

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

Podcast Part 3

Transcript

0:00 Catriona Bell

And any insights on what worked and what didn't work because you've gone through this process?

0:05 Pamela Calabrese

I think, I think as I, as I said, that desk-based initial mapping, sort of putting something down on paper for others to, to get their teeth into, certainly for from the colleagues' perspective, we've not done that actually with the, with the student consultation and then having that consultation collaboration.

0:22 Pamela Calabrese

And that helps with the sense of shared ownership, which, which I think was another thing I felt would have maybe started to get lost a wee bit with the Student Partnership Ambition.

0:32 Pamela Calabrese

So there's something that's been quite kind of invigorating about bringing people in and getting others involved.

0:39 Pamela Calabrese

Of course, we know that that's what partnership's all about, isn't it?

0:44 Pamela Calabrese

And I think that's been particularly useful in terms of identifying the possible actions.

0:49 Pamela Calabrese

It comes back to that point about pragmatism because, you know, you need, you need people to be saying what is within the realms of possibility.

0:56 Catriona Bell

Yeah.

0:57 Pamela Calabrese

So, and I think with students, what I would say is it's, we feel it's been important to consider quite carefully what we're asking them to contribute.

1:08 Pamela Calabrese

OK, some of the Indicators it would be difficult for students, for all students to engage with fully.

1:18 Pamela Calabrese

So, so I think it just needs to feel relevant to them so that it's authentic and, and then they know that their, their input is informing action.

1:27 Pamela Calabrese

So breaking it down to tailor it to the audience has been important and keeping it in manageable chunks, you know, a workshop sharing every, every Feature and every Indicator is a lot, you know, embedding student voice I think is really important.

1:43 Pamela Calabrese

And, and as I've said, giving those prompts, but otherwise leaving it quite open.

1:31 Pamela Calabrese

So, so the Mentimeter approach that we've used in the, well, my colleague and ENSA has used with the Rep Forums and the Student Council, has been really useful in the sense that it's easy to engage with and you know, it's prompts, but it's quite open.

2:04 Pamela Calabrese

So you can say what you want on it, really.

2:05 Catriona Bell

OK.

2:06 Pamela Calabrese

And then I think the, sorry, I was just going to say that it's some duplication.

2:11 Pamela Calabrese

I think that's the bit that's, that we need to kind of address going forward.

2:16 Pamela Calabrese

So we can see that there are actions emerging from different Indicators under different Features.

2:23 Catriona Bell

OK, yeah.

2:24 Catriona Bell

And sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt there but I was interested, interested in the Mentimeter activity you mentioned.

2:29 Catriona Bell

Could you give us a little bit more detail about how your colleagues have done that?

2:33 Pamela Calabrese

Yeah, so the, the Mentimeter is, but also to facilitate online participation.

2:41 Pamela Calabrese

So our Student Councils and Rep Forums are hybrid events.

2:46 Pamela Calabrese

So this means that everyone, no matter where you are, you can, you can chip in and you can get involved to the Mentimeters.

2:52 Pamela Calabrese

Quite a straightforward one.

2:54 Pamela Calabrese

And it's just been able to kind of hone in on specific areas within the Partnership Ambition and just kind of put those out there and say, you know, how do you relate to this?

3:04 Pamela Calabrese

How does this, what does this look like for you?

3:06 Pamela Calabrese

And then be quite open in terms of the responses back.

3:10 Pamela Calabrese

So that seems to have worked really well.

3:13 Catriona Bell

Great.

3:13 Catriona Bell

Useful really practical tip.

3:15 Pamela Calabrese

Yeah.

3:16 Pamela Calabrese

And as I say, I think that's where it's, it's the two things, right?

3:21 Pamela Calabrese

It's the, it's the institutional, and I include Students' Association, and that combined, it's that knowledge combined with the input from those that are experiencing partnership on the ground.

3:38 Catriona Bell

Yes, and you mentioned already tailoring it to your target audience, breaking it into manageable chunks.

3:43 Catriona Bell

And I also really like what you said a little bit earlier about it was being invigorating, but you've also had to be pragmatic.

3:49 Pamela Calabrese

So it's getting those balances right, isn't it?



3:52 Catriona Bell
Thank you, Pamela.

3:53 Catriona Bell
That's fantastic practice that you've shared with us and the rest of the tertiary sector.

3:58 Catriona Bell
So I'm sure colleagues will draw from that.

4:00 Catriona Bell
I know you've got plans for where you're going next with it and we're going to touch on those in another podcast.

4:05 Catriona Bell
But was there anything else you wanted to just mention before we, we close this one?

4:09 Pamela Calabrese
So, so I think, I think probably just where, where we see this, maybe informing the Tertiary Quality Enhancement Review.

4:17 Pamela Calabrese
So ours is in in January, our visit's in January 2026.

4:21 Pamela Calabrese
So I think it's the fact that we know that visit's going to be exploring partnership, of course it is, having partnership approaches.

4:28 Pamela Calabrese
So, so obviously that's been a motivating factor as well.

4:32 Pamela Calabrese
You know, we want to show that we're engaging with these new sector resources and that we could speak to that.

4:37 Pamela Calabrese
But you know, these reviews are, they are supportive, they do encourage institutions to identify areas that that they want to explore in more depth.

4:50 Pamela Calabrese
And so I think it presents an opportunity really to be able to tell the story and so to use this as a tool to support that sharing of reflection.

5:06 Pamela Calabrese
And as I say, that the journey that you've been on in partnership, so, but more on that, more on that as we get closer.

5:15 Catriona Bell
No, that's brilliant.



5:16 Catriona Bell

That's a teaser for others to tune in to Part 2.

5:20 Catriona Bell

But thank you because that direct link with the Tertiary Quality Enhancement Framework and the TQER visits that are coming up is so critical.

5:27 Catriona Bell

So we will be talking about that more in the next episode.

5:31 Catriona Bell

But I just wanted to say thank you so much for your time and your generosity and sharing your practice, Pamela, and congratulations to you and your colleagues at Edinburgh Napier University for what you've achieved with it so far.

5:41 Catriona Bell

So thanks very much and we will tune out for now.

5:44 Pamela Calabrese

Thank you, Catriona.