

**‘Many Voices’ Conference – DeMontford University, Leicester - 24th June, 2009**

**The Students’ Voice in the enhancement of teaching and learning: Students consulting on teaching**

**Karin Crawford**

Principal Teaching Fellow

University of Lincoln

**Abstract for conference workshop**

This workshop relates to the conference themes that focus on the student voice, student perspectives and particularly ‘learning and teaching in response to the students’ voice’. Furthermore, the workshop considers an approach to ‘hearing the student voice’ and providing teaching staff with a better sense of the student experiences within different learning activities and, as a consequence, enabling that experience to influence change and development in teaching and learning practice.

Students are typically engaged in feedback and ratings on their learning experiences through end-of-module evaluations and large student surveys such as the National Student Survey. The validity of these mechanisms can be debated, but their most undisputable weaknesses are that they are impersonal and untimely; thus reducing their impact on enhancing teaching and learning.

This workshop facilitates reflection on current practices that aim to engage students in the enhancement of learning and teaching, discussing student engagement and considering how far approaches are meaningful, personalised, timely and confidential. It will go on to share experiences, both the opportunities and challenges identified, of a pilot project, in the School of Health and Social Care at the University of Lincoln, which offers a service to educators, whereby trained student consultants provide feedback to individual lecturers on elements of teaching and learning. Student consultants offer the student voice and perspective on learning, as students are the ‘experts’ on the experience of participating in teaching and learning activities.

**Karin Crawford**

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