

Board of Management

Learning and Teaching Committee

Date of Meeting	Tuesday 22 November 2022
Paper No.	LTC2-F
Agenda Item	5.1
Subject of Paper	Learning and Teaching Academy Update
FOISA Status	Disclosable
Primary Contact	Dr Derek Robertson, Associate Director, LTA
Date of production	14 Nov 2022
Action	For Noting

1. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note 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 2022-23.

3. Consultation

N/A

4. Key Insights

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

4.1 Lecturer Development

In 2022-23:

- 20 candidates were enrolled in the TQFE programme with the University of Aberdeen. Three candidates have had to withdraw and will defer to 2023-24
- Work is beginning on the procurement of a TQFE contract from 2023 onwards. The College is seeking more of a partnership model with the universities who offer TQFE and has begun discussions with them around how this might look before starting the formal procurement process.
- 27 candidates enrolled for PDA in Teaching Practice in Scotland's Colleges (23 internal and 4 external). 1 internal candidate withdrew on leaving the College.
- Numbers are low for the First Steps into Teaching (6 lecturers) and the Lecturer Integration (30 invited, 16 attended course induction) programmes. This is partly explained by the Colleges' current recruitment policies and the limited number of new lecturers and bank lecturers, but the LTA is working with Organisational Development to ensure that new teaching staff receive training as soon as possible as they join the College.
- Work has begun on organising the College's Learning and Teaching Conference on 7 March 2023.
- The LTA has helped produce guidelines for staff on designing and blended learning in line with the Student Academic Experience Strategy
- The LTA has secured funding as the lead institution on a QAA Enhancement Theme project looking at the learning and teaching experience of students moving from college to University, The College is working with Edinburgh Napier University and Glasgow Caledonian University.
- The LTA has supported a bid to the NCFE Assessment Innovation Fund to look at the assessment of meta-skills. This aligns with the Objective 1.1 of the Student Academic Experience Strategy.

4.2 Learning Technology

As academic year 2022-23 has begun the Learning Technology team has overseen the successful introduction of Canvas:

- Ongoing support and training for staff, with the focus moving from content creation to assessment and feedback
- The roll out of and training in Blackboard Ally (accessibility checking and reporting software) to increase the accessibility of learning and teaching content in Canvas
- The rollout of and training in Panopto, a video platform that has a simple workflow for creating and sharing video content. As part of the strategic move to blended learning it is intended that video demonstrations and presentations are made available asynchronously online with synchronous classroom activity being active and participative. The use of Panopto is supported by the Colleges' new Learning Capture policy.

- The LTA will oversee the development of three active learning classrooms in early December. These will be technology rich classrooms that encourage student collaboration and support hybrid teaching where some participants are on campus and some online. This project will also see the Virtual Learning Lab move location within the library.

4.3 Library Service

The Library Service:

- Has supported the distribution of 1067 student laptops
- Has reopened the short-term laptop loan service at both Riverside and City campuses
- Has received nearly 700 bookings so far for group study space
- At time of writing has delivered 38 information literacy sessions, face to face and online, across the curriculum areas. In addition, online resources for asynchronous information skills support have been created.
- Is moving the Visual Learning Lab to another site on level 3 of City campus library and re sharing the area as individual study space.
- Is developing statistical reporting on digital resource usage to inform decision making around acquisitions.

4.4 Short-term future work

The operational plan for the LTA in 2022-23 prioritises support for blended learning. The Lecturer Development and Learning Technology teams are developing resources for teaching staff around curriculum design for blended learning that will be shared within the next month.

The LTA is also working on the development of learning spaces including active classrooms, library study space and IT labs.

5. Impact and Implications

N/A

Appendices

None