

WORKSHOP ACTIVITY: DEBATES

HELPING INSTITUTIONS RESPOND TO EMERGENT TECHNOLOGIES

OVERVIEW

In this exercise you will consider how your institution would respond to the challenges of a range of emergent technologies through debate around issues derived through consultations as part of the JISC IRET programme.

This exercise alone is not sufficient to produce an appropriate set of responses, rather it is simply a device to encourage you to start the conversations that we hope will inform and improve future institutional responses.

FACILITATORS: PREPARING FOR THE SESSION

The exercise is intended for institutional managers and professionals, but could be extended to include all categories of staff and students. You may wish to run a joint session for representatives from all these groups, or to run separate sessions and collate the results for analysis.

Well in advance of the session, you should choose a series of motions to debate from those suggested overleaf or based on your own scenarios relevant to your institution. You may wish to restrict a session to a single motion, or choose several contrasting motions to debate by different groups. You should also assign participants to groups for and against the selected motion(s).

Allow participants adequate time to prepare their arguments for or against the motion(s). To assist with this, we recommend that you encourage them to familiarise themselves with the IRET 5Rs framework, either before or during the session, by watching the video presentation at:

<http://jisciret.jiscinvolve.org/understanding-iret>

For the debate session itself, the exact timings will of course depend on the time available and the number of motions to be debated. However, we would recommend allowing each side to presenting their argument without interruption for at least five minutes. This should be followed by the chance for rebuttals and more open discussion and debate.

The session can then be moved on to debate the next motion if appropriate.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further details about the JISC IRET programme and its projects are available on from:

<http://bit.ly/jisciret>

MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

This institution needs more rules to protect it from the misuse of emergent technologies

This institution needs to change the rules to encourage the use of emergent technologies

This institution has a culture of innovation with emergent technologies

This institution rewards experimentation with emergent technologies

This institution needs a dedicated unit to evaluate emergent technologies and guide their implementation

This institution needs to make more use of emergent technologies

This institution needs to respond more quickly to emergent technologies

This institution should drop the VLE and instead use freely-available web applications

This institution should make it's enterprise systems more like Google web applications

This institution needs an institutional presence on social networks and social media sites

This institution should make lectures freely-available on YouTube

This institution should have a branded channel on iTunesU for audio/video content

This institution needs a twitter client on every staff computer

This institution should ban the use of twitter by staff

This institution should limit the use of social networks by staff

This institution should provide a googlemail account for all staff and students

This institution should buy an island on secondlife and develop a virtual campus

This institution should make more institutional data available as feeds (RSS, atom, iCal)

This institution should make institutional data more readily available to staff

This institution should expose more of its data through open APIs

This institution should develop mobile apps to allow staff and students to manage their data

This institution should make course information available using the XCRI-CAP specification

The thing we most need to change about our institutional systems is...?

The thing using emergent technologies would most improve at this institution is...?