**SCS Peer Review Scheme Annual Report 2020/21**

# Background

The new LJMU Peer Review Scheme commenced in January 2021 during COVID lockdown, [Faculty guidance](http://wowie.ljmu.ac.uk/FacultyLTA/resources/talking%20about%20teaching%20final.pdf) being agreed with Subject Leads and Directors. Within the Faculty, Peer Review is known as ‘Talking about Teaching’.

“Talking about Teaching is a formalised and substantive conversation between academics, dedicated to exploring an identified theme within educational practice that is not a part of their other scheduled obligations”

Approved Faculty Guidance

# Themes

Given the pandemic, the University’s suggested theme for the scheme was online learning. However, staff could use any qualifying activity, matching the description above and taking place during 2020/21, to fulfil their obligations to the scheme. In 2020/21 these included:

* Curriculum Design in the context of the forthcoming MPharm accreditation.
* Virtual laboratories and video resources to support Semester 2 nutrition teaching.
* "Decolonising the curriculum" working group for the zoology programme to explore our specific curriculum areas and how to engage the students from induction to graduating with an EDI skill set that employers will value.
* Two events in SPS. Following a short introduction, people were put into breakout groups of 4-5 to share practice and reflections. These were specifically:
  + Reflections on experience of online teaching in semester 1 (Wed 2nd Dec) – 40+ attendees.
  + Approaches to the use of Breakout rooms (Tues 19th Jan) – 30+ attendees and Emma Ball produced support document off the back of this that was circulated to staff.

# Participation Summary for 2020/21

Participation was recorded via an online form, there being a need to maintain an ‘auditable record’ of activity. Based on responses received and accounting for duplicated submissions:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| School | No of staff\* | Participated | % |
| BES | 78 | 63 | 81 |
| PBS | 88 | 62 | 70 |
| SPS | 85 | 31 | 36 |
| SCS | 252 | 157 | 62 |

\*teach for at least 1 hour per week, on average, based on WAM.

## Conclusion and 2021/22 actions

The roll out of the scheme met with little friction, reflecting the consultation beforehand and justifying the choice of the ‘Teaching About Teaching’ moniker to convey the relaxed, collegiate nature of the scheme. The overall participation rate is less than that for previous years’ teaching observation, being expected given the difficultly of implementing a new scheme during a period of remote working. Anecdotal evidence suggests that staff *did* undertake activities appropriate for peer review, but did not register these through the form. The return to onsite delivery will make it easier to reinforce the reporting aspects of the scheme. A QR code will be developed and this can then be shared at qualifying staff development events to encourage real-time reporting. No changes are suggested to the Faculty procedure.

**Phil Denton, ADE, 5/7/21**

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