

Strategic review of Student Partnership initiatives at institutional level (using Scotland's Ambition for Student Partnership) #11

Podcast Part 2

Transcript

0:00 Catriona Bell
Wonderful, wonderful.

0:02 Catriona Bell
And so how did you get started?

0:05 Pamela Calabrese
So I think having that guidance within the document, within the resource is really important.

0:11 Pamela Calabrese
And that was really important for me.

0:12 Pamela Calabrese
And I took, I took the, the Features and the Indicators and I created a mapping document.

0:20 Pamela Calabrese
So getting down to the, the nitty gritty of it.

0:23 Pamela Calabrese
So I had three columns in my document.

0:26 Pamela Calabrese
I had the suggested evidence, which was the Indicators, I had the next column was activity at Edinburgh Napier and at, at ENSA, the Students' Association.

0:35 Pamela Calabrese
And then I had possible areas for further development.

0:38 Pamela Calabrese
So the things that I felt were the gaps and that were emerging as, as areas we needed to work on.

0:45 Pamela Calabrese
So I started detailing the work that we were doing and thinking about where we could do more.

0:52 Pamela Calabrese

I took some of the Indicators to departmental meetings.

0:56 Pamela Calabrese

That was, you know, my own colleagues within the university and we had some of the student consultants that work with me participating in that.

1:04 Pamela Calabrese

So we had students and workshopped those Indicators in small groups.

1:10 Pamela Calabrese

And then I took that together with the input I put into our strategic partnership group and worked with colleagues in the Students' Association to identify the indicators where we felt students would feel most able to engage.

1:26 Pamela Calabrese

And we took those to Rep forums and to the Student Council for some discussion.

1:32 Catriona Bell

Nice.

1:32 Catriona Bell

That's really nice.

1:33 Catriona Bell

And so you're absolutely modelling student partnership working with ENSA all the way through this and co-creating as you went.

1:39 Catriona Bell

That's really interesting. Thank you.

1:42 Catriona Bell

And were there any particular reasons you chose that approach, or is that the way you always work?

1:47 Pamela Calabrese

That is really the way we do always work sort of in terms of collaboration around partnership. I think probably also important to, to touch on kind of why I, why I decided just to, to make that start independently, you know, rather than from the get-go having the, you know, all heads together.

2:08 Pamela Calabrese

So I think I felt as an institutional lead for student partnership, I have that oversight of activities across the piece.

2:16 Pamela Calabrese

And so it made sense for me to start putting things down on paper.

2:20 Pamela Calabrese

And then of course, I knew there would, there would be some gaps there.

2:25 Pamela Calabrese

You know, there's a particular section about the Students' Union, Students' Association particularly.

2:29 Pamela Calabrese

Well, you know, I can't, I can, I can give my perspective of that, but that needs to come from colleagues in the Students' Association.

2:37 Pamela Calabrese

So it's really important then to collaborate with the colleagues that are directly involved in the activities that are included or, you know, would, would align with those indicators.

2:48 Pamela Calabrese

So I'm, I'm proud of the progress we've made with it, but sorry that, that we've made with, with partnership particularly, but felt there was more to do.

2:59 Pamela Calabrese

And, and I think working through it in this way is helping to draw things out and in yeah, quite a collaborative way.

3:08 Catriona Bell

OK, that's really good to hear.

3:10 Catriona Bell

And where have you got to in your journey with it so far?

3:14 Pamela Calabrese

OK, so we have, I mentioned that this is going to our Student Rep forums, which are organised and led by the Students' Association and also to Student Council.

3:27 Pamela Calabrese

So they've, they've input on that. And we've, we've got to a point where we've, we've worked through the document and colour-coded.

3:37 Pamela Calabrese

We did that collaboratively with, with ENSA.

3:41 Pamela Calabrese

So we've, we've colour-coded and that means we've got this kind of 'at a glance' sense of, of where we feel we both are positioned against the Indicators under those eight Features.

3:53 Pamela Calabrese

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4:01 Pamela Calabrese

And I think it's really now about confirming the priority areas of work that we've identified.

4:10 Catriona Bell

And your colour coding is a sort of red, amber, green.

4:13 Pamela Calabrese

Yes, exactly.

4:14 Catriona Bell

So you've got your traffic lights, you know what the priorities are.

4:17 Catriona Bell

OK, great stuff.