

Briefing: Review of information about learning and teaching, and the student experience: Consultation on changes to the NSS, Unistats and information provided by institutions

This paper provides a briefing on a joint consultation by the four UK higher education funding bodies on proposals to improve information about learning and teaching, and the student experience. This includes changes to the National Student Survey, to the Unistats website and to information provided by institutions.

Recommended action

To **note** that a small group is to be convened to draft the University response.

Committee members are welcome to forward comments to Maggie Cunningham (Maggie.cunningham.1@city.ac.uk) to inform the response. Comments should be sent by 20th November to allow sufficient time for drafting and submission to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor for sign-off before submission.

Review of information about learning and teaching, and the student experience: Consultation on changes to the NSS, Unistats and information provided by institutions

This paper provides a briefing on a joint consultation by the four UK higher education funding bodies on proposals to improve information about learning and teaching, and the student experience. Full information is available on the HEFCE website:

<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/year/2015/201524/>

The consultation includes proposed changes to the National Student Survey, the Unistats website and information provided by institutions. Responses to 28 questions are invited which cover the following areas:

For implementation by 2017

- Changes to Unistats to better meet the diverse needs of students and support decision-making (e.g. providing more contextual information)
- Transfer of publication of learning, teaching and assessment information to institutions as well as ensuring institutions are meeting Competition and Markets Authority guidance in publishing consistent but nuanced information
- Changes to NSS as follows:
 - o Apply criteria¹ for questions in main survey
 - o Include new questions on student engagement (academic challenge and integrative learning, student voice, and learning community).
 - o Amend questions on Learning Resources and on Assessment and Feedback
 - o Merge duplicative questions
 - o Transfer personal development and student union questions to optional banks
 - o Bring optional questions up to date

For implementation after 2017

- Capturing and publishing qualitative data (e.g. NSS comments)
- Feedback mechanisms for other priority groups (e.g. short courses, students who withdraw or do not complete, or data collection in another form)
- Collecting feedback for publication for taught postgraduate students including what information should be gathered

Possible further developments

The document also indicates that future work may be done on developing 'learning indicators' but notes that there are a number of consultations (e.g. Review of Quality Assessment in England, TEF) and research projects underway at the moment which will contribute to this before funding bodies are ready to respond with detailed proposals.

Response

The response must be submitted by 4th December. A small group has been convened to draft the response (see below). In addition to the Committee Deans have also been sent a briefing and invited to comment. The SU will be submitting on its own behalf as well as supporting the University. The response will be signed-off by the DVC and VC.

Maggie Cunningham, Head of Student Experience (Convenor)
Alison Edridge, Assistant Director Quality and Academic Development
Greg Wellington, Head of Student Systems & Data Quality, Academic Operations
Academics (x2) - tbc
SU representative - tbc

Maggie Cunningham, Head of Student Experience 27th October 2015

¹ The criteria will become a framework around which any changes or additions to the question bank will be measured in future