

# Centre for Bioscience Organisation, Relationships and Activity

**Ian Hughes**

Director, Centre for Bioscience, Higher Education Academy  
and

Faculty of Biological Sciences, University of Leeds, UK

[i.e.hughes@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:i.e.hughes@leeds.ac.uk)



# HEAcademy Mission

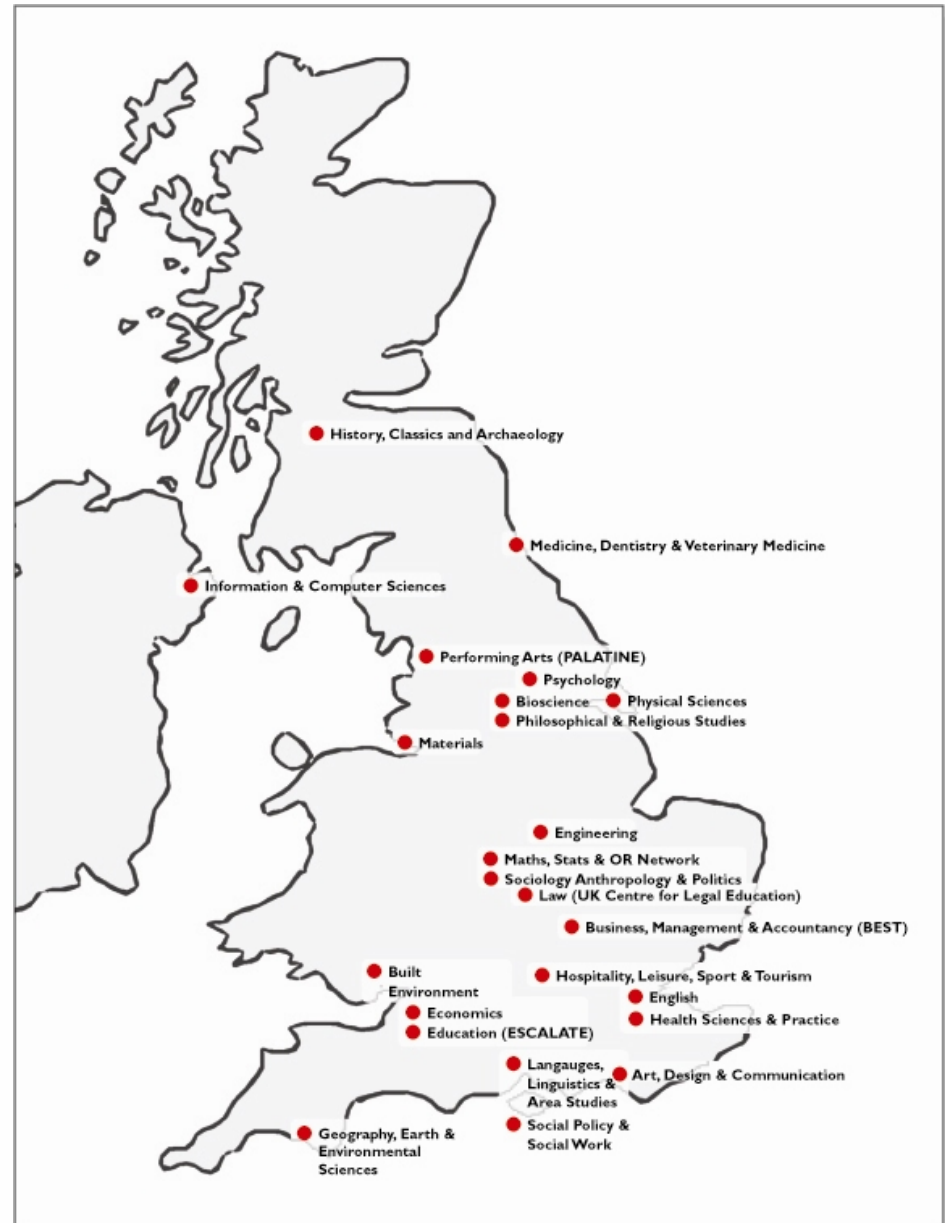


**To help institutions, discipline groups and all staff to provide the best possible learning experience for all their students**

# Relationship with HEAcademy

- **The Centre (and 23 others) is an integral part of the Academy**
- **We are performance managed by the Academy against agreed objectives set in outline by the Academy and interpreted by the Centre according to the needs and priorities of the Bioscience teaching community**
- **We produce strategic and operational plans which are approved by the HEAcademy and an Annual Report which is also submitted to the HEAcademy.**
- **Centre Directors meet regularly with Cliff Allan (who directs the program for the HEAcademy) to exchange information and influence policy**

