Festival of Learning and Teaching

Summary of Survey Results 2016

20 December 2016

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Contents

Introduction

The sixth Festival of Learning and Teaching was held on 19 August 2016. This report summarises results of the survey that was conducted to obtain feedback from Festival registrants, and where relevant, it responds to feedback by providing recommendations for continuous improvement of future Festivals. The questionnaire used in this survey is provided as an attachment to this Summary.

Summary of Findings

Respondents

What is your primary affiliation with the University?		
Answer Options	Response Count	Response Percent
Student	5	8%
Academic Staff	31	**50%**
Professional staff	25	40%
Guest	1	2%

All Festival registrants (263 attendees) were invited to participate in the survey. Of these, 62 people responded, giving an overall response rate of around 24%.

Which Faculty/Area are you from?		
Answer Options	Response Count	Response Percent
Faculty of Arts	13	**21%**
Faculty of ECMS	3	5%
Faculty of Health Sciences	8	13%
Faculty of the Professions	8	13%
Faculty of Sciences	6	10%
Division of Services and Resources	5	8 %
Division of the DVC&VP(A)*	17	**27%**
Division of the DVC&VP(R)	0	0%
I am a guest	2	3%

From the survey respondents, the majority are from the Division of the DVC&VP(A), closely followed by the Faculty of Arts. From other data sources including registrations from the day, the majority of attendees are from the Division of the DVC&VP(A) followed by a number of attendees from the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Did you attend the Festival of Learning and Teaching this year?		
Answer Options	Response Count	Response Percent
Yes	60	**97%**
No	2	3%

97% of respondents indicated that they attended. Out of 263 registrations, allowing for those who attended but did not sign in, 153 (58%) were recorded as signing in on the day. This also included 27 people who had not previously registered.

What prevented you from being able to attend?		
Answer Options	Response Count	Response Percent
Competing work priorities	1	100%
Competing personal priorities	0	0%
Other (please specify)	0	0%

Festival 2016 – Evaluation

Please rate the overall usefulness/benefit of the Festival						
Answer Options	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Response Count
	0	2	8	**26**	17	53

Please rate the relevant sessions you attended							
Answer Options	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	N/A	Response Count
Interactive Keynote, Building Bridges: Forging Powerful Connections between Teaching and Research (Professor Mick Healey)	0	1	5	**22**	19	4	0
Q&A Panel, Building Bridges: Forging Powerful Connections between Teaching and Research	0	2	11	**21**	13	4	0
Parallel sessions	0	0	9	**25**	12	4	0

Responses included:

'Some excellent sessions, my favourite that I attended was the Flipped Classroom session because it was actually using the methodology in the session and providing a practical example.'

'Worst thing about the parallel sessions is wanting to be in several places at the same time.'
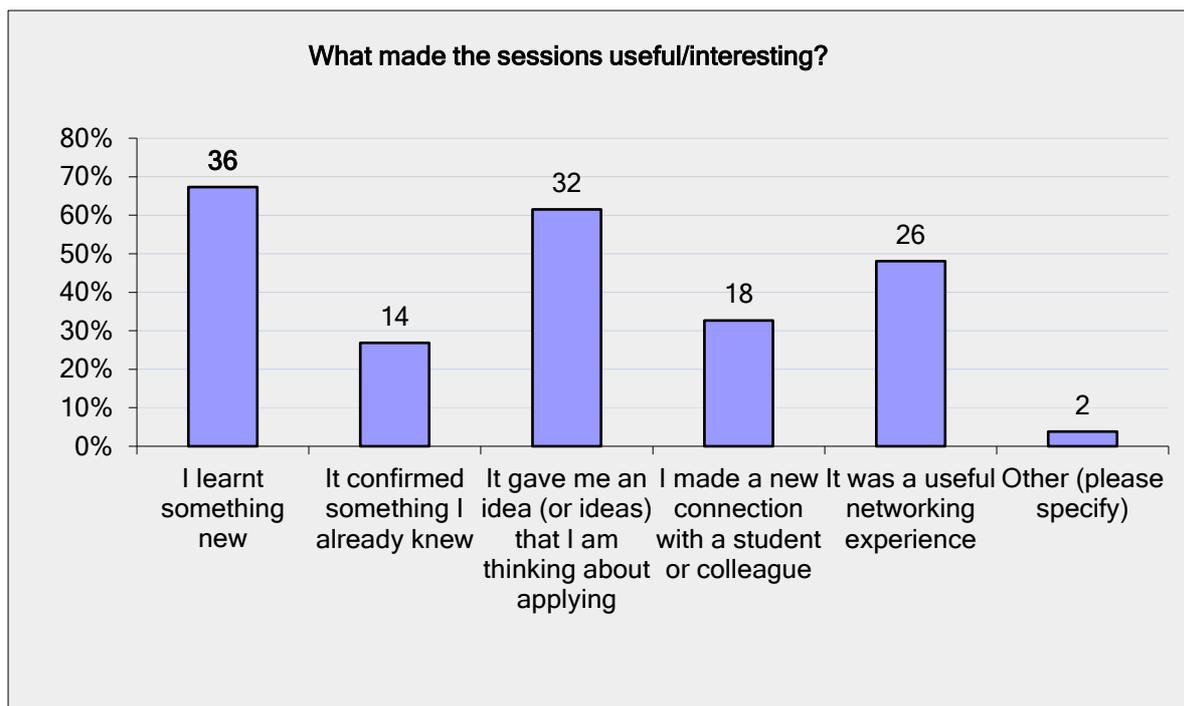
'Interesting to learn that there is more happening elsewhere on campus in the careers space, apart from my faculty and the central careers service. Glad this is important enough to be on a few other radars here and there.'

