



Welcome to the February edition of the UVAC newsletter, informing our members and partners of our work, sector news and events.

Please feel free to distribute this newsletter to any colleagues who may be interested.

In this edition:

1. **Introducing UVAC's new Chair:** Professor Joy Carter takes up the reins
 2. **Changes to the UVAC Board:** We welcome new UVAC Board members Professor Freda Tallantyre, Professor David Young and Mr. Garth Rhodes
 3. **2008 Annual Conference:** The planning has begun for this year's conference
 4. **Membership News:** New membership campaign to be launched
 5. **Projects Update:** Latest News on our work on the project with fdf - 'Facilitating the Progression of Apprentices to Higher Education'
 6. **Recent UVAC publications:** Three new publications launched at the 2007 Conference
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 8. **McDonalds, Flybe and Network Rail to award Level 3 qualifications – let us have your views**
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■ INTRODUCING UVAC'S NEW CHAIR

UVAC is very pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Joy Carter, Vice Chancellor of the University of Winchester, as its new Chair. Professor Carter took over the Chair in January 2008 from Professor Sir David Melville, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Kent, who had been Chair of UVAC since 2003.

Professor Carter was appointed as Vice Chancellor of the University of Winchester in April 2006. Prior to joining Winchester, Professor Carter was Pro Vice Chancellor (Academic) at the University of Glamorgan for almost four years.



Professor Carter has published over 100 articles and has edited/contributed to nine books, book chapters, editorials and edited thematic sets. Professor Carter maintains an interest in international research and is currently International President of the Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health. Professor Carter has particular interests in widening participation, workplace learning and in internationalisation and has been a Director of UVAC since 2003. [Click here](#) to see the press release, which was issued on 21st January.

Professor Carter has outlined her priorities for UVAC for the future, below:

"UVAC has a long history and established track record in promoting vocational and work-based learning. Our priorities in future will focus on developing our advocacy role and working as a representative organisation on behalf of our members. We aim to further develop policy positions and respond to consultations in a manner that supports the effective development and delivery of higher level vocational and work based learning".

"We will also continue our work in identifying and sharing good practice among our members in the areas of employer engagement, recruitment of work-based learners and the design and delivery of work-based higher education provision. UVAC has always been a very practical organisation and we will continue producing publications, containing good practice examples, aimed at supporting practitioners in the field of work-based learning. I also want to offer members more seminars and workshops focused on sharing good practice and innovation".

CHANGES TO THE UVAC BOARD

We are pleased to announce the following new appointments to the UVAC Board of Directors.

Professor Freda Tallantyre, Senior Advisor to HE Academy joins us for her second stint as a UVAC Board member. Freda was a member of the Board between 2003 and 2006 during her time at the University at Derby, and we are very pleased to welcome her back.

Professor David Young, Professor of Work-based Learning and Head of Flexible Learning within the School of Flexible and Partnership Learning at the University of Derby, and Mr. Garth Rhodes, the Head of the Flexible Learning Centre in the School of Health, Community and Education Studies at Northumbria University, have also joined the Board. We welcome David and Garth and feel sure that their valuable expertise will of great benefit to UVAC.

Finally, we welcome Helen Mansfield, Policy Adviser as Universities UK's new UVAC Board Observer.

[Click here](#) to read the new Board members' biographies.

■ 2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE – 13 -14th NOVEMBER 2008

Planning is now underway for the 2008 conference. We will be again holding the conference at the Royal York Hotel.

This year we would like to focus on the employer and employee/student perspectives of work based learning and employer engagement, and would specifically welcome the active involvement of people from these groups who would be willing to share their experiences and examples of good practice at the conference. We would therefore be delighted to hear from members with any suggestions for speakers, sessions and content. It's your conference - get involved and let us have your views! Please email your thoughts to Karen Jones on kpj1ext@bolton.ac.uk.

