

Minutes of the Learning and Teaching Committee

Disclosable

Meeting
03/07/09

Agenda Item
26

Reference No
HEFCW/09/64

1 Issue

- 1.1 This paper presents for approval the confirmed minutes of the Council's Learning and Teaching Committee (LTC) held on 29 April 2009.

2 Corporate Planning Implications / Rationale for paper

- 2.1 The LTC is one of the standing committees of the Council and its purpose is to advise the Council on matters relating to the promotion of teaching excellence in higher education, and the enhancement of the student learning experience. It also undertakes HEFCW's statutory responsibilities to ensure provision is made for assessing the quality of education in higher education institutions (HEIs) for whose activities it provides financial support.

3 Recommendation(s)

- 3.1 The Council is invited to note the unconfirmed minutes of the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting on 29 April 2009.

4 Timing for decisions

- 4.1 There are no timing implications for this paper.

5 Council members' interests

- 5.1 No conflicts of interests have been declared in advance of the meeting.

6 Further information

- 6.1 Contact Dr Cliona O'Neill (Tel 029 2068 2283; E-mail: cliona.oneill@hefcw.ac.uk)

7 Background

- 7.1 At the December 2008 Council meeting Members approved a new committee structure for HEFCW. This included merging the LTC with the Widening Access Committee, with its remit expanded to include the skills agenda, and the undertaking of HEFCW's statutory responsibilities under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 in respect of quality assessment (item HEFCW/08/87 refers).

8 Minutes of the LTC meeting of 29 April 2009

8.1 The minutes of the April 2009 meeting of the LTC are available at **Annex A**.

8.2 Members may particularly wish to note the following issues:

- smaller task and finish groups would be formed as subgroups of the Committee to address specific issues as required (item 2.1 refers);
- Members agreed that the HE sector should publicise its strengths, and highlight the activities it already carries out that contribute to helping to mitigate the economic downturn, and agreed that Widening Access and the skills agenda were key, and overlapping, priorities (item 3.3 refers);
- the QAA would investigate whether it was possible to collaborate with relevant agencies for the quality assurance of healthcare subjects to reduce the burden of assessment (item 4.3.6 refers);
- it was essential for HE to work with the sector skills councils in order to achieve a full picture of employers' needs with regards to skills, and how the sector could contribute to addressing the issues (item 4.4.6 refers)

Members are invited to note the unconfirmed minutes of the Learning and Teaching Committee meeting on 29 April 2009

9 Financial implications

9.1 No financial implications arise out of this paper.

10 Communications implications

10.1 Communications issues arise from items discussed at the Committee meetings, such as the publication of institutional review reports and the National Student Survey results.

11 Diversity and Equal Opportunities implications

11.1 There are no immediate diversity or equal opportunities implications arising from this paper. However, the terms of reference for the Committee confirm that the specific duties of the Committee include advising the Council on matters relating to learning and teaching in higher education, including widening access to higher education and Welsh medium provision.

12 Risk Assessment

12.1 Risks associated with the areas arising in this paper are detailed below:

RISK	ACTION TO ADDRESS RISK
Council is unable to meet its statutory responsibilities regarding quality assurance	The Committee advises Council on its statutory responsibilities in relation to quality assurance, using a subset of membership where appropriate.