Conference Themes in Detail

sparqs Conference – Thursday 23rd March 2017
Celebrating the impact of the student voice on quality enhancement

Themes

Proposals are invited across the following four themes:

Governance, Democracy and Formal Quality Processes

This theme focuses on the impact that students and the student body are having on an aspect of college or university policy, direction and decision-making. It may include examples of how democratic structures, including the students' association and class rep systems, have been strengthened, particularly in the area of learning, teaching and quality enhancement. Other examples include student engagement with internal and external review arrangements in colleges and universities, and engagement with data, including survey data. Work around Student Partnership Agreements in supporting a change agenda would also be interesting. It will also consider how partnership working in the college sector relates to the Framework for the Development of Strong and Effective College Students' Associations in Scotland.

Diversity

This theme is looking at developments in student engagement within the context of an increasingly diverse student population and modes of study. We would be keen to hear of developments in (amongst others) engaging apprentices, school pupils, students transitioning between sectors and those studying at a distance and at transnational campuses.

Co-creation in curriculum design and delivery

Moving on from approaches which focus on students merely providing commentary on and evaluation on their learning experience, more creative approaches to student engagement enable students to shape their education and work in partnership to co-create knowledge and the curriculum. These are ideas which are reflected in the quality frameworks for both colleges and universities. We are interested in learning about approaches that colleagues have taken to fostering the creative, empowering and supportive environment needed to allow this sort of co-creation to take place and be sustainable.

Student-led initiatives

In this theme we are particularly keen to explore work where students are not just participants, but are key to the initiation, planning and delivery of the project or development. We are keen to look at learning and teaching initiatives and projects which are led by students, and which have a positive impact on their fellow students, the institution and/or the wider community.

Proposals

We welcome proposals that are related to practice as well as strategies and policy making. Our clear focus is on proposals which demonstrate real impact; however we are keen to see proposals which show significant progress in, and the potential impact of, initiatives.

Proposals are invited in the following formats:

Presentations:
30 minutes are allocated to presentations, with time for around 5 minutes for Q&A.

Workshops:
75 minutes are allocated to workshops. These should be participatory and enable delegates to discuss and debate issues.

Posters and displays:
Poster/display sessions provide opportunities for presentation of innovative developments and practice whilst also enabling informal face to face discussion. Poster/display sessions will be focused on the networking lunch session and the two break time periods in the morning and afternoon.

Submitting proposals

The deadline for submitting proposals is **Monday 12th December 2016**.

We hope to be in a position to notify successful proposers shortly after that date. If you are accepted to deliver a workshop, presentation or poster/display session please note that you will be required to submit the full materials to sparqs by **Friday 24th February 2017.**

All proposals should be submitted by completing the jotform accessed via the following link: https://form.jotformeu.com/63075078530354.

Please indicate which conference theme your proposal covers. You may submit more than one proposal but you are not permitted to submit the same proposal in multiple themes. Your abstract must not exceed 250 words and your session description must not exceed 75 words.