■ MEMBERSHIP NEWS

YOUR HELP IS REQUESTED! We will be conducting a new member recruitment campaign during February/March and would welcome our existing membership's support in this. If you have any contacts in HEIs, FECs, LLNs or businesses that are currently not UVAC members but share UVAC's aims relating to the development of work based learning and employer engagement, please provide us with their contact details. We can then approach these individuals, for whom UVAC membership is most relevant. Please email Karen Jones on kpj1ext@bolton.ac.uk

[Click here](#) for a list of our current membership.

[Click here](#) to go to our membership webpage for the application form and membership criteria.

■ PROJECTS UPDATE

fdf Apprenticeship progression to HE project

The project is progressing well. [Click here](#) for a copy of the latest summary report.

HE@Work

An information event for HE@Work was held on 16th January for HEI members who had expressed interest in working with HE@Work, following our invitation issued in December. Twelve institutions were represented by 19 people, a presentation was provided by HE@Work and the event was rounded off with a question and answer session.

We are working with Edge and HE@Work on the development of the necessary legal agreements and will report progress via the newsletter and website.

■ RECENT UVAC PUBLICATIONS

Three UVAC publications/good practice guides were launched at our Annual Conference in November 2007. These guides are available in PDF format free of charge. [Click here](#) to download these publications.

- The 2006 UVAC Annual Conference Proceedings - Putting Work Based Learning into Practice
- Incorporating into Higher Education programmes the Learning people do for, in and Through Work
- Work based Learning Futures – Proceedings from the Work Based Learning Futures Conference, Buxton April 2007

■ PROPOSED CHANGES TO NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS FOR IT USERS – HAVE YOUR SAY!

Following a series of events and focus groups during the autumn, e-skills UK has published for wider consultation an amended set of National Occupational Standards for people who use IT in their every day jobs. The National Occupational Standards are the basis for IT user qualifications. Drafts of the IT Professional and Telecoms standards will follow shortly.

The draft standards can be found at www.e-skills.com/nos2008. e-skills UK would welcome comment on the standards as a whole, or on individual areas or statements of competence.

You will need to log in to view and comment. If you are registered on the e-skills.com website already, please use your individual login. Otherwise, please register and you will be sent your login details instantly.

The public consultation on this version of the draft standards will remain open until **28th February 2008**. Additions and amendments as a result of your feedback will be clearly signposted.

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■ MCDONALDS, FLYBE AND NETWORK RAIL TO AWARD LEVEL 2 - 4 QCF QUALIFICATIONS – LET US HAVE YOUR VIEWS

McDonalds, Flybe and Network Rail have been given the right to award Level 2 - 4 QCF qualifications. The announcement was immediately followed by suggestions that the company-run courses will not be academically rigorous.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown comments: "It is going to be a tough course, but once you have got a qualification in management you can probably go anywhere. I think that is the important thing, companies prepared to train people up which they weren't doing before, in the way that we want them to do, in a far greater number, so that people have the qualifications for the future."

To be given the right to award Level 2 - 4 QCF qualifications, the three companies had to meet a set of standards set out by the QCA in its Qualifications Credit Framework (QCF). A QCA spokesman said: "The Qualifications Credit Framework is a new framework that allows nationally recognised courses to be broken down into units. It is componentised so if a learner drops out of a course or can't manage to complete they can take those units with them."

Ken Boston, Chief Executive of the QCA, said: "By becoming awarding bodies, Flybe, McDonald's and Network Rail, are enabling the skills of their employees to be recognised and recorded. They are the first three companies to gain awarding body status and we look forward to considering further applications from employers to have their valuable work related learning programmes validated."

We would be interested to hear our members' views on this announcement. Please send any comments to cjm2@bolton.ac.uk

Contact us:

If there's anything you'd like to see in future issues of the newsletter, or if you have any queries about your UVAC membership or UVAC projects, please contact us on 01204 903355 or e-mail cjm2@bolton.ac.uk