Jisc

30 June 2015

Change agents' network webinar

"Mission Employable – Student-led employability activity
"Review and reflect on the CAN webinars"

Presenters

Dr Eleanor Quince Lecturer, History & Faculty Director of Employability Faculty of Humanities, University of Southampton

Charlotte Medland Humanities Employability Coordinator University of Southampton

Mission Employable – Student-led employability activity

In 2014 the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Southampton launched 'Mission Employable', a range of interconnected employability activities driven by the student body. The launch was central to a revision of the Faculty's employability strategy, undertaken in order to engage a diverse student community with the employability agenda. The overarching aim: to encourage students to think about career-planning much earlier whilst simultaneously gaining valuable experience, by enabling them to lead, shape and run events for themselves and their peers.

The webinar will provide an overview of the Mission Employable project and what we've achieved in our first year. It will be presented from the perspective of the project's founder, Dr Eleanor Quince, and from that of one of the students involved, Charlotte Medland. The session will offer insight into how student-staff partnership has worked in this instance, and how we are learning from this experience in order to grow the project during 2015/16.

https://blog.soton.ac.uk/missionemployable

Sarah Knight Senior co-design manager in the student experience team in the Jisc digital futures directorate.

Review and reflect on the CAN webinars:

Help us review our sessions and plan for the future by giving us feedback and ideas for future change agent network webinars.

Moderators

Ellen Lessner   Sarah Knight   Peter Chatterton

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Mission Employable
Student-led Employability Activity

Dr Eleanor Quince and Charlotte Medland
Webinar – Tuesday 30 June 2015

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What is 'Mission Employable'?

- Rationale for the creation of Mission Employable

  - 2013/14 review of employability activity

  - Student focus groups

  - Students wanted something structured <u>but</u> also interactive

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What is 'Mission Employable'?

- How I created the pilot project

  - Three employability module outlines for each level of study:

    http://www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/undergraduate/modules/huma1036

    _employability_module_year_one.page

  - Faculty-wide plan for an existing discipline-level peer mentoring scheme

  - Project to research opportunities for student self-reflection

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What is 'Mission Employable'?

- How to involve the students:

  - Use of central University internship scheme for recruitment;

  - Four student interns to work on the Year 1 module, the peer mentoring scheme and the self-reflection project;

  - Harnessing the student interns' creativity and new ideas to enhance existing plans.

New Peer Mentors listen to a staff member explaining when they should recognise that a mentee needs further help, and encourage them to refer to our First Support service.

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Positive lessons learnt from Year One:

- Students respond better to requests and guidance from
  - Their peers
  - Alumni

- Student-led research and activity raises the profile of the transferable nature of a Humanities degree

- Student-led activity encourages more engagement and motivation; with students taking up an increased number of internship and work experience opportunities

- Student-led innovation and activity directly contributes to our students gaining graduate-level employment

Year One Challenges

As well as the positive outcomes, we also faced some challenges in our first year.

Q: How would you deal with these?

Please send us your ideas and solutions using the text chat, and we will address these after we have presented the ways in which we tried to overcome the following:

How do we overcome the challenges of:

Any additional suggestions in the text chat will be gratefully received, and shared after the webinar!

How do we overcome the challenges of:

- Student demand v. staff expectations;

Any additional suggestions in the text chat will be gratefully received, and shared after the webinar!

How do we overcome the challenges of:

- Student demand v. staff expectations;
- Bespoke guidance, but in a 'one stop shop' format;

Any additional suggestions in the text chat will be gratefully received, and shared after the webinar!

How do we overcome the challenges of:

- Student demand v. staff expectations;

- Bespoke guidance, but in a 'one stop shop' format;

- Different levels of self-awareness and career goals among first-year students;

Any additional suggestions in the text chat will be gratefully received, and shared after the webinar!

How do we overcome the challenges of:

- Student demand v. staff expectations;

- Bespoke guidance, but in a 'one stop shop' format;

- Different levels of self-awareness and career goals among first-year students;

- Student apathy

Any additional suggestions in the text chat will be gratefully received, and shared after the webinar!

Mission Employable

Responses to challenges posed

Staff-Student Partnership Working

Q: What are the barriers you anticipate/have experienced to student-staff partnership working?

