

Board of Management Learning and Teaching Committee

Date of Meeting	Thursday 11 May 2023
Paper No.	LTC4-G
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	3 May 2023
Action	For Noting

1. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note this report.

2. Purpose

This paper is to give an 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.

2.1 Lecturer Development

Course provision

- 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 continues on the procurement of a TQFE contract from 2023 onwards. This work has been delayed by the renewal of the APUC framework that covers this provision (now due 10 May). The College is seeking a partnership model with the universities who offer TQFE and has been in discussions with them about this with a view to appointing by the end of May.
- 27 candidates enrolled for PDA in Teaching Practice in Scotland's Colleges (23 internal and 4 external).
- In addition, in January, the College began an external PDA cohort from the Scottish Prison Service College, with the programme running until June.

Personnel

- Fiona Balloch, Curriculum Head in the Lecturer Development team, left the College on 2 May. Fiona had worked at the College for several years and supported numerous colleagues through their professional development journey. She was well respected by internal and external colleagues and will be greatly missed.
Recruitment for a replacement, at lecturer level, will take place over the summer.

Conference

- The College's Learning and Teaching Conference took place at City campus on 7 March 2023.
- There were 278 registered delegates, an increase of 28% on 2022. 49 delegates were external to the College. A further 99 delegates, 32 of whom were external, registered as online attendees.
- The conference comprised a keynote session followed by 15 elective sessions (comprising 21 presentations)
- Feedback gathered via the post-conference survey was very positive – there was particular praise for the keynote speaker (Donald Clark) and the elective sessions, with respondents thinking that they were interesting and useful for practice
- Points to consider for next year were mostly around logistics – having the programme available earlier, better signposting and support for external delegates, and more clarity around online options.
- Next year's conference will take place on 23 January 2024.

2.2 Learning Technology

The Learning Technology team has supported the successful introduction of Canvas in academic year 2023. As the year ends ongoing priorities are:

- Rollover of Canvas modules for next academic year
- Developing guidance on using AI in education
- Developing support for the use of assistive technology.

In December 2022 the LTA oversaw the development of three active learning classrooms. These technology-rich classrooms are designed to encourage student collaboration and to support hybrid teaching where some participants are on campus and some online. In the early part of this year we have been assisting the use of these rooms and an evaluation among early users is about to begin with a view to the rooms being made available on the regular timetable from August 2023.

2.3 Library Service

Library spaces:

- During this academic year in numbers there have been 26026 library visits.
- The library service has been working on reorganising the study space on level 3 of the library at City campus. This includes additional group study space, space for students to work online and the moving of the Visual Learning Lab into the existing Fujitsu hub

Collection development

- Ongoing development of the digital collection based on usage stats. The strategic ambition to become a 'digital first' library is challenged by the cost of digital versus print resources at a time of financial pressures.
- Penny Robertson is now a representative on the Jisc Learning Content Expert Group, a mix of HE and FE colleagues from across the UK, which helps us to advocate on the above.

Information literacy

- 72 workshops have been delivered in 2023-24.
- The library service is collaborating with the Student Experience and the Learning Technology team to promote a co-ordinated programme of academic and digital skills provision for students
- World Book Night on 23 April saw 160 copies of MJ Sullivan's *Game Over* gifted to students.

5. Impact and Implications

N/A