

## **He Academy ICS Network Report – CPHC Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October**

### **WIKI to support new staff**

The HE Academy is encouraging Subject Centres to provide resources to support new academic staff (“SNAS”) and complement those made available centrally. The ICS Subject Centre has been keen to respond positively to this initiative.

We contacted our Department Representatives and requested that they contact new or recent academic colleagues, and identify what questions they asked (or should have asked) which weren’t covered anywhere in the induction process. The responses were analysed and categorised — for example, at the top level, the questions fell clearly into four categories, namely practicalities of teaching, assessment, research and general administration.

Since the issues in each department are unique, it would be inappropriate simply to package the questions as a simple document or web resource — many specific questions would be irrelevant or incorrectly phrased. Ideally, each department would require a “personalised” copy.

An appropriate solution appeared to be a Wiki. We took the results of our previous activity and used the categorisation to inform the structure of the Wiki. Our deliverable would thus be content for a Wiki installation which could simply be imported. Each department would therefore have their own individual wiki containing an initial set of questions and answers that they would tailor to their needs.

The deliverable has almost been finalised and should be available shortly as a download from the ICS website.

**Updated Plagiarism section of website** recently updated resource on the ICS website is a section on plagiarism. This can be found:<http://www.ics.heacademy.ac.uk/resources/assessment/plagiarism/>

These pages contain links to useful plagiarism-related sites, and the results of an (ongoing) exercise reviewing tools and packages which can be used for assist staff in the process of preventing and detecting plagiarism within the ICS disciplines.

This HEA-ICS resource is aimed at both new and experienced academics seeking information on plagiarism. It contains:

- A brief guide on plagiarism aimed at new academics.
- Information on dealing with plagiarism. This includes information on how to prevent and detect plagiarism, information on legal issues, cheat sites and links to institution policies.
- Information about and comparisons between various free-text and source-code plagiarism tools.
- Resources on plagiarism including links to useful plagiarism-related websites, and on-line and off-line papers.

### **WebPortal Pilot Update**

The Higher Education Academy embarked on a Web Portal Programme following the recommendations of a Web Presence Feasibility Study undertaken in June 2005.

Eight Subject Centre, including ICS, are working with Academy York on the Web Portal Pilot Project. The project involves Academy York and each subject centre migrating their existing website to a new centralised content management system (CMS), Interwoven.

Academy York's new website and CMS went live 2 July 2007.

The ICS website plans to launch September/October. As part of this process the ICS website URL will change from <http://www.ics.heacademy.ac.uk/> to <http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/ics/>

### **Forthcoming Events**

#### **An introduction to educational (pedagogic) research in the sciences**

**Date:** 11th October 2007, [University of Salford](#) , Manchester

#### **Online Social Networking in Education - Web 2.0 Teaching**

**Date:** 25th October 2007, [University of Abertay Dundee](#) , Dundee

#### **National Project Coordinators Workshop**

**Date:** 6th November 2007, [University of Leeds](#)

#### **Computer Forensics**

**Date:** 23rd November 2007 - 24th November 2007, [Northumbria University](#)

#### **(External) Informatics Education Europe II :A Conference On The State Of Informatics Education In Europe**

**Date:** 29th November 2007 - 30th November 2007, Thessaloniki, Greece

#### **(2nd UK) Workshop on Constructive Alignment**

**Date:** 16th January 2008, [Nottingham Trent University](#)

**Gerry McAllister – 29<sup>th</sup> August 2007**

## Appendix 3

### **A Consideration of the Research Issues and Activities for CPHC Information Group in Session 2007-2008**

An outline remit for Information Group has already been circulated to CPHC Committee, however there is a need to clarify those activities which can be carried out by the group in consultation with members, and those which will require some research activity. This is of particular relevance following discussion with BCS, where it is apparent that CPHC may draw on some research activity within BCS that is of mutual interest, and that other activities may be supported at cost by BCS. Following the successful appointment of Anna Round as a part-time researcher working for CPHC on a well-defined remit, the committee may wish to consider a similar appointment for this session, or may wish to use some time of a BCS-employed researcher to achieve the same end.

