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Are you Bored? Then 'Get on Board' (GOB)! Investigating the value of The GOB Programme for ENU students

Abstract:
Are you Bored? Then 'Get on Board' (GOB)! Investigating the value of The GOB Programme for ENU students

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In 2013, The Get on Board (GOB) extra curriculum programme was launched with the aim of placing Edinburgh Napier students on the boards of local charities, voluntary sector organizations or public bodies, where they could network with professionals and help make decisions which impact on their community (Weaver,2015). To date 100 Students have been supported by the Business School and community partners with training, networking opportunities, mentoring and career guidance.

The Get on Board Programme initiative contributes to Strategy 2020 in the area of student experience via extra-curricular activity and citizenship (Weaver, Brodie, & Devlin, 2015; Munck, 2010; Essomba, Karatzia-Stavlioti, Maitles & Zalieskiene 2008). Selected as an example of innovative practice at the Universities Scotland HE Showcase, in November 2016, the Programme also received the Honour of being awarded a Scottish Higher Education Award for enhancing student learning in 2015. Rowena Pelik, Director of QAA Scotland, commented on the GOB's creative and innovative approach to learning & teaching and the effectiveness of this learning being linked to employability and future career skills. The Programme is aligned to the Scottish Government commitment to achieving gender-balanced boards by 2020 (Scottish Government, 2015).

Last year the Programme team carried out an investigation into the value of the learning experience by interviewing students who have taken the programme and also interviewing trustees about the value of students on boards. Through this research we have identified good practice in the current Programme and opportunities for further enhancement. The proposed presentation will share our findings and highlight the good practice identified in relation to offering extra-curriculum activities at ENU.

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