**Education Committee – summary of meeting held on 12.05.22**

1. **Learning and Teaching Strategy Refresh**

The group received an update on the upcoming refresh of the LTS. It was noted that the four pillars of this would be Curriculum Review, pedagogy transformation, digital enhancement, and inclusive education. Consultation across the College will happen over the coming months through open town-hall meetings, online consultations, curriculum review reflection, and pop-up stands across the College.

It was emphasised that departmental voices would be at the forefront of consultations around the refresh.

1. **Festival of Learning and Teaching**

It was noted that around 130 people had registered for the upcoming festival and that there should be good attendance across all three days. There was particular excitement about the opportunity for in-person events to be run.

1. **Digital education review**

Cris Bloomfield joined the meeting to provide an update on the digital education review which is looking at both the College’s current approach and at the level of innovation across the sector. The work done so far has identified 115 unique products being used support digital education across the College, with 40 of these being shared and 75 being used in a single area. Several examples of different products being used for the same function in different parts of the College have also been identified.

The outputs of the review will include a summary report and a number of recommendations, covering areas identified for improvement, resource implications, and alignment with strategies and other areas of College.

The review work currently includes putting together a diagram which shows how all digital education products are linked, and the Committee suggested adding tools such as Celcat and Banner to this, even though they are not direct digital education tools.

1. **Scholarships**

An update was provided on the work of the Studentships and Scholarships Strategy Committee (SSSC) which was formed in September 2020 with the ultimate aim of creating a scholarships strategy aligned with other areas of College.

The SSSC has two sub-groups, one for targeted scholarships and one for international scholarships, and is looking into the development on a search tool to help students find scholarships suitable for them. It has also worked on the implementation of a new scholarship for student of Black heritage, new international scholarships, and a sanctuary scholarship for displaced students.

1. **UKVI, ATAS and admissions pipeline**

Lizzie Huckle and David Parrott joined the meeting to inform the group that the Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) requirements have recently become more rigorous, and that this was resulting in an increasing number of prospective and current students being denied visas. The changes are having a particular impact on students from China on certain programmes, especially those who have studied at specific institutions previously.

The grounds for being refused ATAS clearance are not disclosed to either the College or student, and so this makes appealing the decision very difficult. However, the UK Government insists that there are very good security reasons behind a student being denied ATAS clearance, and that they should not be studying at a UK University.

The Committee approved the formation of a working group to discuss ATAS and its impact on admissions and continuing students. It was agreed that ATAS clearance centred around export of education/research, and so if a student is not given a visa due to ATAS, they should not continue on their programme remotely either.

The Committee also noted the likelihood of delays in granting visas over the summer and of the premium visa route not being available to students this year. It is therefore important that departments are encouraged to make confirmed offers to visa nationals by the end of May. The Committee approved a communication on this topic to be sent out to admissions colleagues by the Head of Admissions.

1. **TEF metrics**

The Committee noted that the College had received draft metrics from the OfS, but that these would change when the current year’s NSS results were added. Strategic Planning will soon be in touch with stakeholders to discuss the different types of information to include in the TEF submission.

The Committee was made aware of a change in the process from last year which means that the student submission will be separate rather than included in the College’s TEF response. The OfS has also been clear that the student response does not just refer to the Student Union, but to the wider student body.

1. **ICU online feedback tool**

The Committee was given a brief demonstration of a new feedback tool which will be trialled in Materials, Physics and Chemistry and will enable students to provide more structured feedback to reps.

Padlet has been chosen to trial the tool due to costs, but depending on the success of the trial, the exact tool used going forward might be different, and the Committee did suggest that alternative tools should be explored.

1. **Ukraine situations and admissions**

It was noted that many universities had already closed for applications and that currently, if applications were to re-open to allow Ukrainian students to apply, applications would have to be re-opened for all students and every application would have to be considered based on academic merit, regardless of domicile. It would not be possible to re-open applications only for Ukrainian students or to only accept applications from Ukrainian students if applications were re-opened for everyone.

1. **Updates from other committees**

The Committee received updates from the following meeting groups:

* Student Experience Committee
* Teaching and Learning (Product) Board

The next meeting of the Education Committee will be held on **9 June 2022**.