NAIN Plenary Meeting

9th September 2021, 12:15 – 1.15pm
Note of the meeting
Via Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Steering Committee: Billy Kelly (Chair); Megan O’Connor (WG#3 Co Chair & USI); Iain MacLabhrainn (WG#3 Co Chair & NUIG); Violeta Morari (WG#2 Chair & MTU Cork); Yvonne Kavanagh (Chair WG#1 & IT Carlow); Aisling Reast (Co Chair WG#1 & Hibernia College); QQI Executive: Sue Hackett (NAIN Coordinator); Karena Maguire (Stakeholder Engagement Head); Grainne Mooney (Communications Manager); Yvonne Agnew (NAIN Administrator).

NAIN members: Simon Stephens, LYIT; Cora McCormack AIT; Niamh, Plunkett, IT Sligo, Derrie Murray, ICOS; Hugh McBride, GMIT; Eva Juhl MTU; Ross Anderson, UL; Aileen Kennedy, UL; Brendan Ryder, DKIT; Sue Rackard, UCD; David Croke, RCSI; Frances O’Connell, AIT; Fiona O’Riordan, DCU; Susan Gottlober, MU; Jim Murray, THEA; Aedin O’Heochoa, GMIT; Marie O’Neill, CCT College; Jim O’Mahony, MTU; Jennifer Brennan, NFRI; Patricia O’Sullivan, HECA; Catherine O’Donoghue, AIT; Gavin Clinch, IT Sligo; Celine Blacow, IADT; Sharon Flynn, EDTL IUA; Mary Buckley, NCI; David Shepherd, TCD; Declan Courell, St Angela’s, NUIG; Paul Seth, PCHEI & MIC UL; Lorna Dodd, LAI &UCD; Loretta Goff, UCC; Conor O’Reilly, NCISU; Paul O’Donovan, UCC; Finbarr Murphy, IBAT; Aine McManus, Griffith College; Angelica Risquez, UL; Jason Healy, ICD; Mariana Braga Vasconcellos, CCT College student rep; Joyce Senior, UCD.

Apologies:

1. Welcome and Review of June 17th Meeting Note

The Chair, Billy Kelly, opened the meeting:

- invited members to comment on any proposed revisions to the meeting note of 17th June 2021. The meeting note was passed without revision and accepted as final.
- welcomed the new students joining NAIN and stated that the allocation of the student members among the different working groups would be worked out in due course. It was noted that the increased number of student members is a very positive development.
- offered a warm welcome back to Yvonne Kavanagh and stated that Aisling Reast would continue to co-chair WG1 with Yvonne. The Chair also thanked Frances O’Connell for standing in during Yvonne’s absence, and doing such a fantastic job.
• The Chair congratulated David Croke on his impending retirement and expressed a hope that he will be able to continue with NAIN after this.

2. Review of launch of new resources

The Chair referred to the great success of the Ministerial Launch of the two NAIN resources: Academic Integrity: National Principles and Lexicon of Common Terms and Academic Integrity Guidelines by the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris TD, which preceded the plenary meeting. This success, he said, was due in no small measure to the hard work and efforts of the NAIN working groups and members, under the challenging conditions of the preceding two years.

3. Update from Working Group 1

Aisling Reast presented an update for NAIN Working Group 1 and reinforced earlier comments from the Chair that the WG is delighted to welcome back Yvonne Kavanagh as co-chair. She extended her thanks to Frances for all her support over the last few months and hoped Frances would continue to work with them. Aisling also offered a warm welcome to Niall Daly and Caoimhe O’Carroll as new WG2 student representatives stating that it was so important to have an ever increasing student presence to make the work of the group even more impactful.

Aisling continued to present on behalf of Working Group 1 including:

The terms of reference/objectives of the working group 1:

➢ Identify and agree common definitions and establish a national lexicon to be agreed by the larger network;
➢ Identify and agree the Principles of Academic Integrity

This work has now been completed.

Plan for 2021-22 Academic Year

➢ Finalise outline paper on academic misconduct incidents and their investigation
➢ Overlap identified with Working Group 2
➢ Review of Terms of Reference

The NAIN Coordinator added that it would be good to circulate the WG1 draft work to NAIN members for feedback when it is ready.

WG 1 Co-Chair Yvonne Kavanagh added that Sarah Eaton had touched on everything that the NAIN are doing, including the fact that students are central to what we do, referring to student misconduct and examining this in a positive way with the focus on student engagement.

