Fostering Student Initiated Engagement with Curriculum Design: creating resources to develop partnerships, strengthen communication and embed action

Catherine McConnell and Sophie Howells on behalf of the Student Academic Success and Partnership Team

University of Brighton
Student Academic Success and Partnership (SASP) Team
Workshop Outline

• 5 mins Student staff collaboration in curriculum design + Collaborative Resources Project - aims, team, process

• 10 mins Introduction to the resources

• 30 mins Resources – discussion and feedback

• 15 mins Evaluation and future piloting
Student-Staff Collaboration and Partnership

Embedded now within university mission
Curriculum Design Initiative

• Practical wisdom – institutional strategy
  • Themes for curriculum redesign
    • Inclusive Practice
    • Sustainability
    • Enquiry-led learning
    • Students as Partners

• Students as Partners:
  • Partners in the process of redesigning and refreshing the curriculum
  • Partners in the learning process, through assignments, research, co-construction of knowledge
Challenges to student-staff collaboration?

- Power dynamics between students and staff?
- Impact of environment – who’s territory?
- Inclusive of students and learning differences?
- Clarity about roles, responsibilities and expectations?
- Communication open and reciprocal?
- Student involvement tokenistic or meaningful?
- Action embedded in practice or remain conceptual?
Project Aims

• Addresses these challenges to student-staff collaboration by producing a set of 5 online downloadable resources that facilitate and enable greater student-staff collaboration and partnership work, including:

  • Introduction resources (*inductions, goal setting, support*)
  • Exploring partnership work (*applying theory to practice*)
  • Team communication via active listening exercises (*for small and large meeting contexts*)
  • Critical reflective writing (*for personal and professional development*)
  • Co-writing templates (*clarifying roles, responsibilities, aims*)

• Resources will be piloted and evaluated for further development before being made available online. Initially for Learning Development teams but to be piloted and evaluated in discipline contexts also.

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Project Process
Project Timeline

• Jan – mapping existing practice in HE sector and SASP
• Feb – recruited Graphic Designer; Resource Development Day
• Mar – Ongoing development of the resources; team meetings
• Apr – ALDinHE conference; finalising resources; design evaluation; pilot resources; project phase 2 funding
• May – Ongoing piloting; evaluations
• Jun – Ongoing piloting; evaluations; writing up team reflections
• Jul – Project evaluations and begin co-writing paper
• Aug – Continue co-writing paper; begin phase 2 (internally funded) – further piloting (nationally), development, research into resources in contexts
Resource 1: Introductions
Resource 2: Exploring Partnership

EXPLORING PARTNERSHIP
Resource 3: Critical Reflection
Resource 4: Active Listening

ACTIVE LISTENING
Resource 5: Collaborative Working

COLLABORATIVE WORKING
Discussion Activity

• Can you identify one strength of the resource, and one area for improvement?

• How could this resource be useful in the context of your own practice?
Next Steps and Getting Involved

• The resources are currently being evaluated and piloted in the SASP team, across disciplines at Brighton and at St George’s, UCL

• If anyone is interested in piloting, please contact:

  Catherine McConnell  C.McConnell@brighton.ac.uk

• Resources once complete will be available from the ALDinHE and Learn Higher Websites, and a proposed publication through a JLDinHE
Useful Links

• www.brighton.ac.uk/ask
• www.brighton.ac.uk/ask/pass
• https://www.heacademy.ac.uk/institutions/consultancy/frameworks/student-engagement