# Subject Network



# Governance – Board and Council

## Board of Directors

Chair:

Professor Leslie Wagner

Directors:

Mr Gary Attle

Professor Janet Beer

Professor Roger Brown

Professor Bob Burgess

Professor Alan Gilbert

Mr Julian Nicholds

**Professor Judy Simons**

Mr David Thomas

Professor Rick Trainor

\*Mrs Carole Baume

\*Dr Liz Elvidge

**\*Dr Peter Goodhew; Director, Materials SC**

\*elected Council Members



## Council of the Academy

Chair:

Professor Judy Simons  
(Chair, English Adv. Gp.)

Members:

16 elected registered  
practitioners

**6 elected from the subject centres**

2 appointed by UUK and SCOP

2 appointed by NUS

Up to 4 co-opted representing  
other interests



# Lifetime and funding

- **New contract between HEAcademy and University of Leeds**
- **Funding at £520,000+, secure to 2009 subject to satisfactory performance**
- **Funding comes from payments to the HEAcademy by HEIs who are more and more interested in what they get for their money**
  
- **Objectives are to:**
  - **Be main information/advice resource for L&T matters for all UK HE staff and to support CPD**
  - **Support the strategies adopted by HEIs to improve the student learning experience**
  - **Develop, promote and disseminate good practice in L&T**
  - **Collaborate with all stakeholders in the community including other Subject Centres, the HEAcademy, Sector Skills Councils and CETLs especially in the delivery of national policy**
  - **Ensure staff in HE are aware of the work of the Centre and how to contact it**
  - **Develop a network of disseminated two-way contacts**
  - **Develop international links to share experience and developments**

# Organisation and Staffing

- **Advisory Group chaired by Kevan Gartland**
- **External evaluator: Clive Colling**
- **Centre for Bioscience staff (Total 7.18WTE)**
  - **Ian Hughes, Ed Wood: Director and Co-Director**
  - **Centre Manager: ??????**
  - **Subject Specialists: Steve Maw, Jackie Wilson, Julian Park\***
  - **Associate Subject Specialist: Katherine Clark**
  - **IT support: Terry McAndrew, ?????**
  - **Centre Administrator: Gill Sayers**
  - **Project Staff: Jill Anderson-Clark, Sue Grahame**
  - **Editor of Bee-j: Chris Willmott\***

\* Located outside Leeds

# Activities

**Supporting practitioners and developing teaching and learning; disseminating good practice, improving the student experience**

- **Website, knowledgebase, imagebank, audits, good practice guides, Bioscience Education E-journal, network groups, teaching development grants (individual and departmental), teaching resources, bulletin**
- **Areas of special funding: external examining, entrepreneurship, employability, e-learning, education for sustainable development**
- **Priority areas; employability, ethics and sustainability, student experience, widening participation**
- **Delivery through website, fora, workshops, conferences, visits, publications (e and hard copy), representatives (yourselves) in Bioscience units; country consultants**

**We are inclusive and support all those involved in any aspect of L&T in UK HE**



# Scale (2005)

- Organised 13 events attended by 416 individuals
- Contributed to 21 other events
- 97,000 website contacts, over 2m page displays
- 9 special interest networking group (e.g. ethics, ,...)
- 3 newsletter/bulletin issues (8,000 each)
- 145 key Bioscience representatives
- 2175 registered users
- Links to 37 independent external projects
- 15 Mini-projects currently funded
- 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> volumes of BEE-j – include 15 articles
- Imagebank – over 2,800 images

# Focus on the student learning lifecycle

**Access – first year experience – retention – services & support –**



**– e-learning – enterprise – employability – research training**

**Postgraduates and research  
as well as undergraduates**

# Future

- **Future funding is secure and overall evaluation of work is very positive**
- **Value for money for individual HEIs?**
- **Relationship and interactions with CETLs?**
- **Upcoming/continuing areas of interest**
  - **The student experience (UG + PG)**
  - **Employability and entrepreneurship**
  - **Professional standards in teaching**
  - **Ethics and sustainability**
  - **Widening participation**
  - **Divergence of UK countries**
  - **Links with HEI staff development units**
  - **HEFCE strategic plan 2006-2011**