A new landscape for teaching

and learning

Ruth Farwell

Vice Chancellor, Bucks New University

Chair, GuildHE

Chair, HEFCE Teaching Quality & Student Experience Committee

Excellent practice in teaching and learning cannot be divorced from its time and context:

- Sector environment

- Institutional mission and culture

- Broader changes in society

Recent tour through TQSE agenda items

- Information for (prospective) students

- Risk based approach to quality assurance

- Teaching funding methodology

- Overview of sector's approach to maintaining standards and quality

- Open education resources and learning technologies

- Wilson review and employer engagement

- ….. Student interest

Students have high expectations.....

- Student interest has risen up the agenda in all institutions in recent years

- Involvement in students in quality assurance and more widely is increasing

- Student charters: 'most enriching when based on a partnership between students and staff'

- Student involvement is now promoted and accepted ... up to a point

And they're getting higher

- Fees and Government policy

- Getting value for money and a step on the ladder to employment

- Greater engagement of students in the business

- NUS
  - Campaigns
  - Charters linked to National Student Survey (NSS) outcomes

- QAA
  - New institutional review method
  - Quality Code

- Fees and Government policy

- Getting value for money and a step on the ladder to employment

- Greater engagement of students in the business

- NUS

    o Campaigns

    o Charters linked to National Student Survey (NSS) outcomes

- QAA

    o New institutional review method

    o Quality Code

What has the Government promised?

- 'Students in the driving seat' and having a 'greater role in holding HEIs to account'.

- More competition amongst providers and a 'level playing field'

- Increasing informed choice leading to improved quality; liberating the student number controls

- HEFCE as student champion

- Swift resolution of complaints

- Supporting students to develop enterprise skills and greater links between universities and businesses

- Fees and Government policy

- Getting value for money and a step on the ladder to employment

- Greater engagement of students in the business

- NUS

  - o Campaigns

  - o Charters linked to National Student Survey (NSS) outcomes

- QAA

  - o New institutional review method

  - o Quality Code

A student engagement strategy?

- Student involvement is increasingly high priority
- Points to the development of an institutional student engagement strategy
- Involvement of 'service users'
- Makes sound business sense
- Leads to innovation

Liam Burns, NUS President

"The primary relationship is between students and teachers: the fundamental and most granular relationship in making quality higher education happen"

HEFCE Board Planning Event, March 2012

Also NUS research has shown: we should not assume that the good relationship with students at senior level in an institutional permeates all levels of the institution

Living the student engagement philosophy

- Beyond a provider and a consumer model
- View by some: students can never be customers
- Providers: 'we know best'
- Emphasis on students as consumers
    - Engagement equated with evaluation
    - Nothing wrong with that but limited
- Co-producers
- Partners in a learning community
- Challenge

Students as co-producers

	Acquisition (Consumerism)	Participation (Co-production)
Goal	Individual enrichment	Community building
Learning	Acquiring facts	Becoming a participant
Student	Recipient, customer	Apprentice, peripheral participant
Teacher	Deliverer, provider	Expert, dialogue partner
Knowledge	Possession, commodity	Aspect of practice
Knowing	Having, possessing	Belonging, participating

Coffield, *What if teaching and learning really were the priority,* Learning and Skills Network, 2008

Staff in a changing landscape

Command and control	Staff engagement
Senior management	Leadership
Rules and regulations	Employee participation
Clocking on and off	Flexible employment practice
Rate for job	Total reward
Results driven	Goal attainment
Staff appraisal	Review, competency frameworks

bucks new university

Distinction and Diversity in Higher Education GuildHE

Changing shape of learning

Yesterday	Tomorrow
Off line	On line
Teaching(er) Centric	Learning(er) Centric
Limited Dialogue	Open Dialogue (in variety of ways)
Individual Learning	Social Learning
Physical Environment	Virtual Environment
Static	Dynamic / Mobile

Borrows from Dianne Gommery,
Pearsons PLC, 2012