The Chair added that there should be an emerging thread on guidelines and shared practices using common vocabulary, not only between but also within institutions. He stated that there is not always a coherent approach to academic misconduct and there is a need to educate our students taking into consideration the student lifecycle and what that means at different stages.
4. Update from Working Group 2

Violeta Morari, presented as Chair of Working Group 2:

**terms of reference and objectives:**
- Establish the nature and extent of current academic misconduct in Ireland as a benchmarking exercise.
- Develop appropriate and effective prevention strategies.
- Identify areas for dedicated enhancement activity to support a culture of Academic Integrity in Irish HEIs

**Overview for 2021.**
- Academic Integrity survey of staff perceptions and experience was conducted in June 2021 with 266 MTU respondents, from both academic and professional, including 29 questions. Feedback from the survey would follow.
- Develop consensus guidelines for handling academic misconduct data within HEIs including:
  - Template for internal recording and reporting
  - Draft guidelines for categorizing, recording and reporting of academic misconduct.
- Develop an inventory of Academic Integrity activities across members HEIs.

5. Update from Working Group 3

The two Co-Chairs co-presented an update from Working Group 3. It was stated that Working Group 3 were focused on how they could get the key messages across to students:

**Terms of Reference**
- To develop a communication plan to support the work of the Network in raising awareness of academic cheating and related issues amongst students across the full Higher Education sector.
- To advise on and develop student-centred communications activities to support the recommendations and activities of other Network working groups.

The Group wanted to come up with an effective and impactful means of getting the message about Academic Integrity across to students; to help raise a culture of Academic Integrity and to communicate the message of pride in your own work.

He stated that there were lots of additional people joining Working Group 3 and that it was good to have so many contributions and to get a sense of community within the group.

In terms of work from previous members of Working Group 3, the Co-Chairs thanked those working with the Student Focus Groups earlier in the year, highlighting one finding which was that key messages are not reaching students. It is also intended to look at effective orientation practice within institutions.

- Priority was given to the Digital Assets sub-group to develop student friendly materials that can be used as part of induction and throughout the academic year.
➢ Create student-friendly explanations of the key terms we use.
➢ A sample graphic of a crossword was presented to the meeting featuring Academic Integrity terminology with clues partially filled in using key words like ‘contract cheating’, ‘blackmail’ and ‘plagiarism’.
➢ The Group were preparing an Academic Integrity calendar with a range of digital assets across the academic calendar from orientation week, study week and also assessment week.

It was added that there will be space available for an Institutional logo on the digital asset material produced.

Members congratulated the group adding that this was an excellent idea. It was good to have the positive message of your own work and your own achievement alongside the contract cheating and blackmail terms.

The QQI Comms Manager and member of WG3 added that it was good to see more collaboration happening across the group. She commented that although this WG was aimed at communicating with students, it could also be used by Academic staff in class at the start of the academic year.

6. **Update on the 2nd National Academic Integrity Week**

➢ the 2nd NAI Week is taking place on October 18th to 22nd. There are a number of HEI hosted events already submitted and there is still time to submit others.
The ENAI Global Ethics Week also coincides with NAI week and there are links to the ENAI lunchtime panels in the programme. The ICAI International Day against Contract Cheating is on Wednesday 20th and both the WG3 Co-Chair, Megan O’Connor, and the NAIN Chair are participating on two ICAI panels.
*Assessment* is the NAI Week broad over-arching theme, along with *Staff/ Student Partnership*. Dr Thomas Lancaster (Imperial College, London) has accepted an invitation to speak – his talk will be on Monday afternoon October 18th (3pm) and will have a focus on the roles of students in the co-creation of assessment tools and procedures which mitigate the risk of academic misconduct. The webinar invitation and the week’s programme will be circulated in the week of October 4th.
Two student panels are planned on Tuesday and Friday dependent on availability. Megan O’Connor will facilitate on Tuesday and the Friday facilitator is to be confirmed. We are asking the student assembly and various colleagues to nominate students who would like to take part on these panels.

7. **AOB**

➢ Dates for further NAIN Plenary meetings in 2021:
Thursday, October 14th 10.30-13.00
Thursday, December 2nd 10.30-13.00

➢ It was stated that QQI will be promoting the work of the NAIN as a model of positive engagement and peer collaboration with other sister agencies such as the QAA in the UK, and TEQSA in Australia.