

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE

11 December 2012

SUB-COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYABILITY (14.11.12)

1. DIARY DATES

- A half-day Employability Conference will be held on the Jordanstown campus on Thursday 9th May 2013 from 10.00 am – 2.00 pm.
- The Placement Employer of the Year Awards ceremony will take place on Thursday 9th May in the Loughview Suite.

2. KEY ACTIVITY WORKING GROUPS

(i) Monitoring of Placement

A list of courses indicating compulsory or optional placement has been sent to Faculties and will be updated by Registry.

The Working Group will be looking at placement preparation during next semester.

(ii) Assessment of Placement

Faculties to look at combining assessments to reduce categories, noting that the deadline for submission of CA3 forms is 31st March 2013.

(iii) Models of Placement

This Working Group now has representation from across the University. A 10 credit point pilot module in Enterprise Development to be available within the CPPD framework during Semester 2; this module will be taken by Year 2 students who are interested in exploring opportunities to progress to a self-employed placement. It is proposed that a cohort of approximately 20 students will pilot this module in Semester 2 and it was noted that successful completion will contribute to the EDGE award.

A launch event, with presentations from two graduate entrepreneurs had been held on the Jordanstown campus and would be replicated at Coleraine and Belfast. All attendees and tutors will be regularly updated leading up to registration and launch of the Enterprise Development CPPD module. The Chair noted that this was very positive and could result in the formation of a student-led 'enterprise society'.

3. PDP FORUM

- The Working Group are keen to have representation from the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences.
- Promoting personal development alongside professional development would be the direction for the Group in the coming year.

- The role of PDP coordinators would be reviewed as PDP should be embedded in all University courses.
- The Group will refine Ulster's PDP policy and update the templates and guidance for Faculties.

12.36 RESPONSE TO THE WILSON REVIEW

It was reported that the first meeting of the Steering Group had taken place on Monday 22nd October and had agreed to adopt a themed approach to showcasing Ulster's engagement with business. Potential themes could include:

- Ensuring graduate skills and employability meet the needs of the business;
- Maximising the university sector's capabilities in business-led research and innovation;
- Realising the benefits of a strong HEI role in the development of the local economy.

The Steering Group are having an 'Away Day' on Wednesday 28th November to look at a range of ideas and will work with Dan McGinn, Director of Media and Corporate Relations, to develop a media strategy.

12.37 EMPLOYABILITY AND MARKETING STRATEGY

The Strategy set out two goals: to be a leader in the provision and support for student and graduate employability and to market Ulster's course portfolio to make it the 'University of Choice'; along with seven aims which underlay the goals, performance measures and key risks and the 2012/13 Academic Plan.

It was noted that key objectives were to have all students engaging in some aspect of Work Experience by 2016 together with promoting Ulster's programmes to employers as a mechanism for skilling their workforce.

The Chair recommended that faculties should look at opportunities to promote placements, noting that QUB are becoming more active in this area.

12.38 CPPD REPORT

It was noted that there were 2,588 students across all campuses who had successfully completed the employability modules within the CPPD framework.

12.39 ULSTER EDGE AWARD UPDATE

MC summarised the report drawing attention to the request for faculties to contact Dr Sharon Milner with any additional activities for inclusion in Category 3. An online activity proposal form is available via the Award website – <http://edge.ulster.ac.uk>

12.40 WORK&LEARN iLINK

It was reported that Work&Learn iLINK had been launched by way of posters, emails, flyers and presentations by placement students. 488 students are registered to date. Short-term, temporary and part-time work throughout the University will be advertised.

12.41 DESTINATION OF LEAVERS FROM HIGHER EDUCATION (DLHE)

A Working Group has been set up to identify a methodology to consider Faculty/School Action Plans to determine their adequacy and identify courses/subjects which are underperforming compared to their sector benchmark. Membership of the Group is as follows:

Arts – Milne Rowntree

Art, Design and the Built Environment – Joanne Coyle

Computing and Engineering - Aiden McCaughey

Life and Health Sciences – Shane McCullough

Social Sciences – Aodheen McCartan

Ulster Business School – Adele Dunn

The Group will bring their findings to the Sub-Committee in February and the Teaching and Learning Committee in March.