Teaching Committee

COORDINATING GROUP FOR SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMMES

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2014

Present: Professor J Robinson (Chair), Ms M Blake (Information Directorate), Ms L Booth (CLL), Dr D Jackson (PGCAP), Ms B Jones (Careers), Dr B Soden for Dr P Roberts (CELT), Dr L Aiello for Dr M Ferguson (LFA)

In attendance: Ms A McKay (Academic Support Office)

Apologies: Dr T Ryan (LET), Ms H Stout (on maternity leave), Dr P Roberts (CELT), Dr M Ferguson (LFA), Ms A Selvaratnam (CPD), Mr M Smelt-Webb (IRO), Mr D Whitmore (YUSU), Ms Xiaoyin Yang (GSA)

Welcome

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked those who were attending on behalf of their colleagues.

Agenda item 1 of the meeting was to discuss and provide a response from the Group to the Vice-Chancellors University Strategy consultation document. The group decided to share comments on all aspects of the proposal, and where there is consensus, capture that in the minutes, for inputting to the consultation process. Agreed feedback is summarised below under headings from the consultation document.

Key Objective 1: To be a world leader in research

3. We will support our postgraduate research students and their supervisors by establishing a Graduate School

- The location of support and training for postgraduates who teach and the appropriate allocation of resource to do this needs to be clarified
- The idea of concentrating into research themes is welcomed, but the Library’s concerns regarding implications for resourcing were noted.
Key Objective 2: To offer outstanding teaching and learning

Vision;

• The diversity of the student population being taught needs to be reiterated (eg distance learning, lifelong learning students, postgraduate as well as conventional undergraduates)
• Excellence should be reflected in all programmes, not just traditional teaching programmes (taught and research, part-time and full-time, campus-based and distance).

1. We will articulate a University of York pedagogy and apply it to all our programmes
• We should acknowledge not just the academic skills and intellectual learning that students will gain from studying at York, but also the experience(s) they will have engaged with
• Inclusivity should be highlighted.

2. We will appoint and support the best teachers
• “Research-informed teaching” is a term that should be clearly defined and articulated in practice for the University of York. Due consideration should be given to how staff are supported in engaging with relevant practice (including how support will be resourced, if necessary).

4. We will encourage and support innovation in teaching
• The importance of keeping staff up to date with technology and pedagogy was noted
• We should highlight a commitment to developing and improving the technology base.

5. We will give our students opportunities to gain experience that will prepare them better for employment or further study
• The term ‘international dimension’ needs to be clarified. Appropriate support and resource should be put in place that will allow the vision to be achieved
• The study of languages is extremely important and contributes to the internationalisation of the University, but is just one aspect in supporting students to become ‘global citizens’. There is also the need to nurture cultural awareness and appreciation of diversity
• The recruitment of international students is one aspect of internationalisation, but we also need to ensure that home students are provided with an ‘international experience’, and understand what this means in terms of the curriculum
• Transferable skills should be highlighted (eg not just being able to speak a language, but being to work within the culture from which that language derives)
• There is currently nothing in the strategy concerning the University’s position in the local community, and the engagement of local students with the University.
• There needs to be a strong commitment and to state that all students should have the opportunity to gain work experience.
• Work-related learning does not have to be work based.
• There is nothing explicit on widening participation, and an additional bullet point with relation to the University’s commitment here is important.

Key Objective 3: To offer all our students an outstanding and valuable experience

4. We will use our colleges to enhance students’ experience at the University
   • There needs to be an understanding of new college structures and it is important to ensure that students from all colleges receive an equity of service.
   • There needs to be a robust, clear setup between colleges and the University Centre and clarification on who does what to support the students.

Enabling Objective 1: To be sufficiently large to be excellent, resilient and financially sustainable

2. We will grow the International Foundation programme
   • The word ‘partnership’ may be misleading in terms of the relationship between the University and York College. However, future development could involve deeper involvement of CELT in the International Foundation Programme and perhaps the involvement of York St John.

3. We will grow our distance-learning provision
   • The setting up of a number of distance learning programmes would have significant implications for University Central Services. These need to be thought through carefully to ensure expansion in this area is undertaken properly and with appropriate resourcing.
   • There needs to be a robust understanding of the different workloads needed to deliver different kinds of programmes. It is not simply a case of transferring campus-based provision into an online environment.

5. We will ensure that we have the physical infrastructure to support growth
   • There is an ongoing concern regarding facilities. If the University is to grow, then good quality teaching space needs to be readily available.

Enabling Objective 2: To be organised in the most efficient and effective way

1. We will organise academic departments into faculties
• There is a need to clarify the roles, responsibilities and remit of the proposed faculties before any serious consideration of their introduction can be made.

• There are concerns for areas that would not fit into the faculty structure (as represented by CGSP) and whether this would exacerbate the difficulties around facilities and services (e.g., timetabling) already experienced. There is also a concern around how the decision making processes and responsibilities devolved to faculties would impact upon such areas, and whether they would become increasingly marginalised. Is there sufficient commonality between these areas that would warrant consideration of an additional faculty? This may not be the case, but should be considered.

4. We will improve planning and resource allocation

• Clarification is needed on how departments (and faculties) and central support areas, and the staff within them, will interrelate to avoid duplication and maximise effectiveness in terms of responsibilities.

Enabling Objective 3: To work effectively with other organisations and stakeholders

1. We will significantly enhance our engagement with business and industry

• There should be mention of the willingness to develop an entrepreneurial spirit, with support for students in setting up new business ventures.

Agenda item 2 – To consider the Framework for Professional Development in Learning and Teaching at York and provide feedback to Duncan

A copy of Duncan’s presentation is circulated with these minutes. There was a request for Duncan to give updates at future meetings.

Agenda item 3 – Presentation of Google applications from Michelle Blake, Mike Dunn, Tom Smith and John Hawes

A presentation was given on the different levels of support given by IT Services to departments with Google applications, with examples given. A copy of the presentation slides is available via the link shown below. There will be more Google learning events taking place, details of which will be given via Twitter, Facebook, the Forum magazine and via the Communications Team.

https://docs.google.com/a/york.ac.uk/presentation/d/1uBpMcUGYvwEjwMlxEXmhPoeA6lpSHf1H9cfpfLLLNxZk/edit?usp=sharing
Next Meeting
The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9 July 2014 in HG19 from 2.00 - 4.30pm.