Opening Keynote

Engaging students as partners and change agents in learning and teaching

The concept of ‘listening to the student voice’ – implicitly if not deliberately – supports the perspective of student as ‘consumer’, whereas ‘students as change agents’ explicitly supports a view of the student as ‘active collaborator’ and ‘co-producer’, with the potential for transformation.” (Dunne in Foreword to Dunne and Zandstra 2011, 4).

Ways of engaging students in higher education as partners in learning and teaching is arguably one of the most important issues facing higher education in the 21st Century. Partnership is essentially a process for engaging students, though not all engagement involves partnership. It is a way of doing things, rather than an outcome in itself. This interactive session will explore four ways in which students may be engaged as partners through: a) Learning, teaching and assessment; b) Subject-based research and inquiry; c) Scholarship of teaching and learning; and d) Curriculum design and pedagogic advice and consultancy. Particular attention will be paid to how we may build on and move beyond listening to the student voice and involve students as change agents who can have an impact on the teaching and learning that they and their fellow students experience, through mentoring staff, co-researching teaching and learning, and co-designing the curriculum. It will draw on numerous case studies from around the world.
NTU Annual Learning and Teaching Conference: from Good to Great 2016
‘Students as Partners in Learning and Teaching’

Plenary 3

Embedding students as researchers in the curriculum

“For the students who are the professionals of the future, developing the ability to investigate problems, make judgments on the basis of sound evidence, take decisions on a rational basis, and understand what they are doing and why is vital. Research and inquiry is not just for those who choose to pursue an academic career. It is central to professional life in the twenty-first century” (Brew, 2007)

This interactive session will explore in more depth one way in which students may be partners in higher education i.e. through engaging them in research and inquiry. The argument is that all undergraduate students in all higher education institutions should experience learning through and about research. It is suggested that the most effective way to develop a linkage between teaching and research is to see our students as producers not just consumers of knowledge. The key to mainstreaming undergraduate research and inquiry is to integrate it into the curriculum.

Workshop 2

Developing initiatives around engaging students as partners in learning and teaching

This workshop will explore some of the issues around engaging students as partners in learning and teaching which arise from the case studies we explored in my keynote address on Wednesday and my plenary on Thursday. If you were there please bring the handouts from those sessions with you. Participants will brainstorm the best ways to develop student as partner initiatives at NTU and elsewhere.