

L & T NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY *of* York

Introduction

Welcome to the first 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).

I hope that you find the Newsletter useful. Feedback on the style and content is welcomed at aso@york.ac.uk.

Professor Trevor Sheldon
Deputy Vice-Chancellor

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Learning and Teaching Strategy

We have been working on a new Learning and Teaching Strategy to succeed the previous commitments which covered the five-year period to 2008.

Consultation events have been held to which all staff and students were invited, as well as specific discussions with Chairs of Boards of Studies and departmental administrators, Heads of Department, and members of the University Teaching Committee and FELT Steering Group. These meetings have provided useful feedback on the values and priorities that members of the University wish to see being taken forward.

It is essential that the new Strategy captures this vision in a way that engages and enthuses staff and students, and provides a framework to help planning and investment decisions both in departments and centrally. It is intended that the UTC will agree a draft at its meeting in June which will then be circulated for further consultation over the Summer.

For information on progress, please contact Nigel Dandy, Academic Support Office (nd520@york.ac.uk)

Policy / Academic Developments

New modular schemes:

The new undergraduate modular scheme will run for all programmes from October 2010.

Undergraduate: Proposals for UG programmes that will run under the new modular scheme need to be submitted to modularscheme@york.ac.uk by Monday 1 June. Further details of the information you need to submit can be found at <http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/aso/teach.yrk/modular/approval.htm>

Postgraduate: Trevor Sheldon and Rob Aitken (Curriculum Development Team Leader) hosted a meeting for Chairs of Graduate School Boards about the new PGT scheme on Thursday 14 May 2009.

Documentation for outline approval of PGT programmes will need to be submitted during the Autumn term 2009, and full approval in Summer term 2010 (full details to follow).

Support and advice: see <http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/aso/teach.yrk/modular/> or contact modularscheme@york.ac.uk

Annual programme review (APR)

University Teaching Committee recently considered the APR reports of academic year 2007/08. On Friday 5 June 2.30-4.30 Trevor Sheldon will be hosting a meeting for Chairs of Boards of Studies (or alternates) about some of the issues arising from the reviews. If you would like to attend, please contact Jenny Connor (jc42@york.ac.uk). During early- to mid-June we also hope to provide written feedback on APR to individual departments.

Combined degrees: UTC is undertaking a review of combined degrees. Staff and students have been invited to share their experiences and thoughts on how the organization of combined programmes can be improved. For further information, please contact Sue Clarke (smc507@york.ac.uk).

Standards and marking policy: An enhanced policy and guidance statement on Standards and Marking is being considered by the UTC. This addresses the desire to make marking procedures less burdensome and time-consuming, whilst not losing the accuracy and fairness necessary for robust assessment practice. When approved, the new statement will form the basis of a revised Assessment Guide, in conjunction with other policy and procedure documents. This Guide will clarify good practice and provide frameworks for effective and innovative assessment. For more information, contact Cecilia Lowe at mcl501@york.ac.uk

Call for video talking heads: Katy Mann (ASO Project Officer for Academic Skills) is looking for students or staff who are willing to be filmed for a couple of minutes reflecting on the areas of academic skills that they wish they had known more about on arrival at university. The video extracts will be used in on-line tutorials for the skills mentioned. If you would like to be involved or learn more, please contact Katy on ext 1134 or cmb500@york.ac.uk

Academic misconduct: We are conducting a trial of the Turnitin software for the detection of plagiarism in August. If anyone would like to test the use of this software to check for plagiarism in assignments, please contact Clare Wiggins (cw581@york.ac.uk). Clare can provide more information and instructions as to how to install Turnitin through the VLE.

Referencing style booklets for students: Booklets for the APA, Chicago, Harvard, IEEE, MLA and Vancouver refereeing styles are available for students in the library entrance. Booklets can also be ordered directly from Clare Wiggins - cw581@york.ac.uk if you would like to distribute these directly from your Department.

UTC

Deadlines for UTC papers and new programme proposals:

Monday 29 June meeting – send papers to aso@york.ac.uk by Monday 8 June.

Invitation for new UTC members: Are you interested in getting involved in the development of teaching and learning policies and strategies at University-level? We are looking for two new arts and humanities academic members from Music, History of Art, History or Language and Linguistic Science to join UTC from 2009/10. Ideally you will be a present or former Head of Department or Chair of a Board of Studies or Teaching Committee. Contact Trevor Sheldon (tas5) or Jo Fox (jc54) for further information or expressions of interest.

Observing UTC: Would you like to attend a meeting of UTC as an observer?? Please contact Jo Fox (jc54@york.ac.uk).

Forthcoming Events

5th Annual Learning and Teaching Conference:

Wednesday 10 June 2009, 12 noon, Physics/Electronics Exhibition Centre:

The theme of this year's Conference is "Critical Thinking and Academic Skills". The keynote speaker will be Professor John Cowan, visiting Professor at Napier University and Emeritus Professor of Learning Development at the Open University. For further information and the registration form, go to www.york.ac.uk/felt/conference/

Forum for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (FELT) workshops:

Strategic support workshop: **Interactive lectures** – Wednesday 3 June 2009, 12:30, Derwent Terrace Room, Derwent College

Strategic support workshop: **Collusion** – Wednesday 24 June 2009, 12:30, Derwent Terrace Room, Derwent College

For further information on the FELT workshops, and details of how to register, please see: <http://www.york.ac.uk/felt/workshops/index.htm>

Collaborative Provision Forum:

Summer Term Lunchtime Meeting, the **work of Higher York** – Monday 1 June 2009 12.30 – 2.00 Heslington Hall room HG/21. Guest speaker – Jessica Grant, Director of Higher York

Jessica will be outlining the work of Higher York. In particular, the structure of Higher York and the range of initiatives involved (past, present and future). The short presentation will be followed by an informal question & answer session. If you would like to attend please contact Jenny Connar (jc42@york.ac.uk) to assist us with catering arrangements.

Turnitin training session: Tuesday 26 May 2009, 12:30-13:30, J B Morrell Seminar Rooms 1&2. For further details and to register, please contact Clare Wiggins (cw581@york.ac.uk)