**sparqs National Conference**

**Good practice in student partnerships**

**Friday 29th May 2015**

**Edinburgh Conference Centre, Heriot-Watt University**

**Call for submission of proposals**

We invite proposals for workshops, presentations and poster/display sessions that showcase and explore current projects, initiatives and research on the development of effective partnership working across the five listed sub-themes.

We are especially keen to encourage student-led contributions and proposals which will involve student presenters.

**Overview**

Sector good practice shows that student engagement is most effective when it is taken beyond just consultation or participation and towards rich and active partnership. Our conference this year focuses on good practice in partnership between colleges, universities and their students. The range of partnership working that is taking place across both sectors increases at a pace; we are keen to capture this at the conference and promote a vigorous exchange of ideas and good practice.

There are 5 sub-themes, designed to capture the range of partnership working activity taking place in colleges and universities.

**Sub-Theme 1**

Partnership working between students and institutions on curriculum design and delivery.

* How do students play a role alongside staff in designing what the learning experience looks like, including what is learned, how, when and why?

**Sub-theme 2**

Strategic partnerships between students’ associations and their institutions.

* How can students’ associations and institutions work together in terms of strategy and governance, in major institutional projects, and in linking the institution’s direction with the views of students?

**Sub-Theme 3**

International perspectives on student partnership.

* What can we learn from approaches to partnership from abroad, both in other sectors as well as international delivery by Scottish institutions?

**Sub-Theme 4**

Student partnership working at the sector/national level.

* What exemplars do we have of students shaping decisions about learning and teaching within sector agencies, national debates and campaigns, and NUS?

**Sub-Theme 5**

Partnerships which recognise the increasing diversity of the student voice.

* What practice demonstrates that students are being engaged equally effectively regardless of who they are, where they are and how they study?

**Guidelines on workshops/presentations/poster sessions**

**Workshops**

Workshop sessions are intended to engage conference delegates in an open and constructive dialogue addressing current issues pertinent to the chosen conference sub-theme.

* Workshops will last 60 minutes.
* The proposer(s) will lead the workshop.
* Delegates will choose workshops according to the information that you have provided.
* Facilitators should ensure that the workshop proposal is a blend of presentation and active participation of delegates.
* If you are presenting a workshop the full text of the content of the workshop should be submitted to the conference organisers (sparqs) by Thursday 30th April 2015.
* Presenters are responsible for bringing copies of hand-outs and materials.

**Presentations**

Presentations are intended to enable presenters to share innovative practice or present a case study with a brief question and answer session at the end.

* Presentations will last 30 minutes.
* The proposer(s) will present the presentation.
* Delegates will choose presentations according to the information that you have provided.
* If you are presenting, the full content of the presentation should be submitted to the conference organisers (sparqs) by Thursday 30th April 2015.
* Presenters are responsible for bringing copies of hand-outs and materials.

**Posters/Display of development and materials**

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.
* Posters will be on a board which is approximately 2 metres tall by 1 metre wide.
* You should bring Velcro type attachments to attach your poster to the boards.
* If you are presenting a poster the details of the poster/display materials should be submitted to the conference organisers (sparqs) by Thursday 30th April 2015.
* Presenters are responsible for bringing copies of hand-outs and materials.

**Submitting proposals**

The deadline for submitting proposals is **10am on** **Monday 9th March 2015**. 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 submit the full presentation to sparqs by Thursday 30th April.

All proposals should be submitted using the proposal form to sarah.davidson@sparqs.ac.uk

Please indicate which conference sub-theme your proposal covers. You may submit more than one proposal but you are not permitted to submit the same proposal in multiple sub-themes.

Your abstract must not exceed 250 words.

**After submitting a proposal**

When you have successfully submitted your proposal you will receive a confirmation

e-mail. You will be notified on the outcome of your submission as soon after the closing date as possible.

There are likely to be more proposals than available spaces so please be aware that not all proposals will be accepted. It may also be suggested that your proposal is accepted under a different format; for example a workshop may be accepted as a presentation. If there are similar proposals from different institutions it may be suggested that a joint approach to presenting a workshop or presentation is considered.

**Conference Registration information**

Registration for the conference will open week commencing **16th March 2015** Further details will be posted on the sparqs website [www.sparqs.ac.uk](http://www.sparqs.ac.uk) and a further mailing will be circulated.

**International delegates**

sparqs will provide an additional day of activity for international delegates including visits to partner institutions and agencies. Depending on the number of international delegate applications we will also try to negotiate group discounts for accommodation.

If you have any further queries please contact David Scott david.scott@sparqs.ac.uk or Sarah Davidson sarah.davidson@sparqs.ac.uk