Leading change: Towards an inclusive and accessible department

Equality Diversity and Inclusion Conference 2022: Inclusive Institutions in Action, Advance HE

Dr Jennifer George

Head of the Computing Department & School EDI Lead Goldsmiths, University of London

Structure of this session

- Pandemic work
- Exploratory work
- Consultations
- Action Plan
 - Students:
 - VLE
 - Panopto
 - Meetings
 - Staff
- Extension and expansion

Pandemic Work

- Inclusive Exams
- Time zones
- Carers
- Sharing computers
- Access to quiet space
- Reasonable adjustments

Exploratory work

- ITS
- Disability Team
- Library
- Learning and Teaching team
- Legal
- School leads

Action Plan 2020-2021

- Exploratory work
- Produce VLE and classroom management checklists
- Produce templates for VLE
- Run workshops for module leaders

Action Plan 2021-2022

- Run staff development sessions
 - Disability, Dyslexia, Neurodiversity, Mental Health, Assistive Technology
- Run termly VLE workshops
- Checking system for VLE pages
- Student feedback

Student Feedback (42 students)

- The structure of the VLE was rated inclusive and accessible by 88% of the students
- 62% of the students thought the VLE had improved since the previous year of study at Goldsmiths
- In their free text, they said the structure was easy to navigate, module pages were neater
- Things that were not working were flagged about 3 specific modules which we were able to address immediately.
- Students said the way Panopto displayed recordings were messy. We produces guide for staff as a response.

Action plan 2021-2022

- Based on feedback:
 - Inclusive lecture recording (Panopto)
 - Inclusive MS Teams meetings
- To Do:
 - Power Point (and what else?)
 - Emails
- Staff disability support

Action Plan 2022-2023

- Repeat staff development
- Repeat module set up workshops
- New areas
 - Staff and student recruitment
 - Staff and student induction
 - Staff workloading
 - Staff performance and promotion

What next?

- Rolling out to other departments
- Extending to other protected characteristics

Thank you

• Any Questions?