Learning and Teaching Committee

13 January 2006
Paper LTC 06/01
Agenda Item 3

Race Toolkit Update

Summary

As the race toolkit project has developed it has been agreed that practical examples of how race equality and anti-racism have been applied within the curricula, as well as further examples of student’s experiences of racism, would make the toolkit a more useful resource. It would be therefore helpful if members of the Learning & Teaching Committee were able to assist Universities Scotland in collecting such examples.

Background

As members will be aware, Universities Scotland is currently developing a “race toolkit” to assist teaching staff meet their statutory duties under the Race Relations Amendment (2000) Act. The project is overseen by an advisory group, convened by Prof Rao Bhamidimarri, with representation from Scottish HEIs, Universities Scotland, the HE Academy, CRE Scotland, NUS Scotland and the Funding Council.

Strand one of the project focuses on the delivery of teaching and assessment methods; strand two considers curriculum content with the aim of encouraging academic staff to reflect on how the content of their courses meets the statutory obligation to “promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups”.

The University of Edinburgh has recently taken responsibility for both strands of the toolkit, led by Rowena Arshad. An initial framework and draft was submitted to the advisory group in December 2005 for comment and the toolkit is expected to be ready for piloting within participating HEIs in May 2006.

Examples of Race Equality & Anti-Racist Education

Universities Scotland hopes to include examples from every Scottish HEI of how departments have successfully incorporated race equality or anti-racism into the curriculum content. It is believed that the examples will be a key way to inspire academic staff to relate the toolkit to their discipline and institution.

An appeal for examples was originally made to each institution in circular 09/05, in March of last year. The Race Toolkit Advisory Group is very grateful to those institutions that responded with several
good examples but many other institutions have not responded and members are therefore requested to provide examples of the following:

- Departments/subject areas which have incorporated race equality within the curriculum
- Departments/subject areas which have delivered anti-racist education in terms of curriculum content.

Please note that as many examples per institution as members are able provide will be gratefully received as it is hoped to include examples from as broad a range of disciplines as possible, including vocational courses.

It would be helpful if an internal e-mail could be circulated to colleges/departments asking academic colleagues to e-mail Rowena Arshad by **Friday, 10 February 2006** with such examples, or to provide her with a contact whom she could approach to ask these questions. Rowena Arshad can be contacted on rarshad@education.ed.ac.uk.

**Academics with experience of racism**

The Race Toolkit Advisory Group would also be grateful for help in identifying academics that may be more likely to have had black and ethnic minority students relate experiences of racism to them, because, for example, they teach in the field of race/diversity, are from a BME background themselves or are harassment/bullying advisors. Universities Scotland would like to interview a number of academics in this position to inform the toolkit and to support the views collected from BME students at focus groups on their experience at HEIs.

Suggestions for academic staff that may fit this description will be treated in confidence and should be sent to Susannah Lane at Universities Scotland (susannah@universities-scotland.ac.uk). Universities Scotland would be grateful for any suggestions by Friday, 27 January 2006.

**Recommendations**

Members are asked to provide:

- Examples of how race equality or anti-racist approaches has been incorporated within the curriculum of different subjects within their institutions.
- Nominate academics which the race toolkit advisory group could interview in respect of the student experience of racism in teaching delivery.

**Enquiries**

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