Board of Management

Learning & Teaching Committee

Date of Meeting	**Tuesday 10 May 2022**
Paper No.	**LTC4-F**
Agenda Item	**5.1**
Subject of Paper	**Learning & Teaching Academy Update**
FOISA Status	**Disclosable**
Primary Contact	**Derek Robertson**
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Action	**For Noting**

1. Recommendations

This paper is for noting.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to update the Committee on the work of the Learning and Teaching Academy (LTA) in Academic Year 2021-22 and to facilitate discussion.

3. Consultation

This paper was produced by the Learning and Teaching Academy.

4. Key Insights

The LTA consists of three teams: Learning Technology, Lecturer Development and the Library service.

4.1 Learning Technology

- In addition to their continued day-to-day support of the use of technology in learning and teaching, the key role of the Learning Technology team in this academic year has been the implementation of Canvas. As discussed elsewhere on the agenda, this project remains on track for delivery for Academic Year 22-23.
- Learning Technologists continue to support Faculty colleagues in the development of projects under the College's Blended Learning Fund. In addition, the team will shortly be creating an online showcase for BLF projects to ensure that innovative practice is shared across the College.

4.2 Lecturer Development

- The Lecturer Development continue to support and deliver our two accredited programmes (TQFE (25 students) and PDA (21 students)) and to deliver our non-accredited Lecture Integration and First Steps programmes for new lecturing staff.
- The Curriculum Head (Fiona Balloch) worked with CitySA on an impactful project and conference focussed on academic integrity. The Conference, hosted online by the College on 10 March, was attended by 54 delegates and the project has been nominated for Herald HE and NUS Scotland awards. The LTA and CitySA continue to support the introduction of legislation on the banning of 'essay mills' in Scotland as is in place elsewhere in the UK.
- Fiona Balloch is also leading on development of the College's in-person Learning and Teaching Conference on 28 June at City Campus. The conference allows the College to showcase innovative work taking place in Faculties (including BLF outputs) and to engage with external voices and institutions. The conference call for papers closes at the end of May and two high profile keynotes (Prof. Gilly Salmon and Jared Stein (Instructure and author on blended learning)) have confirmed attendance.
- The team have facilitated a number of standalone workshops and have developed resources to support the move to blended learning under the Student Academic Experience Strategy. On 16 May the LTA will be supporting a QAA workshop on the anti-racist curriculum.
- The College will support 20 students in through the TQFE programme in 2022-23. This is the final year of our delivery agreement with the University of Aberdeen and we will undertake a tendering exercise in the second half of 2022.

4.3 Library

- Following the removal of COVID restrictions around physical distancing and the consequent greater availability of on-campus services, both City and Riverside libraries are back to pre-COVID opening hours (Monday – Thursday 8.30am to 9pm*, Friday 08.30 – 5pm. *Self-service 7 – 9pm)
- The library service continues to develop the study spaces available to students. Group study space has continued to be bookable but most space is available on a walk-up basis.

- The development of the library collection continues the move from print to digital access where appropriate. Budget spend in 2019-20 was 56% print and 44%; in 2020-21 spend was 70% digital and 30% print. eBook availability has increased by one-third from 2019 with an increase in usage of 150%
- City campus library will support IT in the distribution of student laptops in August 2022
- The library has been looking at options the relocation of the Virtual Learning Lab (currently located on level 3 at City campus) and considering options for the vacated space, including the possible provision of bookable individual study space for online classes. This work will take place in summer 2022.

4.4 Future activity
Over the rest of 2022 the LTA will be focussed on:
- Continuing support for the roll out of Canvas
- Assessment – supporting colleagues in the design of effective assessment and the use of Canvas to support feedback and feedforward
- Blended learning – developing resources and learning design workshops to support the implementation of blended learning
- Supporting a pilot and evaluation of active, connected learning spaces to support blended learning (subject to approval)
- Developing resources to support lecturers in the professional update activities that support their continued GTCS registration.

5. Impact and Implications

5.1 Implications for the quality of academic provision and / or the student experience
The work of the LTA continues to support the Student Academic Experience Strategy. This is the focus of current operational planning for 2022-23.

5.3 Equality Impact, Diversity and Inclusion and Legal compliance
The move to blended learning should support more flexibility in delivery and making attendance more accessible for students. Developments in learning technology covered in the Canvas paper elsewhere on the agenda support inclusion through improving the accessibility of learning material.