SEDA Spring Conference 2024

Session Title: Inspiring good practice through meaningful peer to peer learning

Session Type: Lightening talk (10 mins)

Main presenter(s): Antony Hill, University of the West of England

Co presenter(s): N/A

Session Summary: In this lightening talk I'll be exploring an institutional approach to peer to peer Higher Education staff sharing of good practice and, crucially, the balance between the need for a certain level of expectation within a support structure, and its ability to generate meaningful and personalised development.

Session Outline: Peer to peer sharing of good practice is usually an organic process which occurs between individuals who directly share elements of their practice within closely linked subject areas. Achieving this at scale, especially from a multi-disciplinary viewpoint, is less organic and often therefore, in practice, needs a more strategic approach and some level of organisational structure. The balance is always between the need for a certain level of expectation within a structure, and its ability to generate meaningful and personalised development. Whatever the specific approach, the aim is about the continual development of higher education staff in a meaningful way which can provide a real and tangible enhancement to students' success.

Within the College of Health, Science & Society at the University of the West of England, we've taken a light-touch approach to this balance. This begins when we individually ask our staff to suggest areas of learning and teaching that they would personally be interested in developing further (e.g. small group teaching, feedback, SFHEA application etc.). Everyone is then paired up with a member of staff happy to share their practice on that topic. The subsequent collated feedback/reflection element is all about what the staff member has learned (to help pool themes, areas of focus etc.) but crucially not a critique on the showcase/sharing itself. The cycle then begins again, with the aim of meaningful and personalised good practice sharing and development.

Although I will talk about this useful approach that definitely can be used by others, I'm certainly not pretending to be presenting 'the answer' to peer to peer teaching support. The aim for my lightening talk is to explore the approach, successes and challenges, and to generate a follow-on network discussion of ideas for further collaboration and connection.

References: N/A