Co-managing Course Design Consultancy

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The Higher Education Academy (HEA) sector-wide Students as Partners initiative has given both students and staff at Sheffield Hallam the opportunity to think creatively about how the University engages students in curriculum design in 2012-2013.

Rationale
The institution's Academic Quality Framework, at present, requires appropriate contribution to the design process from students. This is also congruent with the steps the University needs to take to meet the expectations outlined in Chapter B5 (Student Engagement) of Part B of the Quality Assurance Agency's UK Quality Code for Higher Education.

Design and management of project
- Project was designed in partnership with Hallam Union, Venture Matrix™ and Quality Enhancement Portfolio.
- Venture Matrix™ helped recruit students as Course Design Consultants (CDCs) in their work-based learning scheme in addition to its everyday management of project and CDCs.
- The overall project was co-managed by both Elizabeth (Venture Matrix™ placement student) and Manny (Quality Enhancement staff member).

Course Design Consultancy project brief
- CDCs are students who organise and lead solutions-based workshops with students to collect 'student' recommendations and solutions to benefit their course leader and course planning teams at the early stages of a course design approval process.
- CDCs are trained by Quality Enhancement staff to conduct workshops.
- CDCs write a short report for the course leader and course planning team to inform them in the course design process, which can be attached as an appendix to course submission document for (re)approval (i.e. validation).
- CDCs operate independently and are not students on courses they do consultancy work for.
- More info can be found: https://blogs.shu.ac.uk/see/cdc/ or email seej@shu.ac.uk

Outcomes and Impact:
- Students had the opportunity to feedback to peers about potential improvements to the course they currently study on. This information would directly be fed back to course planning teams which could alter the final decisions and changes to the course. Students felt their opinions were valued and taken into consideration.

Benefits
- Project was an excellent opportunity for Elizabeth to gain project and people management experience which for many students do not get the opportunity to gain these skills. The project has helped her employability skills which will hopefully aid her when applying for graduate-level jobs in the future.
- The project benefited from a staff member and student working closely together to create a successful outcome. This initiative will roll out to more courses going through (re)approval next year which will be overseen by both Elizabeth and Manny.
- Both University and Hallam Union has something new for students to 'produce' and 'create' to enhance student voice in course design and approval process.