An Evolving Journey
Transitions of the Teaching Fellow

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The Teaching Fellow

• Previously considered as perhaps an “extra pair of hands” to deliver many hours of teaching with little responsibility

• Lecturers, Readers and Professorial staff have traditionally lead on teaching matters, but with increasing demands on researchers time there is a real need to perhaps split some of these responsibilities to allow the researcher to research and the teacher to teach.

• Currently within SMS, the Teaching Fellow has the freedom to pursue almost any avenue of career progression relative to the Lecturer
  • Discipline-specific research
  • Pedagogic research
  • Central and external roles
Workshop plan...

• Quick overview of John and Steve’s career progression to date

• Highlights of the transition points between the various grades

• External opportunities for recognition

• Lots of discussion around issues we all face as teaching staff
John Barrow

• **1998-2002** – BSc Biochemistry

• **2002-2005** – PhD Molecular Biology

• **2005-2009** – Postdoctoral research scientist

• **2009-2013** – Teaching Fellow

• **2013-Present** – Senior Teaching Fellow
Teaching Fellow (2009-2013)

• Started CRef funded position – *Grade 6*, 2 years of money, fixed-term contract
  • Taught practical classes and lectures as the “extra pair of hands” in my discipline
• Opportunity arose to coordinate 3 courses
  • Large first year cell biology course – *SM1501* (300-450 students)
  • Large second year biochemistry course – *BI25M7* (120-250 students)
• Asked to coordinate a new first year SMS course
  • *SM1001* (~200 students) – completely new and I lead the design of course structure from the ground up
• Began to work with more central sections of the institution as part of retention policies and founded the SMS peer mentoring scheme
• 2012 – Applied for and received promotion to Grade 7 from the above and previous discipline-specific research publications
Senior Teaching Fellow (2013–present)

• 2013 – Applied for and received promotion to Grade 8 from the previous experience and further experience below

• Expanded the SMS peer mentoring scheme to become the institution-wide S4S scheme

• Work with central universities sections to enhance the student learning experience and retention agendas

• Coordinate Honours teaching for the Molecular Medical Sciences
Steve Tucker

• 1996-2000 – BSc Biomedical Sciences (pharmacology)

• 2000-2003 – PhD Pharmacology

• 2003-2008 – Postdoctoral research scientist

• 2008-2012 – Teaching Fellow

• 2012-Present – Senior Teaching Fellow
Teaching Fellow (2008-2012)

• Post arose on the back of new Dental School – *to back fill teaching in SMS*
  • Began with a few sets of lectures and some practical classes
  • Developed some new practical and tutorial classes

• Began coordinating 2 *core* SMS courses
  • BI25B2 – core second year course across biomedical discipline (~250 students)
  • SM3002 – advanced course taken alongside specific discipline courses (~120 students)
  • Involvement in 6<sup>th</sup> century courses (Mind Machine, Science and the Media)

• Extended involvement into MSc programme
  • Developed and implemented a new practical skills module compulsory for all clinical pharmacology students. Collaboration with University of Lund.

• Recruited to CLSM retention and progression committee
  • Tasked with improving retention at level 3 – development of more institution-wide responsibility

• Promotion to grade 7 in 2009
Senior Teaching Fellow (2012-present)

- Promotion to grade 8 in 2012
- Degree programme coordinator for UG pharmacology degrees
- Coordinate 7 courses
- Involved in an array of University-wide working groups across areas of the student experience and widening participation strategies
- Chair of new retention *task force* aiming to deliver on the strategic plan
- Have been awarded many small grants for curricular development
- Also supervising a PhD student
Professional Development

• Teaching symposia
• Principles of Learning & Teaching in Higher Education
• PG Cert in Higher Education Learning & Teaching
  • Fellowship of the HEA
• HEA Senior Fellowship
  • Sustained record in leading, managing, organising programmes or discipline areas
• HEA STEM Conference
• QAA Enhancement Themes Conference
• Learned societies (e.g. BPS)