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*Promoting Quality in Teacher Education*

**Notes for the UCET NI committee at 10am on Tuesday 5 May 2020 via Zoom**

1. **In attendance** – Anne Heaslett, Linda Clarke, Roisin McPhilemy (Chair), Lesley Emerson (Queens). Fiona Henry, Martin Hagan, James Noble-Rogers, Jackie Moses
2. **Apologies** - none
3. **Minutes and matters arsing**
	1. May 19th event- postponed
	2. Mins approved
4. **UCET updates**
	1. Most work related to pandemic
	2. Meeting online this summer term, consulting Exec currently re carrying on online in Autumn term. NI may wish to do something different as smaller group.
	3. Most of time in discussion with DfE re Covid related concerns and starting to plan way forward
	4. Think that DfE may treat number of new things as ‘transition year’
	5. Use of Zoom is problematic as not as secure – may need to switch to other platform e.g. TEAMS
5. **Covid: Feedback from committee members**
	1. Stranmills – adapting to working remotely; interviews for BEd were completed before lockdown, others completed remotely; lot of development work to move to online which was done exceptionally quickly; most of placement work had been completed; waiting guidance re inspections; waiting for guidance form goverment on starting term (not keen to have delayed start) but inevitable that social distancing will change aspects of delivery and impact the student experience. Debate around student fees likely to increase but unsure of what this means/impact.
	2. St Mary’s – similar position to Ann, should have been concluding inspection but unsure about how process will be completed. Inspection team are observing some online delivery but can’t observe teaching which is a challenge, trying to get agreement for interim report as need a conclusion so can move forward. BEd - Development of online work going well but does present challenge for students and with reference to ITE can’t manage online placement. For PGCE trying to get schools to agree to delay school experience to as late as possible in the year but huge set of unknowns at moment. Really need to know plans for schools moving forward which may provide some clarity.
	3. Ulster – Similar to above. PGCE interviews completed, using Blackboard Collaborate (incl PHD Vivas). Start dates for Uni being discussed, complications for school experience are huge
	4. Queens - have announced tentative start dates, UG as normal but initially online and then introduce a blended approach. PG were looking at Jan starts, problematic for ITE but have now agreed ITE can start in Sept. Looking at online activities to support some of the work that would have occurred in school experience but problematic and will not provide complete experience. Current year cohort are all fine and moving through; all interviews done and offers out for next year. Just a few late interviews to do online for some subjects (using Canvas for this). External Examiners looked at course work online but could not visit schools or speak to trainees – replaced this with them looking at portfolios so can see school-based work. Trainees not meeting with examiners, purely paper-based exercises
	5. OU – lot of adjustments to assessment (for those that were school based); lot of work managing anxiety of students, e.g. all final assessment cancelled so concern over final grades and meeting targets for next stage etc. Use Blackboard Collaborate but do have blended approach as are in schools. Happy to support others in developing and delivering collaborate learning. Welsh PGCE will be delayed. Looking for Feb 2021 start. Big tasks for OU was to move all office workers to home workers
6. **Other institutional updates**
	1. General feel that should assume start of academic year will be online delivery, need to start planning this asap as Sept/Oct not that far away, especially if there are aspects of blended learning to account for on some programmes and the need to ensure social distancing
7. **UCET strategy**
* JNR introduced this and would like to give people the opportunity to respond. Strategy to be in place for Sept 2020
1. **2020 UCET conference.**
* Highly likely that this will move to online, will be held on same dates, online platform not finalised. Will be key notes and dedicated rooms for seminars. Also hope to host chat rooms & link to ‘actual’ concert for those interested. Will be notional fee (about £25) but does not apply to NI.
1. **UCET Easter Newsletter**
* Enclosed with meeting papers
1. **AOB**
	1. May 19th event postponed but too early to set new date but hopefully at some point next academic year
	2. Ann asked if James had any thoughts on big issues for HE – JNR not anything more than in press; HEIs can recruit an additional 5%; some are suggesting no travel for at least a year, early indication that application to ITE programs increasing (but typical in difficult times)
2. **Date of next meeting** – as easy to set up will schedule meeting as necessary but will stay with set pattern of meeting so next one will be in September, date to be confirmed