Suggested areas for improvement:

'I wanted to attend the session that was held at Ingkarni Wardli building but I was at the central hub building, and it was raining so I decided to stay where I was. Maybe next year's festival we'll be able to have all the sessions in one venue or building.'

'Timing the Festival during a teaching week is ill advised.'

'I'm not sure that we got maximum use from the panel session after the keynote address. Perhaps better connection between the key note address and the follow up session is needed, so that we build on the key note more practically.'

What made the sessions useful/interesting?

Category	Value
I learnt something new	36
It confirmed something I already knew	14
It gave me an idea (or ideas) that I am thinking about applying	32
I made a new connection with a student or colleague	18
It was a useful networking experience	26
Other (please specify)	2

'Other' included 2 responses:

'Valuable connection (already existing acquaintance, but now a strong connection) with future collaboration likely to come as a result - thank you'

'It was enjoyable and worth investing the time away from important work.'

The following question asked whether respondents planned to do something new or different in their teaching as a result of attending the Festival. Out of 62 respondents, 25 provided responses, as follows:

Responses included:

'Confirmed the decision to undertake a project around student partnership in reviewing and critiquing online modules. Led to directing students to liaise with key academic staff in specific areas; had discussions with them at the Festival around areas of common interest.'

'Using students from other, but related cohorts to share their learnings with students who won't have the same learning opportunities but who can benefit from their reflections of their peers.'

'Co-creation/students as partner's workshop.'

'More student interaction in the seminars.'

'Working on peer assessment a bit.'

'Think of more peer assessment in groups.'

'New strategies for helping students learn academic English conventions.'

'To adapt the learning and teaching techniques of the 21st century to my teaching experience.'

'Involve students in L&T research, i.e. co-creation.'

'Involving students in co-creation. Finding a way to obtain better student feedback the SELT process is unsatisfactory as it usually explores the tails of a normal distribution rather than the average student.'

'I am new to teaching and am looking at all avenues to improve and enhance the classes and interaction with students.'

'Change to student outputs from my SGDE.'

'I will be following up changes to our SGDE to see if student experience has changed.'

'Give students a greater role in determining the questions for inquiry.'

'Improve the pedagogy of some careers workshops by tapping into the experience of teaching excellence in the School of Education.'

'I have a stronger research base to advise on eLearning.'

'More online. Want to assist with Digital Technologies Framework, want to help apply eportfolios across the University.'

'I will be working with colleagues from the digital literacies project on a co-creation project early in 2017.'

'I want to create an interdisciplinary first year elective, similar to the Grand Challenges.'

'Undergraduate journal papers.'

'Using Plickers for flipped classroom activity.'

'Plickers!'

'Chad's method of using video products for oral presentation with jigsaw groups for peer evaluation & reflection.'

'Looked at Canvas and how to set up files etc.'

Pre-Festival 2016 – Evaluation

If you attended the Pre-Festival Students as Partners Workshop by Professor Mick Healey (Wednesday 17 August), please rate it						
Answer Options	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Response Count
	0	0	2	5	**11**	18

Out of a total of 31 staff who attended the Pre-Festival Students as Partners Workshop, 18 (60%) responded to this question, the majority result indicating the workshop was very good.

Festival 2017

What topics/activities would you like to see programmed next year? Select all that apply		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Keynote presentations	74.7%	59
Networking opportunities	46.8%	37
Panel sessions	65.8%	52
Parallel sessions	46.8%	37
Workshops	**54.4%**	43
Other (please specify)	10.1%	8

In order the top three activities were ranked as: workshops (78%), keynote presentations (68%) and networking opportunities (66%).

Based on the additional comments, it is recommended that fewer parallel sessions be scheduled and students have more input and involvement (e.g. attending the keynote presentations).

One comment which relates strongly to the above:

'I would like to see the students attend the keynote presentations so that they have a voice in the research side of things and I would like to see greater interaction between student researchers and the academic community - where they can feel as though they are participating as peers.'

General Comments

The final question 'Do you have any further comments about the Festival of Learning and Teaching?' fell mainly into three categories:

- ***Support*** *Several of the respondents highlighted their views of the Festival as positive, allowing interaction, networking and knowledge to be shared across the University. One comment describes it as 'enjoyable, energetic, collegiate, useful and informative'. Another comment describes it as a 'great experience'.*

- ***Timing*** *As with previous years, scheduling the Festival to suit everybody's schedule poses challenges. Several respondents were not pleased that it had been scheduled within teaching time, although in 2015 a clear preference was identified for a mid-August event during teaching time. The question of timing for the Festival will be revised in the planning for 2017.*

- ***Parallel Sessions*** *Respondents were very pleased with this year's presentations. One commented 'this year was the best I can remember in terms of quality and relevance of presentations' and another said 'it was very inspiring… I may also consider submitting an abstract next year'.*

Conclusion

From this feedback we can conclude that the Festival continues to be very well received within the University as a valuable event, allowing attendees to share ideas and information, gain up-to-date knowledge regarding the University learning and teaching practice, connect with others and innovate practices between likeminded colleagues. The Parallel Sessions were particularly enjoyed this year, with several positive comments provided about them in the survey.