

Equality and Diversity in the Curriculum Task Group

Remit and Membership

Remit

The group will make recommendations to the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee on the following:

- **Objectives and priorities** - A set of specific objectives and priorities for the University in relation to using the curriculum to promote inclusion, equality and diversity;
- **Institutional and disciplinary roles** - The appropriate balance between institutional leadership and support, and discipline-specific activities; and
- **Institutional activities** - An appropriate and proportionate range of activities to be undertaken at institutional level over the next 2-3 years.

In developing its recommendations, the group will consider the following issues:

- The extent to which the content of curricula in the University includes a diverse range of perspectives representative of wider society, and encourages students to engage with equality and diversity issues;
- The extent to which curricula, and approaches to learning and teaching, are engaging and relevant to all groups within the student population (eg with reference to evidence of different levels of student satisfaction);
- Evidence regarding the relationship between the University's curricula and learning and teaching, and the differential levels of attainment of different groups in the University (eg with reference to attainment gaps for male and BME students);
- Whether alternate approaches to these issues are required for different types of disciplines (eg for science versus humanities and social science disciplines, professional versus non-professional programmes).

When developing its recommendations for action, it will consider the following possible categories of activities:

- Institutional statements of policy and intent;
- Encouraging and supporting School / disciplinary leadership on the issue;
- Academic staff development and practice sharing;
- Approaches to supporting curriculum design and development;

- Facilitating and learning from pilots;
- Co-creation approaches involving students;
- Drawing on the diverse University library resources and collections.

The group will develop its recommendations on the basis of the following:

- Benchmarking regarding how other institutions have approached these issues;
- Consultation with Schools and Colleges;
- Consultation / engagement with a wide range of categories of students, including but not limited to Students' Association liberation groups that have had an active interest in some of these issues.

The group will focus predominantly on undergraduate study, although it is possible that many of its recommendations will also be relevant for PGT study. The group will take into consideration aspects of widening participation throughout its work, linking with work being undertaken on the implementation of the Widening Participation Strategy where appropriate.

Membership

- Vice-Principal People and Culture - Prof Jane Norman (Convener)
- Two academic staff representatives from the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences with experience of using the curriculum to promote inclusion, equality and diversity in an arts, humanities or social science context (eg 'decolonising the curriculum' approaches)
 - Professor Rowena Arshad (Head of Moray House School of Education)
 - Professor Nasar Meer (School of Social and Political Sciences)
- One academic staff representative from the College of Science and Engineering, and one from the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine who can advise on approaches to using the curriculum to promote inclusion, equality and diversity in their disciplinary contexts
 - CMVM - Dr Jeni Harden (Senior Lecturer, Usher Institute of Population Health Sciences)
 - CSE - Dr Niamh Shortt (College Dean of Diversity and Inclusion)
- One member of academic staff with experience of designing the curriculum in order to engage students from disadvantaged backgrounds (eg widening participation students)
 - James Mooney (Access and Outreach Development Director in Centre for Open Learning)

- A Dean of Learning and Teaching from one of the three Colleges [TBC]
- Students' Association Vice-President Education - Diva Mukherji
- Representative of Student Recruitment and Admissions - Katrina Castle (Acting Head of Widening Participation)
- Representative from Academic Services - Tom Ward (Director of Academic Services)
- Representative for Institute for Academic Development - Dr Velda McCune (Deputy Director, IAD)
- Representative of the Library and University Collections, Rachel Hosker (Archives Manager and Deputy Head of Special Collections Centre for Research Collections)

Timescales and Outputs

The group will aim to meet c. 4 times during Semester two 2017-18 and Semester One 2018-19, and to submit a final report to LTC by January 2019.