Best Practice in Student-Centred Approaches in Education & Training

Tuesday 20th November 2018
The Printworks Event and Exhibition Centre, Dublin Castle
MC: Billy Bennett  
VP for Academic Affairs and Registrar of Letterkenny Institute of Technology

09.00 Registration and Poster Session

10.00 Welcome Address by Dr Padraig Walsh, CEO QQI

10.05 Reflecting on the 2016 HEA Report on Enhancing Student Engagement in Decision-Making and the 10 Principles of Student Engagement. Are we making progress and are the Principles fit for purpose? (Interactive Presentation) 
Oisín Hassan, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Union of Students in Ireland

10.15 What we talk about when we talk about student-centred learning
Monika Skadborg, Member of the Executive Committee of European Students’ Union

10.35 KEYNOTE ADDRESS: 
From Learning to Teaching – and Back: Bologna and Active Learning in German Higher Education 
Wolfgang Deicke, Head of Humboldt Universität’s bologna.lab

11.00 Reflections on the Irish Survey of Student Engagement (ISSE) and the development of the ISSE Postgraduate Research Survey 
Suzanne Guerin, Associate Professor in Research Design and Analysis, University College Dublin

11.30 Coffee Break

11.45 Break Out Sessions:  
1. Student-centred approaches to learning in an access programme for Apprenticeship 
Professor Gerald Farrell, DIT

2. Campus Engage – Community-based teaching and learning: engaging learners by offering them a central role within a real-world environment 
Kate Morris, IUA and Claire McDonnell, DIT

12.30 Lunch and Poster Session

13.30 The critical role of learner engagement in the next phase of FET development
Andrew Brownlee, Executive Director – Strategy & Knowledge, SOLAS

14.00 Student Engagement through Student Voice and Student-Faculty Pedagogical Partnership 
Alison Cook Sather, Mary Katharine Woodworth Professor of Education at Bryn Mawr College and Director of the Teaching and Learning Institute at Bryn Mawr and Haverford College, USA (By Skype)

14.30 Break Out Sessions  
1. AONTAS: Learner Voice and the National FET Learner Forum
Niamh O’Reilly and Leah Dowdall, AONTAS

2. Students as Partners in Teaching and Learning – Empowering students as equal stakeholders in the enhancement of teaching and learning 
Terry Maguire, Karolyn McDonnell and Dale Whelehan, National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching & Learning

3. Giving and Learning: studentvolunteer.ie: A Student-Driven and Student-Centred Approach 
Gabriella Hanrahan, UL and Holly Dignam, UCD

15.15 Reflective Panel Discussion 
Chaired by Professor Tom Collins

16.30 Minister of State for Higher Education, Mary Mitchell O’Connor TD closes event

3. Panel Discussion: International Student-Centred Approaches - As we develop a student partnership approach in Ireland to improve student participation, have we been inclusive of international students? What can be done to improve international student participation across the sector? 
Hamsavani Rajeswaren - Chair, QUB Equality & Diversity Student Officer; Sheila Power, ICOS; Monika Skadborg, ESU; Guilherme Barton, DIT & Sue Hackett, QQI.

Agenda
Oisín Hassan
Union of Students in Ireland
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Reflecting on the 2016 HEA Report on Enhancing Student Engagement in Decision-Making and the 10 Principles of Student Engagement. Are we making progress and are the Principles fit for purpose?

Oisín is the Vice President for Academic Affairs with the Union of Students in Ireland (USI), a national organisation representing over 374,000 on both sides of the border. He is a graduate of Queen’s University Belfast in Law with Politics, and has begun an LLM in Law and Governance. He previously served as Vice President Equality and Diversity (2015/16) and Vice President Education (2016/17) in Queen’s University Belfast Students’ Union, before election to USI.

In his role he works on developing the student voice in quality enhancement, building capacity in Students’ Union’s on education policy, and embedding an ethos of students as partners across Ireland. He also works on International Affairs within USI, representing students at the European Students’ Union.

Oisín sits on the Board of the QQI and on the Board of the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning. He also works with various partners of USI, including SUSI, the HEA, and ISSE. He is Chairperson of the National Student Engagement Network set up under NStEP.

Monika Skadborg
European Students’ Union
Executive Committee Member

What we talk about when we talk about Student-Centred Learning

Monika Skadborg is a member of the executive committee of the European Students’ Union, ESU. ESU is the umbrella organisation for 45 National Unions of Students from 39 countries. Among many other activities, they represent students in the Bologna Process, run a student experts pool on quality assurance, and have been a part of many projects focusing on Student-Centred Learning.

Wolfgang Deicke
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Co-ordinator of the bologna.lab

From Learning to Teaching – and Back: Bologna and Active Learning in German Higher Education

Wolfgang Deicke read Sociology and Politics at Hamburg University and later at the Postgraduate School of Peace Studies in Bradford. Before becoming the co-ordinator of the bolognlab at Humboldt-Universität in 2012, he variedly taught sociology, politics and the history of European thought and society at the (now) University of Northampton, School of Oriental and African Studies in London and Ruskin College, Oxford. In Northampton and Oxford, he gained comprehensive experience in course and curriculum development and the development of curricula for active learning. His current research interests are the development of (student) research competencies and organisational development in higher education.

