

Raising the Professional Profile of Technical/Specialist Staff

10th June 2008

Summary of Evaluation

Figures in tables are percent of 123 respondents

1. How do you rate the conference as a whole?

Very Good	Good	Below Average	Poor
19	76	5	

2. How satisfied were you with the conference in terms of the following

	Very Good	Good	Below Average	Poor
a) Administrative arrangements	33	65	2	
b) Standard of presentations	14	63	6	
c) Content of presentations	22	70	8	

3. What aspect of the conference was most useful and why?

- 23 Info on the new CPD programme
- 16 Information on HEATED and where it's going
- 16 Networking
- 13 Crazy paving experience from Leeds
- 8 The information on the VLE and IST web site
- 8 Birmingham experience
- 2 Questions and Answers session
- Interesting to get viewpoint from other institutions
- Improved my understanding of availability of professionalism for Technical staff
- The usage of the role profiles in the CPD and ECC Ltd role in this
- Broadening of the remit of IST to cover workshop techs as well as labs
- Realisation that many Universities are in the similar situation.
- Need more interactive sessions. This was a series of presentations, not a conference. Gave some useful information but repetitive and rather dry.
- Introduction to topic and gave materials for future thought.
- Clear explanations of a difficult organisation and the feeling that we are not alone
- Listening to all the talks but personal experience the best.
- Gave the picture of the situation across the HE and the basis for future training developments.
- A challenging subject which I need to think about in more detail.
- Thought provoking, inclusiveness, networking. Initial ideas on coping with demographic time bomb and recruitments and training
- The conference provided a background and overview and the presenter were inspiring
- Got a good understanding of new way forward
- The presentations in the morning sessions were interesting and informative, afternoon was a little repetitive.
- Following my University HR on Technical Training

The report on the Birmingham experience with CPD. It was the first talk of the day to present unpolished facts rather than hand wavy good intentions
Awareness of technical training possibilities and opening discussions for future
Jacquie's talk was inspiring showing how self motivation and the helpful university environment progressed far. Kens session was honest and showed both good things from IST and the CPD training experience.

Excellent career path shows how far a person with technical background can go if they are motivated and given support and training. Useful to hear John Perkins talk and hear technical staff are appreciated and valued as staff.

Personal testimony

Highlighting the role of existence of a professional body for tech staff and how to move forward

The honesty of the presentations enabling the decision to involve the options and use the facilities given.

Afternoon session more applied

4. Any further comments:

The Positive

4 Pleased to see the involvement of Prof Perkins, we need more academic support.

2 Overall very enjoyable

IST session interesting

Good info

Good proposals

An excellent conference and content, well attended and encouraging for future situations regarding technical staff

The speaker from Leeds was the most inspiring, more of this kind of approach would have been better

Would like further clarification of how valuable work of techs is appreciated by those who receive the value of the skills; experience can be recognised by those of a higher level so this can aid career progression.

Jacquie and John Perkins were both good presentations in real world terms

Skills base needs to be integrated, I know this will involve all of us but someone to coordinate and pull things together of training opportunities and costing skills days may be useful to underpin this excellent initiative and perhaps draw more sceptics in.

I will be covering the contents of the conference at the next support staff meeting and look how it can be applied there.

As someone from Staff development this has given much to think about – especially how to engage the technicians in the institutions who feel quite dissatisfied

Good luck with trying to set up the system up, you need to get the government and universities to start succession planning.

UNISON is keen to work with HEATED and promote the work it does via our web site

Matt needs to address the academic members of staff and head of facilities to make them aware.

HEATED/IST working together will make a success of this

Many thanks to all involved

Very important topic that must not grind to a halt

The Negative

10 Exhibition and networking time too long – networking should be more organised

4 No biscuits and food slow being served

3 Venue too hot, stuffy and overcrowded, waited too long for food

2 Seating uncomfortable

Not sure if these accreditations would be recognised if someone left HE for another occupation

I support the principle of CPD but not with profiles from ECC Ltd, any scheme with profiles from ECC should be throttled at birth.

CPD need to run for a few years to convince techs it is transferable and useful

Presenters should not use acronyms.

I am in favour of CPD but I'm not sure it should be delivered via IST (most techs in Manchester wont join the union, which directly campaigns on their pay and conditions – what chance they will join IST?

I felt it was a marketing exercise for the CPD, but don't feel this addresses the conference title – raising the professional profile.

Not enough debate more interactive feedback required – missed opportunity to collate opinions from delegates

No answers - just a sales exercise for the IST

Comments and questions

We need to get HR and University management on board

How much for me? How much to join??

How do I start?

Can we do an update programme to review the progress??

Good luck in convincing the HEI's to join up

CPD will only work if candidates can attend courses which will carry points which can be used towards CPD awards.

Role profiles are likely to be used as job descriptions by some institutions

Got a bit confused about membership of the IST and HEATED: bit clearer now as managed to speak to Matt, thought this could have been clearer in the presentations

Would be interesting to carry out the survey from morning session again at the end of the day to see if the willingness to register for CPD would be the same – suspect numbers would decrease!

Really enjoyed Jacque's session and presentation, some did little to sell the CPD, very de-motivational speakers.

HE needs skills not more conferences

One speaker seemed to convey the view that succession planning means employing 'trainees' Does training learning development end with a degree?? Not all graduates want a PHD (via job as a technician). Some want to be a technician and have a career as a technician. Given that very many young people go to University we must not assume that they are not suitable material for technical career.

What security measures are in place for on line learning?? What prevents someone else completing the course for you?

Better to get information for delegates especially with different trains, stations and buses