

LTC14D055

Title: Report from the Future Skills Initiative Working Group
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Issue

A Future Skills Initiative Working Group was established by LTC at its meeting on 19 March 2014. As part of its Terms of Reference the Group will report biannually to LTC in October and June each academic year on its aims and the achievement of its key goals. It will keep LTC abreast of important developments relating to ESD within the HE sector.

Recommendation

LTC members are asked to receive the report.

Resource Implications

None

Risk Implications

None

Equality and Diversity

It is not envisaged that any of the recommendations contained in the report will impact on groups with protected characteristics.

Timing of decisions

This is the first of two reports the Working Group will make to LTC each year. No decisions are required.

Further Information

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Background

The Future Skills Initiative Working Group was established to take forward the development of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) within the University as an aspect of learning and teaching enhancement at UEA. It has cross-University representation.

Attachment

See report below

Report to LTC on the work of the Future Skills Initiative Working Group (FSIWG)

The Working Group has met twice since it was established in March 2014. Below are the key items that have been considered by the group.

1. GREEN ACADEMIC-FUNDED TEACHING FELLOWSHIP

Dr Stefi Barna, a recipient of a Green Academic-Funded Teaching Fellowship, in collaboration with colleagues across the University, has produced a virtual handbook ('Getting Sustainability into your Degree Programme'). This will be used to stimulate discussions by Schools. The hand book will take the form of a Blackboard site. The FSIWG is directing the project.

2. FUTURE SKILLS BLACKBOARD SITE

Nearly all Schools have a presence on the site. The handbook is discipline specific and will be structured accordingly for the foreseeable future. In due course the material on the site will be available to external audiences, so it is desirable to keep it discipline specific. Each year content on the site will be reviewed and updated where appropriate. The BB site should be formally launched in October 2014.

3. FUTURE SKILLS INITIATIVE WORKING GROUP TASK GROUPS

Three Task Groups of the Working Group have been established:

- i) Skills Award
- ii) Handbook Think Tank/Teaching Fellowship (which ends in Jan 2015)
- iii) ESD Modules

Each group will look at external funding, relationships, effective delivery of the product and blue skies thinking (dissemination and impact).

4. PUBLICATION OF NEW GUIDANCE FOR UK HE PROVIDERS ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (EFS)

All Universities will need to articulate how they will be addressing EfS. The Guidance has been reported to LTC but not yet been discussed. The Higher Education Review (HER) preparation group will consider the document and an action plan produced on how UEA will respond to this.

The document has been sent to Associate Deans, Teaching Directors and Course Directors to inform the course update process for 2015/16. They were asked to consider the guidance in relation to any changes that might be proposed to modules in 2014/15.

5. REFLECTIONS ON THE ESD WORKSHOP AT THE UEA LEARNING AND TEACHING DAY IN MAY 2014

6 participants attended the workshop. Members agreed that it would be useful for future similar sessions to put forward information about ESD which more clearly defined and might help participants interested in ESD when choosing sessions.