SEDA Pre-Conference Workshop Day

Monday 20th November 2006

Gathering and Responding to Student Feedback: an Educational Developer's perspective

Workshop coordinator: James Wisdom

This workshop is about how we engage students in the work of improving their classes, modules, units, courses and programmes. In the fashionable phrase, how we might use their feedback to us to "enhance their learning experience". It is also about how we, as educational and staff developers, work with individuals, departments and institutions to get the best from student feedback, engagement and representation.

We surely cannot be happy with the state of student feedback at the moment. For example, the relationships between students and their teachers are changing in so many ways, yet many departments are still using quite traditional methods of gathering feedback. The QAA's "Outcomes from institutional audit" paper on student feedback and representation arrangements reports widespread reliance on the module evaluation questionnaire, and warns against overloading students with too many of them. In some places there is a growing gap between the collegiate culture of making improvements for the general future benefit of all students, and the customer culture of satisfying the individual purchaser. There is evidence that the early outcomes of the National Student Survey have been seen by some as a risk to reputation, but we do not yet know if any remedial work will be profound or merely cosmetic.

And yet we know that working successfully with student feedback is one of the most powerful ways of developing our teaching, shaping our modules and reforming our programmes.

This workshop will work with two themes. The first is an investigation into the methods of gathering student feedback and into the principles and issues which emerge. The second is to look at this subject from the viewpoint of an educational developer, considering how best to work with colleagues in improving practice and with institutions in developing policy.

Programme

Coffee will be available from 10.00.
The workshop will start at 10.15 and finish at 5.00

Coffee break 11.30
Lunch 1.00 to 2.00
Tea break 3.30

Booking

Please book via the 11th Annual SEDA Conference online booking form at
http://www.seda.ac.uk:8000/bookings/