Teaching admin working group (Tim)

Our local ESC notification mechanism is up and running and a local report with ESC data is in place for easy transfer of cases to spreadsheets (replacing a laborious screen scraping exercise).

Our LearnAPI toolkit (for automating instructor enrolments and content updates) has now passed ISG code review and the testing phase on the Learn Test and Staging environments and is scheduled to go onto the Live instance next week.

Discussion board working group (Tim / Bjoern)

Working group completed and report written. This will be fed back via Teaching Committee.

Report from Submissions systems working group (Bjoern)

Working group membership identified, first meeting will be scheduled to happen in October.

Report Forum server rooms working group (Boris)

We have been given circa £300K by College for improvements to our existing server room. To make the best possible use of this money, we have opted to hire a consultant to make recommendations. Alastair is liaising with Estates on this issue.

A tentative deal has been reached to have EPCC host our GPUs in their new EIDF facility (part of the Edinburgh City Deal). This will give us long-term capacity to significantly expand, but with an important caveat that only data-centre grade GPUs (read: expensive) can be hosted there. Details yet to be worked through.

Report from Web strategy working group (Alastair)

An attempt to distil the categories of our web estate to aid discussions proved that this would oversimplify things. The reality is that each element of the web estate has a number of different attributes (eg where it is hosted, who manages it, who can publish data, which technology is being used etc). A simple database has been created which records these elements and is in the process of being populated. This will allow us to pose queries such as “which web site is available out-with the University and is self-managed by PGR students?”. The expectation is that we will maintain this database for all future web sites.