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28 October 2008

Dear Jean

RE: FDTL Project 82: Developing first year undergraduates' acquisition of threshold concepts in Economics

Thank you very much for your Final Transferability Report which I read with great interest. Here are my comments on what I feel has been an extremely successful project.

The main phase of the project successfully addressed significant issues in the teaching and learning of Economics, with a strong link between theoretical orientation to practical developments and recommendations. The transferability phase has been equally successful in embedding practice across a range of HEIs and a range of types of programme, and in disseminating the work more widely in both research and practice arenas.

The twin aims of the transferability phase were to embed modules within "non-economics awards" and to disseminate the approach to new lecturers in particular. Both have been met, although embedding was not successful in every instance due to factors outside the control of the project team. The project evaluator concludes that the transferability work "demonstrated that with some adaption the approaches and resources can be used with non-specialist groups".

Collaboration with the relevant Academy Subject Centre (the Economics Network) has been particularly effective both in reaching new lecturers and in wider dissemination of the approach to practitioners. It is to be hoped that the project leaders will continue to work with the Economics Network to promote what appears to be an effective and innovative approach for the discipline more widely across the sector. The project web site provides a highly effective medium for accessing the developed resources and information on their effective use.

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The project has also continued to disseminate the approach at research meetings and has a number of academic papers published or in preparation. The strong linkage of conceptual orientation to evaluated practical developments which has been a hallmark of this project benefits both theory and practical application.

All in all, I would thoroughly agree with the evaluator's conclusion from the main phase of the work (and extend the conclusion to the transferability phase) that this has been: "...an exemplary project in addressing issues in teaching and learning in HE in general and in economics in particular".

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Hammond". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Dr Nick Hammond
Director (Institutions)