(Answers in the text chat will be shared after the webinar)

Staff-Student Partnership Working

Student expectations of the internships that created Mission Employable

- How the reality of the work differed!
- Students as partners and agents of change within HE

Social Media

- Facebook page
- Twitter account
- LinkedIn team profiles (regularly updated)
- LinkedIn alumni communities

Benefits of Staff-Student Partnership Working

- Students are more engaged and willing to contribute when they can see evidence of their feedback in action
- Student partners need a structured work plan, but room for flexibility will encourage creativity and give the students a true sense of co-ownership
- Trusting in the students' own strengths and abilities will foster long-term benefits: loyalty to the project, peer-to-peer promotion and more confident, competent graduates who are ready for the job market

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Staff-Student Partnership Working

Responses to barriers posed earlier

What Next?

- Further development of the Year 1 module following student and staff feedback

- Creation of the Year 2 module

- Research into the use of ePortfolios for student reflection and to showcase their achievements to prospective employers

- Amendment of the Peer Mentoring Scheme following pilot year feedback

- Greater digital engagement with alumni and employers

- Launch of our External Advisory Board

Q & A

Any questions?

Thank You!

Change Agents' Network Webinar series *– 30 June 2015*

Sarah Knight
Senior co-design manager in the student experience team in the Jisc digital futures directorate.

Review and reflect on the CAN webinars:
Help us review our sessions and plan for the future by giving us feedback and ideas for future change agent network webinars.

@CANagogy   #JiscCAN   http://can.jiscinvolve.org

What is the Change agents' network (CAN)?

» The Change agents' network supports students working as change agents, digital pioneers, student fellows and students working in partnership with staff on technology related change projects

» Over 312 members subscribed to the CAN community mailing list

» Facilitates the sharing of best practice through

  › Face to face networking events

  › CAN monthly webinar series

  › CAN case studies – 10 institutional case studies by Sept 15

» Student partnership toolkit

» Journal of Educational Innovation, Partnership and Change

» SEDA accredited Jisc Institutional Change Leader online course running in Sept 15 –sign up now by emailing Mark Kerrigan (mark.kerrigan@anglia.ac.uk)

http://can.jiscinvolve.org @CANagogy

Help us review our sessions

» What have you valued the most from our webinars?

A = Learning from and sharing effective practice

B = Inspiration and obtaining, sharing and "stealing" new ideas

C = Networking

D = Learning how to engage students

E = Learning about student staff partnerships

`…and type other thoughts into the text-chat`

Help us review our sessions

» Do we need to change the format & timing of the webinars?

e.g.

  › Presentation around a case study/example of student-staff partnership work involving staff and students?

  › Open mic style session?

  › Breakout discussions?

  › Longer sessions?

  › Different times of the day/week?

  › Other ideas?

`…type your thoughts into the text-chat`

Help us review our sessions

» What makes a good webinar on staff-student partnership working?

e.g.

  › Good presenter(s) who know how to engage participants online?

  › Longer time for participants to ask questions?

  › Student engagement?

  › Balance of HE/FE?

  › Participants providing information?

  › Different technologies?

  › Other ideas?

`…type your thoughts into the text-chat`

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What would you like from future webinars?

» Themes and topics for future webinars?

…type your thoughts into the text-chat

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What would you like from future webinars?

» Would you like to contribute and share your practice?

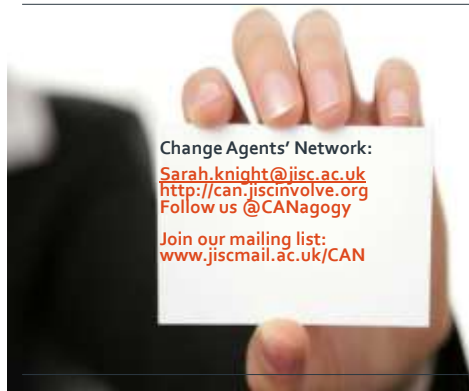…type your thoughts into the text-chat or contact Sarah Knight (sarah.knight@jisc.ac.uk)

Jisc

What one thing can Jisc do to support student-staff partnership working in your organisation?

Type into the text-chat or

Padlet: http://padlet.com/sarahknight/CAN

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Find out more…

Change Agents' Network:
Sarah.knight@jisc.ac.uk
http://can.jiscinvolve.org
Follow us @CANagogy

Join our mailing list:
www.jiscmail.ac.uk/CAN

Please complete the evaluation survey!

http://can.jiscinvolve.org

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How can Jisc support you with working in partnership with students?

Jisc

What one thing?

What one thing can Jisc do to support student-staff partnership working in your organisation?

What One thing?

Text wall - 07537 402 400 starting with digi

Padlet: http://padlet.com/sarahknight/CAN