The Information Group will seek to provide responses and information to the various calls from national bodies, government agencies, research and funding councils, and other bodies. Wherever possible and appropriate such activities will coordinate with BCS and UKCRC, and all CPHC Committee responses will be issued through the Chair. This activity will be co-ordinated within the Information Group, and the resources necessary to support this will be provided by the members of the group.

Following on from the studies carried out by Anna Round and Gillian Lovegrove in considering school pupil attitudes to Computing and the Secondary Curriculum issues, there is a need to continue to develop this activity to provide support for initiatives to improve the secondary-tertiary education interface. Again this activity should be supported within Information Group member resources, unless there is a wish by the committee to carry out further in-depth investigation, in which case some research time would be required.

BCS are currently completing a major study of employer attitudes and needs in terms of Computing education, and we have already discussed how this might be furthered and used by CPHC to provide support for arguments in favour of Computing degrees meeting relevant industrial needs. This activity would be achievable through co-ordination of activity between Information Group and existing BCS researchers, requiring no investment unless there was a perceived need for specific research to consider particular aspects of employer need. Utilisation of CPHC member contacts with industry would be of significant value for this research, and would be of value to BCS, which would be the benefit to them in the activity.

The work carried out by Keith Mander in analysing HESA statistics to highlight the decline in student numbers in Computing should be continued, and the Information Group would have a role in this. However, some of the analysis was predicated on a view of the range of courses on offer within the HE sector under the main Computing codes, and there is no actual research available on this. Therefore, Information Group will seek, through the membership, to produce a detailed analysis of the course provision in Computing in the UK HE sector, including the relationship to applications and student numbers. It is hoped that his work can be carried out within the member resources of the group, but it may require some additional support, depending on the importance accorded to the initial results by CPHC Committee.

All of the foregoing represents activities based on existing issues identified as being of importance to the CPHC community. However, there is also a need to consider the formulation of a response to the main thrust of the Leitch Review, especially in considering the relationship between academia and industry, the development of new “Universities”, and the mechanisms to support lifelong learning. This will have significant impact on the future of the UK HE Computing sector, and CPHC should have a clearly defined position based on well-founded research. It is in this area that the Information Group lacks resources to carry out the necessary research, and would seek support in the form of dedicated research time to develop that position. While there might well be some common interest between BCS and CPHC in this area, it is likely that there are some aspects that we would wish to pursue independently, especially in consideration of the academic perspective.

Apart from these areas, the Information Group is also open to undertake other activities assigned to it by the CPHC Committee, within the limits of the resources of the members of the group.

Current membership of the BCS Information Group:

Chair: Professor Lachlan MacKinnon  
Members: Dr. Liz Bacon  
Mr. Garth Glynn  
Professor Gillian Lovegrove  
Professor Jim Yip (assigned work, but no meetings)  
Dr. David Evans (BCS representative)  
Professor Jim Woodcock (UKCRC representative)

LMM 10/6/7

Following the circulation of the Parliamentary Briefing paper on the decline in student numbers in Computing, and the subsequent Members’ responses, the following areas for research for the coming year were clarified:

1. Research current job vacancies over a 6 month period classifying in terms of degree requirement, experience and other factors. Survey should include contact with recruitment agencies specialising in IT jobs.
2. Breakdown of postgraduate students in computing degree programmes by country of origin.
3. Destination stats – how many overseas students stayed in the UK?
4. Survey of destination statistics available through university careers services. Where are students with computing degrees going?
5. How many teachers of computing have relevant qualifications?
6. How many IT jobs are lost to industry each quarter?
7. Investigate the e-skills UK methodology to understand how they decide which jobs are classified as new.

Some of this activity can be undertaken by the Members of Information Group, but the longitudinal survey activities would be best undertaken by a researcher with some dedicated time for the activity, and BCS will be looking at the costs and timings for this.