



Issue 14 – Friday 9th December 2016

The following items have been discussed at the most recent SPEP Meeting:

Academic Staff as Placement Providers

In the May SPEP meeting, School of Natural Sciences and Psychology representative Sarah Dalrymple raised the possibility of an additional workload allocation for academic staff supporting Work Based Learning (WBL) and Professional Training (PT) placements, where students are recruited internally to work as research assistants.

Phil Denton circulated an email to SPEP members outlining the current Work Allocation Model (WAM) allowances for academic staff as placement providers and requested feedback. This feedback was shared with the group, prompting further discussion.

Introduction

The Science Placement and Employability Panel consists of Academic and Support Staff representatives who meet regularly to discuss placement and employability matters arising within the Faculty. The SPEP Newsletter has been devised to report back the matters discussed and keep all Faculty of Science staff up to date.

It was agreed that the annual allowance for Professional Training Supervisors is adequate but that an increase in hours for Professional Training / Placement Co-ordinators would be welcomed. There are a number of titles that involve this role including Module Leader, Placement Co-ordinator, Sandwich Year Placement Co-ordinator and Erasmus Co-ordinator.

Potential changes to the WAM allowances for Professional Training / Placement Co-ordinator will be an ongoing discussion between members, before a potential referral to the Faculty Management Team.

Eli Lilly Site Visit

Earlier this semester the WOWCC arranged for Eli Lilly to conduct a workshop for PBS and NSP students in levels 4 and 5. Following on from this, a visit to Eli Lilly's Speke manufacturing site is currently being organised for March / April next year.

Katie Evans, Raymond Fox and Craig Wilding expressed an interest in the visit. Eli Lilly has confirmed that the visit will be restricted to a maximum of 12 people, including an academic member of staff. The visit itself will last for approximately 2 hours and will be relevant for both Biochemistry and Biology undergraduate students.

Due to the restriction on numbers, the panel discussed how to decide which students should be given the opportunity to take part in the visit. The WOWCC has an attendance list for those students that took part in the workshop so this will be forwarded to Katie, Raymond and Craig to allow for further discussion. It was suggested that those who attended this workshop be given first refusal for the visit.

Event Catering

Early this semester the WOWCC organised a Pre-Registration Pharmacy event at the Holiday Inn in Liverpool City Centre. Although the event was a success, the feedback regarding the supply of catering was not very positive. Catering for events such as this are funded by individual Schools within the Faculty. It was suggested that it would be beneficial to discuss resources and funding for catering at a Faculty Management Team meeting.

Student Support

David Jordan expressed an interest in producing a resource, with the help of SPEP, to show where responsibilities lie with regards to student support within the Faculty and across the University. The resource would be beneficial for new staff and also exchange students. The resource could take the form of a flow diagram where the channels of support available within the Faculty and across the University are clearly highlighted. It could be developed into a key resource to ensure that both staff and students know exactly who to contact in relation to the type of support that is required.

New Academic Framework

Students who carry out sandwich year placements in the academic year 2017-18 will re-enter the University at level 6 in September 2018 on the new academic framework. There will be a number of students within the Faculty affected by the change. It is important to communicate how re-entering the University on the new academic framework will affect the students, particularly in regards to degree classification. A communication strategy regarding the new academic framework is being developed for the current level 5 students that intend to take a sandwich year placement in 2017-18.

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Should you have any information you wish to feed back to the Science Placements and Employability Panel, good practice you would like to share or any input with regard to the items mentioned above please contact your School Representative or Sarah Dutton.

Date of the next Science Placements and Employability Group Meeting: **TBC**