

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP POLICY

1. Introduction

The Bournemouth and Poole College intends to expand its higher education provision greatly over the next few years and as a result will need to respond to the imperatives placed on further education institutions described in *Supporting higher education in further education colleges* (HEFCE April 2003/16). Three imperatives are immediately relevant to this policy document: staff development; scholarly activity; academic quality and standards. The Research and Scholarship policy outlined below applies to both BPC's HE and FE activities. The policy should be read in conjunction with BPC's **Staff Development** and **Support for HE Staff** policies

2. Definitions of 'Research' and 'Scholarship'

- 2.1 Paid consultancy services to external customers such as employers, and internal customers in BPC.
- 2.2 Production of conference papers for internal, local or national conferences.
- 2.3 The production of refereed articles for academic journals (higher education lecturers).
- 2.4 The production of chapters within appropriate academic texts (higher education lecturers).
- 2.5 Action research aimed at improving teaching and learning.
- 2.6 Work towards the production of a higher degree.
- 2.7 New HE course development and initial validation.
(**Note:** revalidation of existing HE programmes will be paid for out of Academies' own budgets.)

3. Principles

- 3.1 Institutional support for research and scholarship is essential to the maintenance and development of educational provision in BPC
- 3.2 Research and scholarship that contributes to the evaluation and development of learning and teaching will be encouraged in BPC
- 3.3 Research and scholarship should be fully integrated into staff appraisal and the planning of outcomes from appraisal
- 3.4 BPC will endeavour to provide sufficient resources to support the establishment and development of a research culture
- 3.5 The Research Committee will develop ways to support and share good practice, such as staff seminars and conferences

4. **Institutional Aims**

Research and scholarship activities by BPC's lecturers will aim to:

- 4.1 Advance knowledge and expertise that contributes to the quality of the educational experience provided to all BPC's learners.
- 4.2 Contribute to the evaluation and development of all aspects of curriculum design and delivery.
- 4.3 Contribute to initiatives – for example the development of foundation degrees – that establish and maintain industrial links towards ensuring industrial relevance and employability.
- 4.4 Develop commercial services for and with the community and local employers.
- 4.5 Contribute to the local and national standing of BPC allied with identifiable marketing objectives.
- 4.6 Ensure that higher education students are given exemplar models conforming to best ethical practice in conducting their own research.

5. **Research Culture**

The establishment and development of a flourishing research culture is a priority in BPC. Such a culture would provide opportunities for teachers to share best practice, learn new ideas, keep up to date with latest academic developments in their discipline and, particularly in the case of higher education lecturers, inform their teaching with their own research.

6. **Institutional support for research and scholarship**

This will include:

- 6.1 Resources for the Research and Scholarship Committee;
- 6.2 Complete or part payment of fees for selected first and higher degrees;
- 6.3 Allocation of mentoring in approved cases.

7. **Modus Operandi**

The **Research and Scholarship Committee** will meet three times per year to:

- 7.1 Determine the research and scholarship activities to be supported based on BPC strategic priorities.
- 7.2 Monitor the progress of research and scholarship activities and develop strategies to disseminate good practice .
- 7.3 Plan the annual conference for the presentation of research papers.

8. **Evaluation**

Individuals who have received support will be expected to give a written evaluation of the nature, value and effectiveness of their project.

Signed

Date: November 2006

Designation: Chair of Academic Board

Policy Ref / Version No SC14/V2

This policy is to be reviewed by the Teaching & Learning Group and Academic Board by October 2008.

Proposed Membership of Research and Scholarship Committee

- 1) Assistant Principal Higher Education (Chair)
- 2) Assistant Principal Quality and Development
- 3) Assistant Principal 14 – 19
- 4) Access and HE Manager
- 5) One Academic representative from each academy (to be determined by Academy Directors)

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Appendix B

Research and Scholarship Committee

Remit

- 1) To develop and update a research policy for BPC
- 2) To develop a research culture in BPC
- 3) To generate, consider and select research projects from amongst BPC staff based on agreed criteria
- 4) To maintain an audit of current research
- 5) To disseminate good practice in BPC through the establishment of one or more researchers' groups
- 6) Plan the annual conference for the presentation of research papers.