 are available to view at:

<https://portal.uea.ac.uk/partnerships-office/committees/easton-and-otley/2015-16>

The next meeting of the Board will be held on 7 December 2016

4. MOUNTVIEW ACADEMY OF THEATRE ARTS

4.1 Joint Board of Study

The minutes from the meeting of the Board held on 20 July 2016 are available to view at:

<https://portal.uea.ac.uk/partnerships-office/committees/mountview/2015/16>

The next meeting of the Board will be held on 4 November 2016.

4.2 HER (Alternative Providers)

Mountview have received notification from the QAA that they will be subject to an HER (AP) visit in October 2017.

5. INTO UEA NORWICH

5.1 Joint Board of Study

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 7 July 2016 are available to view at:

<https://portal.uea.ac.uk/partnerships-office/committees/into/2015/16>

The next meeting of the Board will be held on 23 November 2016

6. INSTITUTE OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE STUDIES, GUERNSEY

6.1 Transfer of students to Middlesex University

All BSc (Hons) Nursing students who completed their first year in August 2016 have now transferred to the Institute's new validating partner, Middlesex University. This leaves two cohorts of students studying towards UEA awards: third year BSc (Hons) Nursing students who are due to complete in April 2017 and BA (Hons) Professional Practice students who are due to complete by July 2017. Oversight of these students' programmes will continue throughout this run off period.

6.2 Joint Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14 July 2016 are available to view at:

<https://portal.uea.ac.uk/partnerships-office/committees/guernsey/2015/16>

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 24 November 2016.

7. ROYAL MARSDEN SCHOOL

7.1 Joint Board of Study

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 19 July 2016 are available to view at:

<https://portal.uea.ac.uk/partnerships-office/committees/royal-marsden-school/2015/16>

The next meeting of the Board will be held on 11 November 2016.

8. INTERNATIONAL

8.1 International Forum

UEA's first International Forum was held on 21 September, showcasing the work of UEA's International Dialogue Groups. Speakers included a senior UUK representative and internal speakers who shared their international partnerships experiences.

8.2 Ocean University China (OUC)

A cross-UEA project team has been formed to work on a proposed collaboration with OUC which, if approved by UEA and China's Ministry of Education, will see UEA staff travelling to China to co-deliver a BSc in Environmental Sciences in partnership with OUC.

8.3 Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech)

Senior delegates from SUSTech China visited UEA in August for talks to discuss a new partnership involving students studying for a UEA PhD at both universities. The visit included a formal MoU signing ceremony and a dinner hosted by the Vice-Chancellor.

8.4 Process Review

Colleagues from UEA departments involved in international partnership activity will undertake a review of processes in November and December to identify ways of improving efficiency and communication between the teams and establishing a clearer process for users of their services.