Suzanne Guerin
University College Dublin
Associate Professor in UCD, Member of the ISSE Steering Group

Reflections on ISSE and the Development of the ISSE Postgraduate Research Survey

Suzanne is Associate Professor in Research Design and Analysis with the School of Psychology at University College Dublin. Suzanne’s interests focus on applied research and she involved in research in areas including health services and teaching and learning in higher education. She is a past Fellow in Teaching and Learning at UCD and has conducted evaluations of innovations in undergraduate education. Recently she has been working with colleagues in Ireland and Northern Ireland in collaboration with the All Ireland Institute for Hospice and Palliative care on how best to promote the transfer and exchange of information from research to practice and policy. Suzanne is a member of the ISSE Steering Group and serves as Co-Chair of the ISSE Postgraduate Research Survey Group.
Guest Speakers

Andrew Brownlee
SOLAS
Executive Director, Strategy and Knowledge

The critical role of learner engagement in the next phase of FET development

Andrew leads the Strategy and Knowledge Division at SOLAS where he is responsible for overseeing the strategy, research and evaluation; planning and funding; and active inclusion functions. There is a strong focus across this work on ensuring that further education and training provision reflects the evolving needs of the learner, and that appropriate engagement structures are in place to ensure that the learner can input into future direction and decision-making. He joined SOLAS from the HEA where he was Head of System Funding from 2015-2018. Prior to this, most of his career was in management consulting with PwC, PA Consulting and Fitzpatrick Associates, where he specialised in strategy and change across the education sector. He has worked internationally across the UK, in Australia and in Ghana. Andrew holds a Masters Degree in Economics from the University of Edinburgh.

Alison Cook-Sather
Bryn Mawr College
Mary Katharine Woodworth Professor of Education at Bryn Mawr College and Director of the Teaching and Learning Institute at Bryn Mawr and Haverford Colleges, USA

Student Engagement through Student Voice and Student-Faculty Pedagogical Partnership

With several grants from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Dr. Cook-Sather developed Students as Learners and Teachers (SaLT), a program that supports faculty and undergraduate students in semester-long partnerships focused on explorations of curricular and pedagogical approaches in higher education. Her current scholarship focuses on the potential of pedagogical partnership to promote equity and inclusion and to foster a sense of belonging among under-represented and under-served students. Dr Cook-Sather has published over 100 articles and book chapters and given as many keynote addresses, other invited presentations, and papers at refereed conferences around the world. She has also written five books, including Engaging Students as Partners in Learning & Teaching: A Guide for Faculty (co-authored with Catherine Bovill and Peter Felten, Jossey-Bass, 2014), and she is founding editor of Teaching and Learning Together in Higher Education and founding co-editor of International Journal for Students as Partners. Dr Cook-Sather earned her BA with Highest Honors in the English major and College Honors from University of California at Santa Cruz, her MA in English Education from Stanford University, and her PhD in Reading, Writing, and Literacy through the Graduate School of Education at University of Pennsylvania.

Tom Collins
DIT
Chair of the Governing Body of DIT, IT Blanchardstown and IT Tallaght

Professor Tom Collins is currently Chair of the Governing Body of DIT, of IT Blanchardstown and of IT Tallaght. All three institutions have agreed to merge to form Ireland’s first Technological University. On merger, the new institution – the Technological University for Dublin - will have in excess of 50,000 students, making it Ireland’s largest higher education institution.

Professor Collins is the former Head of Education at Maynooth University (2006-2011); Dean of Teaching and Learning there between 2008 and 2011 and interim President there 2010-2011. Between 2011 and 2013, he was President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, Medical University of Bahrain. In 2016 he led the development of a national framework of student engagement in Irish higher education institutions on behalf of the Higher Education Authority. Over the past two years he has been active in establishing a new representative body for the 14 institutes of technology in Ireland - The Technological Higher Education Association. This new body was officially launched in April, 2017.

Professor Collins has been an active player in the evolution of Irish education policy - at all levels – for the past two decades. He was special government advisor in the development and publication of Ireland’s only White Paper on Lifelong learning - Learning For Life - in 2000. Between 2006 and 2012, he was Chair of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA), the statutory advisory body on all curriculum matters in Ireland from birth to eighteen. His scholarship, publications and other professional work throughout his career have focused on the links between educational under-achievement and background disadvantage and he has led multiple initiatives in enhancing educational access and participation in Ireland. In this context, he is a former board member both of Pobal and, prior to this, the Combat Poverty Agency and was chair of the Cherry Orchard Regeneration initiative between 2005 and 2009.

Billy Bennett
Letterkenny Institute of Technology
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Registrar

Billy Bennett is the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Registrar at Letterkenny Institute of Technology, having previously held the posts of Head of School of Business and Head of Teaching and Learning. He chairs the Technological Universities Educampus Governance Forum and is Deputy Chair of the Board of the Alcohol Forum. He is a member of the Irish Survey of Student Engagement Plenary Group; the Higher Education Strategy for Northern Ireland Cross Border Project Team; the QQI National Consultative Forum; the Technological Higher Education Apprenticeship Committee and was a member of the Technological University Quality Framework (TUFQ) Steering Committee.
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