

Westminster Higher Education Forum Keynote Seminar
Innovative approaches to curriculum design and delivery in Higher Education

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 27th November 2014

Venue: Sixty One Whitehall, London SW1A 2ET



Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP, Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary University Group
- 9.05 - 9.30 **Preparing for the future - conditioning flexibility in course design and delivery**
Professor Ron Barnett, Lead Consultant, *Flexible pedagogies: preparing for the future*, Higher Education Academy and Emeritus Professor of Higher Education, Institute of Education, University of London
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 10.15 **Institutional processes and the redesign and delivery of courses**
What steps can be taken to simplify and coordinate universities' internal processes, for example timetabling, department funding and decision-making procedures to enable more flexible and innovative course design? What impact will the growth in the number of alternative providers in Higher Education have on sector-wide moves towards more flexible course delivery? What are the structural challenges for delivering courses over non-traditional timeframes; how might e-learning help? How can HE providers act to minimise the wider cultural and organisational barriers to redesigning course and their delivery? In light of higher tuition fees and greater focus on employability, should Government encourage more universities offer two-year degrees; how could institutions prepare students and lecturers for these courses and how financially sustainable are these courses? How can best practice examples of flexible and out-of-hours student support be better shared across the HE sector; what lessons can be learnt, particularly from FE colleges?
Professor Mike McLinden, Author, *Flexible Pedagogies: part-time learners and learning in higher education*; Programme Lead (Visual Impairment) and Co-Director of Education, University of Birmingham
Dr Steve Wyn Williams, Dean of Academic Policy and Development, Staffordshire University
Professor Philip Plowden, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Derby
Clare Hallows, Registrar, Bradford College, West Yorkshire
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 - 10.55 **Redesigning courses to respond to advances in technology and changing trends**
What is the potential for technology to allow universities to provide more personalised learning pathways for students; what are the limitations and how should HE providers deal with challenges for implementation? What can be learnt from successful examples of campus redesign to better integrate technology into course delivery and encourage the greater use of blended-learning? Is the focus on contact hours, highlighted in Key Information Sets (KIS), a disincentive to using forms of technology-enhanced learning that reduce the number of traditional lectures and seminars? How should course designers and deliverers respond to the trend for greater student collaborative working and the challenges this poses for assessment and potential for plagiarism?
Dr Neil Gordon, Author, *Flexible Pedagogies: technology-enhanced learning*; Lecturer and Director of Taught Postgraduate Studies, Department of Computer Science, University of Hull
Graham Raynham, Studio Director, Bond Bryan Architects
Lars Hyland, Director, EMEA, CogBooks
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 - 11.00 **Chair's closing remarks**
Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP, Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary University Group
- 11.00 - 11.25 Coffee
- 11.25 - 11.30 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Holmes of Richmond, Member, House of Lords Digital Skills Select Committee and Consultant, BPP Law School
- 11.30 - 12.10 **Engaging employers in the design and delivery of courses**
What can be done to encourage greater involvement from businesses to aid the design of courses to ensure graduates leave with the necessary skills required for employment, and how can institutions support those who would be involved in this process? How can universities ensure academics are aware of latest developments in their related industries so these can be reflected in course design? What can universities, industry bodies and Government do to encourage more employers to offer Year in Industry placements; will the new cap of £1,350 for 'sandwich' years encourage more students to undertake this option? How can sharing of best practice between academics and employers - and student feedback be encouraged and utilised to make work-based learning as effective as possible?
Nicola Turner, Director of Employability, Aston University
Jane Kettle, Author, *Flexible Pedagogies: employer engagement and work-based learning* and Independent Consultant
Professor Barry Clarke, Chairman, Education for the Built Environment Group and Chairman, Engineering Education Board
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.10 - 12.55 **A changing student experience - involving students in course design and diversifying course content**
In what ways can universities involve students in the design of courses and learning processes, and what role could alumni play; how can best practice be shared across the sector? Do university structures allow course leaders to react quickly to student feedback and adjust the design of courses and teaching methods accordingly? Should more universities encourage students to work across course boundaries and their associated professions, for example different creative arts disciplines collaborating or business students working with science students, where does it work best and how could this be integrated into the curriculum across more subject areas? What are the benefits and challenges presented by the move towards greater internationalisation of course curricula; what lessons can be learnt about curriculum design and teaching practices from other nations?
Professor Daniella Tilbury, Co-Author, *Flexible Pedagogies: new pedagogical ideas*, University of Gloucestershire
Professor Mike Neary, Professor of Sociology, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Lincoln
Professor Helen Spencer-Oatey, Director, Centre for Applied Linguistics, University of Warwick
Megan Dunn, Vice President, Higher Education, NUS
Questions and comments from the floor with **Dr Alex Ryan**, Co-Author, *Flexible Pedagogies: new pedagogical ideas*
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Lord Holmes of Richmond, Member, House of Lords Digital Skills Select Committee and Consultant, BPP Law School
Jonny Roberts, Associate Editor, Westminster Higher Education Forum