

NoWAL Academic Skills Community of Practice
Meeting 3 – Edgehill University
Catalyst, St Helens Road, Ormskirk, L39 4QP
Friday 12th July 2019, 10am – 1pm
Willow Room

Attendees

Liz Johnson	University of Chester
Ella Turner	University of Chester
Fran Robinson	UCLan
Suzanne Waugh	University of Salford
Gill Robinson	Manchester Metropolitan University
Craig Morley	University of Manchester
Bryony Parsons	University of Liverpool
Anne Williams	University of Chester
Sam Aston	University of Manchester
Louise Speakman	Edgehill University
John Wright	Edgehill University
Shannen Dabson	Edgehill University
Sharon Pieroni	Edgehill University
Helen Briscoe	Edgehill University

Apologies

Maisie Prior	Edgehill University
Kat Molesworth	Edge Hill University
Rhian Wyn-Williams	LJMU
Avril Buchanan	Manchester Metropolitan University
Dawn Grundy	Bolton University
Megan Benson	UCLan

Tour of Catalyst

Presentations:

All slides for presentations are attached.

- a) Catalyst: Converged Frontline Services
Jenny Foster – Customer Support Manager
- b) Academic Engagement
Lorna Clarke – Academic Services Manager
- c) Uniskills
Julie Nolan – Student Engagement Manager
- d) Unispeaks
Helen Briscoe – Academic Skills Office

BP mentioned they have had several attempts on presentations workshops with limited success and are considering collaborating with peer mentors next year

Q: AW asked about the preparation of the workshop. HB explained they worked in reverse. Sessions were allocated in the calendar then the preparation took place. Preparation consisted of attended TedX and Ignite, both are external events on public speaking. Public speaking was researched by investigating what was already in place in the community and if it worked or not.

Q: SA asked if EHU had presentation workshops embedded in the curriculum. EHU replied no. SA discussed the logic of embedded presentation sessions, UOM have been increasingly asked for this and understand that this is due to assessments being presentation-based subjects.

SA shared their Presentation Karaoke method where slides are readily prepared for the session and students are asked to work with the slides and speak around the subject, more to lift confidence than gain knowledge of the topic.

HB explained they had activities planned (discuss the item in the bag) in the event there were no willing participants in Unispeaks. SW mentioned they do something like this but with random words.

Round table discussions:

- i) Craig Morley & Samantha Aston – The University of Manchester

How do other institutions support the transitions between different levels/years at University (both extra-curricular and in embedded support with academics)?

BP mentioned had discussed this with a colleague at UOL in respect to what is the difference between L4 and L7 because the student needs to remain unbiased at each level the statement that struck was that as the student progresses there is more weighting on marks. BP is considering introducing an online module to refresh skills.

SP mentioned EHU has an institutional level policy on referencing which is an exact of where students should be at each level.

EHU has piloted a summer workshop schedule that has had a good uptake but did note that this is not suitable for all students, especially those not local to the university.

- ii) Liz Johnson – University of Chester
How do you use social media, Twitter for events and engagement?

EHU

- follows national initiatives and is largely used for promotion:
- Bookface
- Online book club – engagement more international than university level
- Top tips
- End of session slide and email signature
- The use of Canva for images
- Competitions
- Suggested speaking to Julie Nolan who is lead on the Social Media drive

FR of UCLan:

- look at trends and use social media to give them a 'face'
- Special collections appear to receive with most of their engagement through research engagement

UOM:

- link with blog
- have a plan in advance
- use the peak time calendar and schedule tweets with HootSuite

Discussion of theme for next meeting – to be held at University of Salford in November 2019. Any suggestions to be emailed.

Action: University of Salford to send out a doodle poll of possible dates for the meeting in November

Action: Dawn Grundy has kindly expressed an interest in hosting the March 2020 meeting at Bolton University. Discuss at next meeting.