Enhancing the Student Experience conference 2010

Thursday 11 November 2010

The Importance of Being Advised

Professor Paul Wellings, Vice Chancellor, Lancaster University, and Chair, 1994 Group

1994 group

Summary

- Changes to Higher Education funding policy
- Advice and guidance for prospective students
- 1994 Group Project: HEI survey
- 1994 Group Project: New online resource
- 1994 Group Project: Trailblazing good practice

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Changes to Higher Education funding

- **Shift in funding sources**
  - Teaching grant withdrawn
  - Increased graduate contribution
  - Increased student support

- **New obligations on universities**
  - Demonstrate value
  - Widen participation

Advice and guidance for prospective students

- **Transparent, accurate information about the nature of the student experience**
  - National Student Survey
  - Bestcourse4me
  - Student charters
  - Student expectations of university (1994 Group / JISC project)

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1994 Group Project: Trailblazing good practice

- Durham University's Searchable Online Programmer Database
- University of Reading's Student Stories scheme

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1994 Group Project: HEI survey

- **Responses to 1994 Group survey of HEIs about IAG measures:**
  - Good provision of web pages information for prospective international undergraduate and postgraduates students
  - All provide information on student support, fees and bursaries, and social life
  - Good use of traditional communications methods – i.e. post, email, telephone and open days
  - Less information available on student skills, student population and complaints procedures
  - Less information available at course compared to institutional level
  - Concerns about the right amount of information to avoid 'information overload'

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1994 Group Project: New online resource

JISC funded 1994 Group online resource will:

- Ensure all groups of prospective students are catered for
- Provide an additional platform which supplements and complements information already available, without placing additional pressure on universities
- Use rich media to offer applicants new ways to engage with universities
- Provide ways for prospective students to interact with current students

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