

## Board of Management Students, Staff & Equalities Committee

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Wednesday 2 February 2022</b>
<b>Paper No.</b>	<b>SSEC2-D</b>
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>5.2</b>
<b>Subject of Paper</b>	<b>Learning and Teaching Academy Update</b>
<b>FOISA Status</b>	<b>Disclosable</b>
<b>Primary Contact</b>	<b>Derek Robertson, Associate Director, LTA</b>
<b>Date of production</b>	<b>27 January 2022</b>
<b>Action</b>	<b>For Discussion</b>

### 1. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to discuss this report.

### 2. Purpose

This paper is to give a short update on the activity of the Learning and Teaching Academy (LTA) in academic year 2020-21 and to highlight the major areas of work for 2021-22.

The Learning and Teaching Academy, formed in March 2020, supports three main functions within the College: Lecturer Development, Learning Technology and the Library Service.

Since its formation, the work of the team has been heavily guided by the need to support a rapid and flexible response to the challenges to learning and teaching posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to this the team developed a model for online learning and teaching, supported staff development in both the pedagogy and practice of teaching online and invested in and supported the tools required to deliver this. In addition, the Library Service increased investment in digital resources and maintained, as restrictions allowed, its availability as a place for study at the heart of both campuses.

In January 2022, Derek Robertson joined as the new Associate Director of the LTA and, as COVID restrictions hopefully ease during the year, the team will be working to retain the best of the learning experience from the past two years and to combine these with the many benefits that on-campus teaching affords. The LTA will also begin to deliver on the goals of the College's Student Academic Experience Strategy which seeks to position the College at the forefront of the sector in supporting learning that is Active, Blended and Connected.

The following sections highlight the major areas of work for the team in 2020-21:

### 2.1 Lecturer Development

In 2020-21 the Lecturer Development team:

- Supported 19 lecturers through the TQFE programme.
- Ran two cohorts of students through the PDA in Teaching Practice in Scotland's Colleges with 36 students passing the programme
- Supported 67 lecturers through the Lecturer Integration programme
- Developed resources for and showcased best practice on the LTA website
- Ran the College's Learning and Teaching Conference (Sept 2021) which was delivered online and comprised 21 live sessions and 16 asynchronous videos and was attended by 378 delegates
- Worked with CitySA on an academic integrity campaign, which will be followed up by an event in March 2022

### 2.2 Learning Technology

The Learning Technology team:

- Worked with Lecturer Development to create a basic standard to support online learning
- Supported Faculties with implementing online and blended learning
- Supported the large-scale roll out and use of MS Teams and Zoom to support effective communication and learning and teaching and extensive weekly webinar programme.
- Procured Canvas as a replacement for MyCity and recruited Faculty champions to support the implementation
- Developed and supported new technology-enabled blended learning spaces in the library – the Fujitsu hub and the Virtual Learning Lab (VLL).

- Supported creation of CDN award winning Get Into College platform

### 2.3 Library Service

The Library Service:

- Maximised access to resources by improving the library search functionality and producing new guides, video support content and induction material
- Worked on the development of the library collection focussing on digital content, including working with APUC on new e-book and serial frameworks
- Developed online support for information literacy skills across the curriculum
- Maintained an onsite service through creating bookable library space and working flexibly to support on-campus and online teaching.

### 2.4 Academic year 2021-22

In support of the vision for the College to support active, blended and connected learning, in 2021-22 the team will focus on the implementation of Canvas and supporting its use as the hub for learning and teaching from August 2022. In addition to technical implementation and staff and student familiarisation with the system this will involve supporting the effective design and development of learning material and the integration of library resources.

In response to the expected return of students to campus over the year, the LTA will also support the learning spaces working group in the development of learning spaces to facilitate collaborative blended learning. As well as considering the broader estate, this will include looking at increasing the space for social and informal learning in the libraries. The team will also work with Faculties in designing blended learning and in equipping staff and student with the digital skills necessary for this to be successful. This will include developing support for the College Development Network's new lecturer digital capability framework.

## 3. Consultation

N/A

## 4. Key Insights

The work of the LTA will be central to supporting the Student Academic Experience Strategy. The team will continue to support the professional development of staff in supporting active pedagogy through TQFE and other programmes and supporting GTCS registration and professional update. We will also develop and support work on learning and curriculum design with a focus on active and collaborative problem-based and project work.

In response to concerns around assessment, expressed in the Student Academic Experience Survey and from the Students Association, the LTA will support work to:

- Support and create resources around an 'assessment for learning' approach, where assessment activity and focus is constructively aligned with the learning outcomes of the unit
- Support effective use of the assessment and feedback tools in Canvas, which support a number of assessment types and promote a feedback dialogue
- Continue work with staff and CitySA around academic integrity.

In addition, and again addressing concerns from the student survey, Canvas will be supported as a hub not only for learning and teaching material but also as a tool for communication and scheduling. This will include links to tools that support collaboration and access to learning resources provided by the Library Service.

## **5. Impact and Implications**

N/A

## **Appendices**

None