Enhancing learning and teaching through Student-led Teaching Awards

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The project

This project examines student nomination data gathered as part of the Student-led Teaching Awards' (SLTAs) process at the University of Dundee. Led by the SLTA Working Group, the project has completed a full review and generated a thematic report based on data collected from the 2015 to 2019 awards for best assessment and feedback, and best personal adviser or personal tutor.
This data is used by students, students' representatives, students' association staff, and institutional colleagues to underpin the development of resources to enhance teaching practice across the University. This year, following the publication of the report, a coffee morning event was organised for teaching staff to share the findings, as well as for staff to hear from this year's winners. This event was also used to collect staff feedback on how best to disseminate future resources and tools to help them enhance their teaching practice.

Benefits

The key benefits have been the importance of identifying important trends through the analysis of the nomination data of what students recognise as excellent teaching. This work provided new insights, and not only aided the development of a new online resource for staff to enhance teaching practice, but provided a rich data set to help develop future campaigns and the SLTA awards themselves.

Challenges

The key challenge was deciding on the data to review. With a large data set and limited resources, it is important to focus on areas of shared interest and potential impact.

Working with your institutional colleagues

The project has been a partnership between DUSA, University of Dundee Associate Deans (Learning and Teaching), our Academic Skills Centre, and Centre for Technology and Innovation in Learning. The success of the project depends on this partnership, which we will continue to foster, and we hope to increase the involvement of students and staff in the development of online resources based on analysis of the SLTA data.

What impact has this had on the student experience?

The work we are doing with the data is new and the project is still developing. However, we expect that the culmination of the project will have a positive impact on the students' learning experiences at the University of Dundee. An important part of this will be to use the data to identify and challenge students' predetermined expectations of what good teaching and support looks like.

What advice/top tips would you give to others who might try something similar?

Ensure you have the support of senior members of your institution. The combination of leads from academic schools, academic skills and learning technology has been important. It is also important to take a long view on the data so you can gain an understanding of important trends.