

Sex, Drugs & RLOs

1st meeting of Project Advisory Board

UCeL, 1st Floor, 16 Mill Lane, Cambridge CB2 1SB

11:00 am Wednesday 31 March 2004

Present: Darin Weinberg (DW), Peter Lunn (PL), Dawn Leeder (DL), Al Leeder (AL), Bruce Lindsay (BL), Iain Shuttleworth (IS), Andrew Russell (AR)

Apologies: Bryan Turner, Nick Mascie-Taylor, Brian Salter, Catherine Panter-Brick, Rachel Casiday, Iain Edgar, Maya Unnithan, Valentina Napolitano Quayson, Helen Howard, Becky Tovey

DL welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

For those unfamiliar with RLOs, two were demonstrated in some detail and the UCeL¹ definition of an RLO was explained. The important point is that they are based on a single learning objective which makes them more likely to be self-contained and stand-alone.

Project Advisory Board

Communications: AL to set up website at www.ucel.ac.uk/sdr/

Mailing list to be set up, probably on JISCMail².

AR commented that the SHIELD³ site should be included. DL said it could link to the new project site and vice versa. This site required its own personality.

The composition of the board was agreed. It was noted that colleagues from Sussex had been unable to attend but it was hoped they could come to future meetings. C-SAP has also sent apologies and again, the board welcomed their attendance at future meetings. The frequency of meetings was then discussed. It was agreed to meet on a needs basis, and probably more often in the early stages, but no less than three times during the project's lifespan. Workshops would increase the frequency of contact.

Project outline

DL outlined the project with reference to the bid document. She drew board members' attention to the topics for development: sexually transmitted diseases and reproduction; and drugs and drug dependency. It was agreed that each participant would draw up a wish-list of topics based around their own key area of focus.

Subject specialisation (of relevance to *this* project):

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Peter Lunn | Human ecology, nutrition, reproduction |
| Darin Weinberg | Drug dependency |
| Iain Shuttleworth | STDs, sexual and reproductive health |
| Andrew Russell | Contraception |
| Bruce Lindsay | Child health |

DL emphasised the need for the RLOs this project creates to be as small and self-contained as possible. This would, she thought, be a challenge given the subject area, but not it was hoped,

¹ www.ucel.ac.uk

² www.jiscmail.ac.uk

³ www.ucel.ac.uk/shield/

insurmountable. Ideally, she hoped for a range of RLOs, each reflecting a particular facet of an issue or principle, which could be repurposed across the different contributing disciplines.

DL explained **UCeL tools, templates and methods**. Documents, in the form of content specification, peer-review and student evaluations are all open source and downloadable in various formats from the UCeL website⁴. The project was broadly divided into two stages – content creation through the workshops and RLO development at the UCeL hub.

Project activities, deliverables and timescales as detailed in the proposal were agreed as realistic. BL queried whether the RLOs could be used specifically in teaching and student evaluations in October/November 2004, as it was not known at this stage if those topics would be on the syllabus at that time. DL said that as the project continued over a year, there was sufficient flexibility for this to occur at a later date if necessary.

8 RLOs will be developed during the project. Specific topics will largely be determined in the workshops. Participants will be requested to draw up a list of learning objectives they would most like to develop as a pre-workshop activity and bring with for discussion.

It was agreed that external participants could also attend the workshops, provided project members had first refusal on spaces.

Workshops

Workshops would be variants of the acclaimed UCeL one-day hands-on national workshop series⁵. The first stage would be to hold the workshops at Cambridge, UEA and Durham. Dates needed to be fixed in May or June.

Cambridge

DW said he would prefer to wait until Bryan Turner returned (within the next few days). DL agreed to contact DW and PL just after Easter to decide a date for the Cambridge workshop but early June was looking favourite. DL would inform Becky Tovey and ask her to inform colleagues in Dept of Public Health

UEA

BL and IS offered either 24 or 26 May as dates for UEA workshop. BL would book a room and confirm. BL and IS would take responsibility for targeting participants at UEA. BL thought Health Informatics could be interested. DL suggested Medicine too, but BL noted that most teachers had NHS responsibilities. AR said it was the same at Durham.

Durham

AR offered **22 June 2004** as the date for the Durham workshop and agreed to book the venue, identify key contributors, and put out an email to specifically targeted colleagues and departments to recruit participants.

Evaluation & dissemination strategy

Student evaluations would mainly be conducted in October/November. AR thought there should be some provision for learning lab type evaluation if the topic wasn't actually being taught that term and this was agreed.

⁴ www.uce.ac.uk/resources/

⁵ www.uce.ac.uk/workshops/

DL drew members' attention to C-SAP's condition of an evaluation demonstrating the pedagogic impact and metrics of transferability and stressed the necessity for a standard evaluation tool to be applied across all institutions so that comparisons could be easily made. It was agreed to use the UCeL evaluation questionnaire.

Dissemination would be via the website, mailing list and by publication and presentations. All agreed that a list of suitable journals (particularly ones contributing to RAE) should be collated and made available on the website. These should be either specific teaching and learning journals in HE (i.e. ALT-J) or subject specific educational ones (i.e. Sociology and education).

C-SAP and other LTSNs will also be requested to disseminate the project by publicising the workshops and the completed resources.

UCeL will also disseminate the project and host the resources making them available to a wide range of subject areas.

Funding

Total project funding from C-SAP is £15000 – the bulk of which (~£10K) is for RLO development. The rest is largely for the workshops and content creation. DL explained that she had secured some matched funding for the project from HEFCE T & L allocation within Cambridge. Whilst this would mean that more RLOs could be created (8 instead of 4) it also meant that the HEFCE component had to be spent within Cambridge. However all would benefit from the resources created. The principle of this was agreed

Each workshop organiser would invoice Cambridge (through DL) for expenses (i.e. room hire, student bursaries (3 @ £30 each, plus travel expenses if necessary), catering (sandwich lunch, tea, coffee etc) and any other reasonable costs.

There was provision of funds for content commissioning and peer-review (£300 and £100 respectively). Content to be developed would be identified in the workshops and ratified through the project board. There were 8 pieces of content to be commissioned in total. DL would co-ordinate the peer-review process.

Date of next meeting – to be agreed

The meeting closed at 1:15 pm