ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH

Initial Discussion on Sustainability in the Curriculum

**Notes of the session held on 28 March 2017**

**Present:**

Alice Stevens, Cathy John, Claire Flexen, Dan Cox, James Jackson, Karen Ryan, Kavita Hayton, Matt Moyes (note-taker), Tom Preston, Valerie Lodge, Will Hargreaves.

Alice briefed the group initially on activities of the event series on sustainability, titled *Who Cares?* Alice gave short a presentation on a workshop that students had undertaken. Students considered how they could persuade the public to buy an electric car and also attempted to build a full-sized section of a BWM i3 car from recycled cardboard. It was a multi-discipline workshop with students attending from various courses.

A diverse range of external speakers had contributed to the series of events. It was hoped that the organisation of next year’s event would be more collaborative across subject areas to further build on this diversity.

Alice also signposted various key resources to colleagues. These were as follows:

* HEA/QAA guidance: *Education for Sustainable Development*
* Case study document from the UK National Commission for UNESCO: *Good Practice in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in the UK*
* NUS guide for incorporation of sustainability in FE and HE courses
* AUB Sustainability Plan: 2015-2020

The resources would be circulated to colleagues attending for their information along with a copy of Alice’s presentation.

Following the presentation, the group held an open discussion on various areas in relation to sustainability, the main points of which were noted below.

AUB Human, the vehicle of highlighting and promoting diversity, inclusivity and sustainability across the University, was agreed to be an excellent proposition and something that the group were keen to contribute towards and help develop. The group also felt that partnering with the right external groups would also assist with promoting the AUB Human brand.

Increasing the profile of sustainability aspects during course design would be a key consideration e.g. new PG Cert courses in Creative Teaching Practices. The perception of sustainability as a core component of units was crucial for it to be embedded within the curriculum. The validation of existing courses was giving sustainability a higher priority but it was queried whether this was enough to influence cultural change.

There was concern that, currently, the communication of sustainability in final major project briefs was unclear, for both students to understand and staff to explain.

There appeared to be lots of sustainable practice taking place within individual subject areas but this was not celebrated with the wider community or promoted collectively and was going ‘under the radar’. This is where AUB Human could step in to fill the gap.

Kavita and Alice would request details of projects from the wider community to feed into AUB Human to enhance the promotion of sustainable practice within the University. Longer-term, the development of AUB Human, and its increased publicity on the University’s website, would assist with recruitment of new students, allowing us to tell the story of common practice within the institution to help attract them to apply to AUB.

Another meeting would be arranged after Easter for the group to progress discussions further.