

L & T NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY *of* York

Introduction

Welcome to the second issue of Learning and Teaching News. It is intended that this will be produced at least termly, as a bulletin to inform staff of current and forthcoming developments that are under consideration by the University Teaching Committee (UTC). It is designed to complement other communications between academic and central departments and from the Forum for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (FELT).

This newsletter is available electronically on the Academic Support Office home page <http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/aso/>

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National Student Survey & Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey Results

The analysis of the National Student Survey for 2009 has been completed and Chairs of Boards of Studies and others have received a memo detailing the outcomes. There will be additional sets of data this year in order for departments and services to access demographic information. This is also the first year the University has taken part in the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey. The outcomes have been included in the memo with the NSS results.

For more information, please contact Liz Stead (es577@york.ac.uk)

Taught Postgraduate Modular Scheme

The new taught postgraduate modular scheme will be implemented in full for all postgraduate students commencing in or after academic year 2011/12. During the Autumn term 2009 (by Monday 9 November) departments will need to submit, for UTC approval, broad outline plans for programmes that will run under the new scheme. Further details of the process, including the documentation required, are available in the memo recently circulated to Chairs of Boards of Studies and Chairs of Graduate School Boards (<http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/aso/teach.yrk/modreview/updatesept09.pdf>).

Meetings have been arranged in early October for departments to get together to share initial plans (particularly where teaching or modules are shared) and for the Curriculum Development Team to answer any queries. See the link above for more details.

Please contact the Team (modularscheme@york.ac.uk) if you have any queries or would like us to advise or comment on plans. See also <http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/aso/teach.yrk/modular/pg.htm>

Policy on Placement Learning and Study Abroad

In June, UTC approved a revised policy on placement learning and study abroad. Available at <http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/aso/teach/policies/placements.pdf>

The revisions to the policy reflect the latest national guidance, as well as current practices and developments within the University.

Annual Programme Review of Academic Year 2008/09

Details of the procedure and an updated proforma for reporting on your annual programme reviews (APR) for 2008/09 will be circulated to Chairs of Boards of Studies early in the Autumn term and will be available on the ASO web pages at <http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/aso/teach/apr/> During the summer vacation, UTC has undertaken a mini review of the procedure and proforma in the light of feedback from Chairs of Boards of Studies and the Committee. It is anticipated that the procedure will not change fundamentally but that some relatively minor changes will help to improve and clarify the process for all involved. Departments will need to submit completed APR proformas to the ASO towards the end of the Spring term 2010 (date to be confirmed).

Review of Supervision

UTC has initiated a **Review of Undergraduate Supervision**. A working group will meet during the Autumn term and canvas the views and experiences of academic staff, support staff and students. Considerations which prompted this review included some student concerns about changes of supervisor mid-programme, possible variation in the quality of supervisory practice as perceived by students and possible perceptions by academic staff that they may be underprepared to give pastoral advice.

As the support services within the University develop and grow to meet student needs, the pastoral role of the supervisor may have become unclear, and as student choice within programmes expands, their academic role may also require a broader approach. This review is therefore timely and will result in a report which will be considered by UTC. Recommendations arising from the review will be communicated in 2009/10.

For further information, please contact Liz Stead (es577@york.ac.uk)

Collaborative Provision Forum

Advanced notification: the Collaborative Provision Forum topics for 2009/10 will be: Autumn meeting: Employability and work placements; Spring meeting: Knowledge transfer in various settings; Summer meeting: Issues around the FE/HE interface. Dates and venues will be announced shortly.

To be added to the mailing list, please email Jenny Connar (jc42@york.ac.uk) and for further information on the work of the Forum, please contact Sue Clarke (smc507@york.ac.uk) or telephone 2156.

Professional Development for Staff

The first intensive residential programme for new Postgraduates who Teach took place 22-24 September in Harrogate. It was run by the Graduate Training Unit with support from the Academic Support Office and a number of academic staff and PGWT.

The new cohort of the accredited 'Preparing Future Academics' aimed at PhD students and researchers who intend to pursue an academic career will commence in October 2009. Details about this programme and other training support can be found at: <http://www.york.ac.uk/gtu>

Developments in E-learning and VLE

The E-Learning Development Team will be sending out monthly newsletters with updates on *Yorkshare* training and support events.

Please see below for links to the September edition of the newsletter:

https://vle.york.ac.uk/bbcswebdav/xid-425499_4

Standing Committee on Assessment

The latest briefing from the SCA is available at:

<http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/eto/exams/staff/Briefing%20Sheets%20Header.htm>

For further information, please contact Rosemary Goerisch (rag501@york.ac.uk)

UTC meetings and deadlines 2009/10

Papers for UTC, including proposals for new programmes, should be submitted to Jo Fox, Secretary of UTC (jc54@york.ac.uk) by the following deadlines, at the latest. If you are planning to submit proposals to a meeting, it would be appreciated if you could notify Jo at the earliest opportunity.

Deadline for papers	Meeting
Monday 28 September 2009	Monday 19 October 2009
Monday 19 October 2009	Monday 09 November 2009
Monday 23 November 2009	Monday 14 December 2009
Monday 18 January 2010	Monday 08 February 2010
Monday 22 February 2010	Monday 15 March 2010
Monday 03 May 2010	Monday 24 May 2010
Monday 07 June 2010	Monday 28 June 2010

UTC minutes are available at <http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/aso/teach/utc/mins.htm>