

2012 UNIVERSITY ANNUAL LEARNING & TEACHING CONFERENCE

2012 & Beyond

Afternoon Oral Bites

13:55 – 14:30

Engage from [before] the start

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Abstract:

Delegates at this session will gain an understanding of how they might quickly and easily enhance their eBridge sites through the use of media. The session will create a multimedia welcome page, using readily available tools, live during the presentation.

The University strategy map shows actions in 'enhancing our learning environment' and 'delivering an exceptional student experience'. Student feedback through the HUU Annual Student Written Submission 2011 identified 'the largest problem with eBridge is simply to do with the lecturers' use of the tool. Many students, while praising eBridge, were quick to highlight that their lecturer's use of it was poor'. This session will address in a very small part the strategic action and begin to explore ways in which lecturers' use of eBridge can be enhanced.

Research has identified that the initial experiences of University can have a significant impact on subsequent student engagement (Tinto, 1995; Longden and Yorke, 2007). Work at Bradford and Bournemouth Universities has identified that students who make early contact with academic and social infrastructures are more likely to remain involved in their course (Currant and Keenan, 2008). The use of new technology in this critical induction and transition phase may be appropriate to aid student retention. The use of podcasts has been found to be effective in enhancing student engagement and reflection (Baird and Fisher, 2006). Delegates at this session will see a podcast produced live. Using the virtual learning environment, eBridge, students can be engaged and encouraged to get to know each other and the course structure before the session begins.

This 5 minute presentation will seek to show one way in which students can be quickly engaged with the lecturer, each other and their study by using an appealing welcome message.