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*Promoting Quality in Teacher Education*

**UCET NI Committee**

**Minutes of the meeting of the UCET NI Committee held at 10.00am on Monday 3 October at Queen’s University, University Road, Belfast, BT7 1NN**

Attendance

David Barr (Ulster)

Tricia Eaton (Stranmillis)

Martin Hagan (St. Mary’s)

Emma Hollis (NASBTT)

James Nelson (Queen’s, and Chair of meeting)

James Noble-Rogers (UCET)

Apologies

Roisin Mc Philemy (OU).

Welcome & introductions

Colleagues were welcomed to the first meeting of the academic year. Emma Hollis, Executive Director of the National association of School Based Teacher Trainers (NASBTT) in England, was welcomed as an observer.

Minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 May 2022 were agreed. There were no matters arising not already included on the agenda.

Institutional updates

The following updates were received:

* St. Mary’s: All students were now back on campus. A major building project, which included the development of a new learning hub, was under way. Placement experiences were back to normal, albeit with the continuation of some of the new practices learnt during Covid. Recruitment to ITE programmes was in steady state.
* Stranmillis: Schools were increasingly responsive to requests for placements. Campus based activities had returned to near normal. Recruitment to ITE programmes was stable.
* Ulster: Most Covid related restrictions had been removed, although use of remote visits and observations were continuing where appropriate (all students would experience at least one face to face observation). All students has secured school placements. Recruitment targets had been met. There were indications that the new cohort of students might require additional support compared to those in earlier years.
* Queen’s: There were also indications of students requiring more support. Face to face teaching had returned other than on Tuesday’s. A new Head of School, Professor Daniel Lewis, had been appointed. There had been some issues concerning recruitment: although138 offers had been made and accepted, actual recruitment had fallen to 119, and concerns existed about the future supply of teachers in subjects such as maths, physics and ICT unless workforce planning issues were addressed by DE. Consideration had been given to an Education Authority report into the preparedness of new teachers in areas such as professional dress, timekeeping etc. A common template for giving references to various organisations in qualifying teachers might usefully be considered.

Independent Review of Education

It was understood that an interim report from the Independent Review of Education would be published soon.

Report from DE ITE Working Group

The group was scheduled to meet the following day.

Lessons learnt from Covid

It was agreed that JNR would produce a summary of responses received from member institutions for discussion at the following day’s Working Group meeting.

ITE allocations for 2023/24

Allocations has still not been received, and institutions had to plan on the assumption that current targets would remain in place. The delay could lead to difficulties if students who were holding a provisional place had to withdraw because that place could not be confirmed until allocations had been finalised, especially as the allocations did not allow for any tolerance bands. The possible benefits of an aggregate allocation covering all-year student numbers was discussed. The number of NI teachers qualifying from institutions in other parts of the UK was also noted. It was agreed to raise the issue of late allocations and the need for workforce planning at the afternoon NIHELG meeting.

Sub-group on placements

Representatives had been appointed to the new sub-group and a date for the first meeting was being canvassed.

DE Inequalities Audit

It was agreed that institutions should respond independently to the DE request. UCET would issue a reminder.

Teacher Education Partnership handbook

The current handbook, which had been published in 2010, was considered to be out of date and DE had circulated an annotated copy for discussion at the following day’s working group.

Representation on external groups

Details of current representation from UCETNI members on various external groups was noted. It was agreed that membership of key groups should be distributed across members of the UCETNI committee. It was also agreed that:

* Martin Hagan would become the UCETNI representative of EA’s PQH sub-group;
* Tricia Eaton would be the representative on the EA EDIS group;
* James Nelson would be the representative on the Learning Leaders communications group
* David Barr would be rep for the Learning Leaders Oversight Group

Representation on external groups would be a standing item on future UCETNI agendas.

New Teacher competences

JNR had attended a recent meeting with DE and others where it had been suggested that the new teacher competences, which had been recommended to the GTCNI Council prior to abolition but not formally approved, would be publicised, with ITE providers encouraged, but not required, to adjust programmes to reflect the new competences where possible over a period of 3-4 years. Concern was expressed about the lack of clarity in the request and the apparently open-ended timescale. The issue would it was agreed be raised at the afternoon NIHELG meeting.

TPL research project

Funding for the project from DE, which had been issued via UCET, had now been disbursed. DE would be asked about the scope to circulate the resulting report.

UCET issues

The following were noted:

* Details of the outcome of the ITE Market Review in England, which had led to some 20% of existing ITE providers failing to secure accreditation to deliver ITE programmes from 2024/25. UCETNI colleagues expressed concern about the impact of DfE decisions on the ITE sector and on future teacher supply in England.
* The annual UCET conference would take place face to face in Stratford upon Avon on 1-2 November. Colleagues from UCETNI institutions could attend free of charge. Registrations van be made via the UCET website: [www.ucet/conference](http://www.ucet/conference).
* The summer UCET newsletter was noted.

Arrangements for NIHELG

These were agreed.

Any other business

None.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 10 January 2023.