

LTC14D249

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.

This is the second report of the 2014/15 academic year.

Recommendation

LTC members are asked to receive the report.

Resource Implications

None

Risk Implications

None

Equality and Diversity

None

Timing of decisions

This is the second of two reports the Working Group 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.

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

Below are the key issues considered by the Group since the report to LTC in October 2014.

1. Raising awareness of the work of the group

In order to ensure effective two way communication between Faculties and the work being undertaken by the FSIWG it was agreed to propose to Chairs of Faculty Learning Teaching and Quality Committees (FLTQC) that once a year the Faculty representative on the Working Group should attend a meeting of their Faculty's LTQC.

2. UEA Skills Award

2.1 Mr James Goodwin, Joint Head of the Careers Service reported on the pilot UEA Skills Award noting that skills and attributes that students would develop as part of the award included leadership skills, global stewardship and influencing which were key for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

3. Future Skills Handbook

3.1 Members agreed that the Future Skills Handbook needs to be separate from the Future Skills Blackboard site, acting as an external facing document. However, there is still work to do on it.

3.2 It was agreed that ownership of the Future Skills handbook should rest with the working group members and the four Faculty academic representatives should take overview of it. The Bb site should inform the structure of the Handbook and should be seen as a living resource and as such it needs to be kept up to date.

3.3 The Bb site is a developmental resource for staff and is intended to give students an insight into how they might work in partnership with academic staff on ESD. It was agreed that the web pages currently owned by the University's Environmental Officer could be an effective vehicle to highlight ESD, sustainability and the work of the FSIWG

4. Introduction to the new UEA Environmental Officer

4.1 Ms Catrin Darsley, UEA's Environmental Officer joined the group. Her role is a new position in the Sustainability team. Her remit centres on communications around sustainability. She is developing strategy, building networks and working on the Estates website. Arising from discussion about the new Enterprise Centre which will be the most environmentally friendly and sustainable building in UK HE when it opens it was agreed the launch/opening should highlight both enterprise and education for sustainable development.

5. Update on the Estates' vision of sustainability at UEA

5.1 Members considered the documents produced by the UEA Environmental Officer entitled "UEA's Sustainable Ways': -increasing communication across and between UEA groups and raising the profile of ESD and sustainability across UEA and in outward-facing communications'.

5.2 A key focus of the papers was on trying to link up initiatives that are currently going on already. This includes the use of the 'sustainable ways' tag with an aim of creating and facilitating networks. Using the campus, both its natural and built environment, for a diverse range of projects was agreed as very exciting as was the work is being done to join up initiatives in this area rather than it happening in isolated pockets.

- 5.3 Members discussed the opportunities for student projects in Schools which could offer pedagogical opportunities to develop work on future skills. Other discussions included the possibility of a year 2 generic module focussed on multidisciplinary projects with an ESD element, involving close collaboration with Estates. This could prepare students for final year projects and be real life projects. Using the 'UEA Sustainable Ways' document, which outlines potential student projects, is a good starting point.
- 5.4 It was agreed that a paper would be produced as a prompt to get Schools thinking about ESD type projects currently being undertaken and what they would like to do, by the Academic Director of Taught Programmes and the UEA Environmental Officer. The paper would be presented to Faculty Learning, Teaching and Quality Committees early in 2015/16.
6. Membership of the group

Ms Stefi Barna (FMH) and Dr Konstantinos Chalvatzis (NBS) have now left the group, leaving two academic representative vacancies to be filled for 2015/16.