

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

EMPLOYABILITY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 02 February 2022

Present: Tracey Innes (Co-Chair), Justin Borg Barthtet, David Green, Heather May Morgan, Ondrej Kucerak, Flora Alapy, Lucy Leiper, Gillian Mackintosh, Samantha May, Amir Siddiq, Alisdair McKibben

Apologies: John Barrow, Lenka Mbadugha, Stuart Durkin, Joy Perkins, Helen Pierce, Norman Hutchison

1. Approval of the minute of the meeting held on 10th December 2021 (EEC/020222/001)

Minutes read and approved by committee.

2. Matters Arising including review of Action Log (EEC/020222/002)

During review of action log, it was noted that the position of Student President of the Student's Association is now filled, and Remit and Composition should be updated accordingly. Also suggested that as the NCS position is still vacant that we go back to the department with another request for a representative.

(Action: Alisdair to update Remit and Composition)

(Action: John Barrow to contact School of NCS again)

Action log to be updated to include progress being made with Data Insights.

It was noted during the discussion that the response rate of the GO data is very limited and as such questions its usability (example only one response from Archaeology class). Question raised as to what other ways we could gather more robust data sets from graduating students to increase sample size. There is work being done to address this with one proposal being an online graduation survey which would be a necessary step in the application process for graduation and would provide data on expected progression of our graduating students. Timeline for this is likely 2023/24. Additional comment raised regarding the need for some qualitative data to help further inform the university of the career readiness of their students.

(Action: Tracey to raise the concern with lack of data sets to Graduate Outcome Steering Group)

3. QAA Quality Code on Placement Learning (EEC/020222/003)

Update given from Gillian Mackintosh in John Barrow's absence. The QAA has a Quality Code on Placement Learning, and the University has recently undertaken a significant piece of work mapping to that code. The document is active and will stay under review. It is currently online and can be found [here](#). It was suggested the Work Placement Task and Finish Group (TFG) should make reference to the quality code.

(Action: Tracey Innes to take the Work based Learning Guidance to next Work Placement TFG)

4. Career Registration

Currently refining Career Registration questions which is on track for launch for Student Registration in 2022. Draft questions are ready to start testing with student groups in the beginning of March. Student experience running a feedback survey then and Career Registrations will tie into that. Any departments with students who would like to have the questions tested on their student cohorts are welcomed to ask a member of the Careers Team to test the questions with those students.

(Action: Tracey Innes to meet with Lucy Leiper to identify a PGR cohort to test questions with)

(Action: Tracey Innes to put draft questions into EEC TEAMS site for comment)

5. Aberdeen 2040 Graduate Attributes and Skills (EEC/020222/004a) (EEC/020222/004b)

As John Barrow was unable to attend due to sickness, this item will be discussed at the next EEC meeting. Suggestion that the UEC reporting documents, which would be more digestible, be listed as papers to help inform these discussions rather than minutes and action logs.

(Action: John Barrow to request this from the Aberdeen 2040 Graduate Attributes and Skills clerk ahead of next meeting)

6. Update on Work Placement Task and Finish Group

(EEC/020222/005)

First meeting of Work Placement TFG has taken place. Large amount of work to be done to unpick how we make practical steps to develop a framework. Potential need for resource to upscale the activity in order to progress this work which will be included in the report to senior management. Question posed to the committee to understand how the Work Placement TFG can effectively reach out to each School to learn about what Work Placement/Work based learning is currently taking place, what work is being done to increase this and how best the group can capture this in a systematic way.

DG was able to speak to discussions he has had within the School of Geoscience especially PGT directors. Currently gathering information. Some areas are fully invested in work-based learning activities others have little intention to increase this. Comment made that it can often be based on the nature of the course. LL posed the question as to how this fits in with the PGR students and what this community need in terms of work placement/experience. Additional comment about journey mapping which includes involvement of employers within this group.

(Action: Discussion on progress of Work Placement TFG to be a rolling item to EEC agendas)

(Action Tracey Innes to attend next PGR committee as all schools are represented there)

7. International Experience Task and Finish Group

(EEC/020222/006)

As John Barrow was unable to attend due to sickness, this item will be discussed at the next EEC meeting. Suggestion that the UEC reporting documents, which would be more digestible, be listed as papers to help inform these discussions rather than minutes and action logs.

(Action: John Barrow to request this from International Experience TFG clerk ahead of next meeting)

8. Removal of Aberdeen Internship and InternPlus Programmes from ET

(EEC/020222/007)

Point was raised that by removing the Aberdeen Internship and InternPlus programmes from the Enhanced Transcript we risk being able to evidence the University's direct contribution to supporting students with professional development and work experience. Additional comment made that the Aberdeen Internship and InternPlus programmes are highly competitive and being merged with the ABDNConnect programme may dilute their prestige (e.g., any other part time job would be same accreditation/recognition as the University's Internship Programmes).

No consensus agreed.

(Action: Alisdair to bring back to EEC pros and cons list of changes being proposed for the committee to digest and understand consequences of the decision more easily. Requires a decision ahead of next cohort of interns starting in the summer. Alisdair to revise wording in job adverts and web pages)

9. AOB

Increase conversation around joined up thinking within the many different TFGs and committees. Opportunity for the committee to get and update around "upskilling". Bring high level findings of international student report to be discussed in future EEC meetings.

10. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 23rd 2022, at 2pm, by way of Microsoft Teams.