

2012 UNIVERSITY ANNUAL LEARNING & TEACHING CONFERENCE

2012 & Beyond

Theme: Student Engagement

13:05 – 13:25

Students as Change Agents

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Abstract:

In recent years an international community of researchers and practitioners have been involved in the investigations of students' experiences and uses of technology on Learning, with the findings beginning to open the eyes of practitioners to the importance of listening and responding to the student voice.

In 2008, the then President of the National Union of Students (NUS), Aaron Porter made the impassioned plea:

I ask you to begin to explore, within your own context, new ways to engage students in their learning, to involve students in your internal quality assurance systems, and in the design and planning of courses. We will only be able to take this work forward if we have a wide resource of innovative ideas and solutions to draw upon, and the only place that those can be developed is by practitioners, in real situations.

What followed were a series of innovate Higher Education Institute lead projects that explored these possibilities. This session will share knowledge and practice though the presentation of a series of case studies of some of these projects, investigating students as:

- Evaluators of their HE experience (the student voice)
- Participants in decision-making processes
- Partners, co-creators and experts
- Agents for change.

An emerging trend is for students to undertaking a range of mentoring, design and training roles that have the potential to impact significantly on practices and processes that may lead to an enhanced learner experience.

What can be learned from these studies? Are they applicable to the University of Hull? How could students be engaged promoting change through the use of technology in learning? And what are the key factors:

- Should activities be led by students, or led by the institution?
- To what extent is the activity premised on active engagement by students in change, or is based on more passive forms of representation.

