EMA Monthly Newsletter- December Edition, 2017

What's Happening?

Programme Overview

The Programme continues to progress well and according to schedule.

The implementation in RISIS of Undergraduate sub modular marks for the component assessments of modules is nearing completion, and a major milestone was achieved with mark entry for a first module successfully completed in December. Marks will continue to become visible during January for Autumn Undergraduate assessments. Work will commence in January to introduce sub modular marks in RISIS for PGT and Foundation programmes. The exploration of the potential for automatic passing of information between Blackboard, Turnitin and RISIS has also started.

Feedback has been positive from the 2 early adopter schools who started working with new electronic submission, feedback and grading processes towards the end of 2017, and engagement with further schools to agree the approach and timescales for wider roll-out will commence in January.

The development of the Business Case for Learning Analytics continues, along with finalising of requirements for the Student and Staff Feedback Dashboard. A Solution Architect joined the Programme in December and has begun work on options assessment.

Core Systems

The go-live for sub modular marking continued throughout December, alongside mandatory training for programme administrators which included skype training for UoRM, ready for their go live in January. Sub modular marks for Undergraduate programmes are now being entered into RISIS from hereon.

Data checking and further refining of assessment information, as part of commencing mark entry, has been a priority. Sub modular marks will therefore start to appear on RISIS in earnest from January onwards.

New functionality provided also includes the ability to track and calculate turnaround time for feedback and marks, as well as online submission and recording of extenuating circumstances. Supporting screencasts have been rolled out to help students understand the change in process, which has been widely welcomed.

E Submission, Feedback and Grading

The 2 Early Adopter schools continue to provide valuable feedback into the eSFG processes they are now using, as do the Support Centre Administrators for these schools.

Special projects are progressing well, in particular external moderation, iPad mobile marking and use of Rubrics/ quick marks.

Detailed analysis has commenced, to build an understanding of the types of assessments within each school/department to and readiness for eSFG. This will inform discussions planned with the T&L Deans in January and subsequently Heads of School and SDTLs, and support the development of the 2018 roll out plan.

Supporting Change for EMA

Further updates were made to the EMA Website, to include more on who is involved, upcoming communications and delivery timeline, as well as some new case studies.

A full review of existing T&L policy was completed, ensuring that the solutions and new ways of working are compliant. The final report was presented to the Pedagogical Steering Group and some recommendations passed on to CQSD.

Draft Online Submission Protocols were submitted to DELT and accepted in principle, subject to some small changes to add clarity.

Engagement activities continued, including a Programme Directors Briefing, attendance at school meetings and regular Programme Administrators Briefings. An update was also provided for the January meeting of Council.

EMA Dashboard & Learning Analytics

A set of requirements for an initial dashboard view of assessment progress for staff and students were drafted and reviewed with the Workstream Board. A Project Brief is nearly complete for the delivery of this initial set of requirements being delivered.

A review of assessment reporting requirements against existing reports and solutions was conducted to ensure no overlap.

The plan for the Learning Analytics business case delivery was reviewed by the Workstream Board, and engagement commenced with subject matter experts to begin detailed requirements gathering.

Procurement advice was sought to identify the best route to discuss options from third parties.

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What's Happening Next?

Core Systems

A new Personal Tutor screen and Student screen will be made available in RISIS during January, with supporting communication activities underway.

Initial scoping is underway to fully understand the potential for integration (automation of assessment data) between RISIS, Blackboard and Turnitin has commenced and will continue to be worked on during January.

Planning for the implementation of sub modular marks for PGT & Foundation programmes will commence in January.

Work to move operational Exam Reports from the access database to RISIS is also underway.

E Submission, Feedback and Grading

Engagement sessions with T&L Deans will commence in January, followed by sessions with SDTLs and Heads of Schools. These sessions will be run in collaboration with TEL, ADE and SSC.

Alongside this, the TEL team continue to develop the training approach for the new academic year – identifying a suite of training options to meet the varying needs of academics and staff within the University.

A Focus Group will be held on 18th January to explore student experiences in IOE regarding use of feedback; in particular Quickmarks & Rubrics. Work will also continue investigating the efficacy of using the iPad Turnitin app to address issues with both Mobile marking and Offline marking.

In addition, the special project regarding External Examiners will be nearing completion and recommendations made.

Supporting Change for EMA

Further updates will be made to the EMA Website, in particular improved FAQs as well as a new screencast providing more detailed and practical information on the EMA deliverables throughout the assessment and feedback cycle, along with some further case studies, from both a student and staff perspective.

The Online Submission Protocols will be finalised and submitted to UBTL in January, and dissemination routes subsequently agreed with CQSD.

A review of Business Continuity Procedures will be progressed during January, to understand impact and responsibilities in relation to electronic management of assessment should systems fail.

Programme engagement activities continue, a key activity being meeting(s) with SDTLs on the proposed approach to fuller eSFG roll out, as well as new RISIS functionality. The EMA Academic Director will also be presenting at the Durham Blackboard Users' Conference, together with Maria Papaefthimiou, on the transition from small to institution wide eSFG and broader challenges facing the sector.

EMA Dashboard & Learning Analytics

Further consultation to finalise the initial requirements for the Student & Staff Feedback Dashboard will take place during January.

Tribal, the supplier of RISIS, will be visiting to demonstrate functionality to inform potential options for an initial dashboard.

A Solution Architect recently joined and initial options for Learning Analytics will be drafted for review. Considerable consultation will be required with subject matter experts to confirm requirements and potential options through a series of workshops and one-to-one sessions.